Kindergarten Syllabus

ELA/Social Studies

Course Description/Goals:

This course develops students' foundational literacy skills through instruction aligned to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for English Language Arts and Reading. Students will engage in daily reading, writing, listening, and speaking experiences that promote language development and comprehension. Focus areas include building phonics and decoding skills, expanding vocabulary, reading fluency, understanding literary and informational texts, and writing for various purposes. Students will learn to use the writing process, apply grammar and conventions, and develop oral and written communication skills. Instruction is differentiated to support all learners and to foster a lifelong love of reading and writing.

Course TEKS/Objectives:

ELA - The English language arts and reading Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) embody the interconnected nature of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking through the seven integrated strands of developing and sustaining foundational language skills; comprehension; response; multiple genres; author's purpose and craft; composition; and inquiry and research. The strands focus on academic oracy (proficiency in oral expression and comprehension), authentic reading, and reflective writing to ensure a literate Texas. The strands are integrated and progressive with students continuing to develop knowledge and skills with increased complexity and nuance in order to think critically and adapt to the ever-evolving nature of language and literacy.

Social Studies -In Kindergarten, the study of the self, home, family, and classroom establishes the foundation for responsible citizenship in society. Students explore state and national heritage by examining the celebration of patriotic holidays and the contributions of individuals. The concept of chronology is introduced. Students apply geographic concepts of location and physical and human characteristics of place. Students identify basic human needs and ways people meet these needs. Students learn the purpose of rules and the role of authority figures in the home and school. Students learn customs, symbols, and celebrations that represent American beliefs and principles and contribute to our national identity. Students compare family customs and traditions and describe examples of technology in the home and school. Students acquire information from a variety of oral and visual sources. Students practice problem-solving, decision-making, and independent-thinking skills.

Course Outline:

Click on this link to access the **ELA** Year at a Glance for a quarterly content overview for Reading, Phonics, Writing, Grammar, and Social Studies.

Math

Course Description/Goals:

For students to become fluent in mathematics, students must develop a robust sense of number. The National Research Council's report, "Adding It Up," defines procedural fluency as "skill in carrying out procedures flexibly, accurately, efficiently, and appropriately." As students develop procedural fluency, they must also realize that true problem solving may take time, effort, and perseverance. Students in Kindergarten are expected to perform their work without the use of calculators. The primary focal areas in Kindergarten are understanding counting and cardinality, understanding addition as joining and subtraction as separating, and comparing objects by measurable attributes. Students develop number and operations through several fundamental concepts. Students know number names and the counting sequence. Counting and cardinality lay a solid foundation for number. Students apply the principles of counting to make the connection between numbers and quantities. Students use meanings of numbers to create strategies for solving problems and responding to practical situations involving addition and subtraction. Students identify characteristics of objects that can be measured and directly compare objects according to these measurable attributes.

Course TEKS/Objectives:

The Kindergarten TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) are organized into reporting categories, each focusing on a specific strand of mathematics. These categories include: Numerical Representations and Relationships, Computations and Algebraic Relationships, Geometry and Measurement, and Data Analysis and Personal Financial Literacy. Each category contains specific standards (TEKS) that students are expected to master: https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/ch111a.pdf

The process standards are integrated at every grade level and course. When possible, students will apply mathematics to problems arising in everyday life, society, and the workplace. Students will use a problem-solving model that incorporates analyzing given information, formulating a plan or strategy, determining a solution, justifying the solution, and evaluating the problem-solving process and the reasonableness of the solution. Students will select appropriate tools such as real objects, manipulatives, algorithms, paper and pencil, and technology and techniques such as mental math, estimation, number sense, and generalization and abstraction to solve problems. Students will effectively communicate mathematical ideas, reasoning, and their implications using multiple representations such as symbols, diagrams, graphs, computer programs, and language. Students will use mathematical relationships to generate solutions and make connections and predictions. Students will analyze mathematical relationships to connect and communicate mathematical ideas. Students will display, explain, or justify mathematical ideas and arguments using precise mathematical language in written or oral communication.

Course Outline:

Click on this link to access the **Math** Year at a Glance for a quarterly content overview.

Science

Course Description/Goals:

Science, as defined by the National Academy of Sciences, is the "use of evidence to construct testable explanations and predictions of natural phenomena, as well as the knowledge generated through this process." This vast body of changing and increasing knowledge is described by physical, mathematical, and conceptual models. In Kindergarten, science learning is designed to help children make sense of the world using their five senses. Science is connected through recurring themes that build a foundation for future science learning. Students will explore simple properties of objects, learn about weather and seasons, discover plants and animals in their habitats, and use tools to observe and describe what they see. They will practice asking questions, making observations, and talking about what they discover in natural phenomena. Through hands-on investigations, students develop curiosity and build the skills they need for future science study.

Course TEKS/Objectives:

In Kindergarten through Grade 5 Science, content is organized into recurring strands. The concepts within each grade level build on prior knowledge, prepare students for the next grade level, and establish a foundation in science. In kindergarten, students focus on ideas like matter and its properties, force and motion, Earth and space, living things and their environments, and how science works. Each category contains specific standards (TEKS) that students are expected to master:
https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/laws-and-rules/texas-administrative-code/19-tac-chapter-112
In this science course, students use scientific and engineering practices to investigate the world around them and solve real-life problems. They learn to ask thoughtful questions and plan different types of investigations, such as describing what they observe, comparing how things are alike or different, and testing ideas through simple experiments. For example, students might observe how ice melts, compare how magnets attract different objects, or test which materials block light. They gather data, record what they see, and use tools and models to explain their results. Like engineers, students also learn to identify everyday problems—such as how to keep an ice cube from melting or how to build a simple shade—and design solutions using what they know. Throughout the year, they explore matter by looking at color, shape, texture, and materials; investigate how objects move and how light helps us see; study weather patterns, the changing seasons, day and night, and objects in the sky like the Sun and Moon. They also discover how plants and animals meet their needs, grow and change, and how young plants and animals are similar to their parents. By spending lots of time doing hands-on activities both inside and outside the classroom, students develop curiosity, problem-solving skills, and a deeper understanding of how science connects to their everyday lives

Course Outline:

Click on this link to access the **Science** Year at a Glance for a quarterly content overview.