

JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM

Our Junior Kindergarten program is a play-based, developmentally appropriate exploration of the world around us, rooted in a rich, engaging, and nurturing environment.

The focus on discovery, high-level thinking, creative problem solving, and observation begins in the Junior Kindergarten year. Students build an academic foundation through small group instruction in early literacy, handwriting, and mathematics, and through intentionally designed opportunities for exploration, play, and the seizing of “teachable moments.”

The Responsive Classroom program begins in the Junior Kindergarten year, providing children the opportunity to build community and a shared language, focusing on the Rossman Rules of Honesty, Kindness, Respect, and Responsibility. These concepts will be a focus throughout their Rossman journey.

A highlight of the JK year is the spring Art Show, during which students showcase their “inspired by” pieces created in the style of famous artists.

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Early Literacy

Develop phonemic awareness as students recognize and manipulate words, syllables, and individual sounds | Identify and create rhymes | Recognize and name all uppercase letters and some lowercase letters | Identify the beginning and ending sounds in words | Build and solidify letter and letter-sound recognition | Participate in small literacy groups to practice a variety of early literacy skills | Build print awareness to identify familiar words | Explore a variety of literature in the library Corner | Build concepts of print and identify the parts of a book | Make personal connections to literature | Identify story elements, recall major events, and make predictions about stories read aloud | Engage in writing opportunities at the classroom Writing Center | Develop an efficient pencil grip | Dictate, copy, or write words to tell a story or to go with a drawing | Apply phonemic awareness to begin spelling simple words

Resources: Learning Without Tears | Wilson Foundations Heggerty Phonemic Awareness

Mathematics

Identify and create patterns | Sort and classify objects into groups | Build one-to-one correspondence | Identify colors and shapes | Solidify number recognition | Practice proper number formation | Recognize relative place value | Practice sequencing and associated language for ordinal numbers | Practice skip counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s | Build fluency to recognize, write and manipulate numbers within 10 | Introduce “reading” of number sentences | Compare and contrast objects by size, color, and shape | Collect data through tallies and graphs | Use manipulatives to add and subtract | Explore manipulatives that build spatial awareness and engineering skills | Engage in a variety of math-related games during centers and independent play

Resources: Learning Without Tears

Science

Engage in conversations about the world around us | Make scientific predictions | Explore natural objects found around campus | Visit the Pollnow Nature Trail and “Big Backyard” to make seasonal observations | Observe the Butterfly Life Cycle | Make frequent trips to the Little House and Willeman Tree House

Social Studies

Explore maps and globes, locating places connected to literature or travel | Name months of the year, days of the week, and seasons | Discuss and celebrate holidays of various cultures | Compare and contrast ourselves with peers through the “Mystery Person” activity | Understand the importance of norms and rules in our community | Understand the importance of helping others and extending kindness through community service

Art

Explore various art mediums | Develop process over product approach | Study the history and features of famous artists (Vincent Van Gogh, Piet Mondrian, Eric Carle, Henri Matisse, Wassily Kandinsky, Grandma Moses) | Create “inspired by” pieces of the artists studied to display at the spring JK Art Show

Music

Participate in call-and-response singing opportunities | Use a singing voice to ask and answer questions with puppets | Compare the tempos of different songs | Identify differences in high and low pitches | Practice moving to a beat | Begin building a repertoire of songs and games used in the Rossman music program | Build confidence performing in front of classmates | Learn songs and perform in whole school concerts and performances

Library

Understand proper care of library books and materials | Recognize familiar authors, illustrators, and literature | Begin to recognize basic library terms and concepts | Follow check-out procedures | locate the E (Everybody/Picture Book) section of the library | Develop an appreciation for books and reading | Begin to understand healthy media balance and choices

Spanish

Practice simple greetings through songs and chants | Build vocabulary related to greetings, colors, families, transportation, zoo animals, classroom objects and supplies, months of the year, sizes, fruits and vegetables, parts of the body, and numbers 1-20 | Introduce Spanish vowels and some consonants | Conjugate verbs in first person | learn the common verbs | Engage in treasure hunts, parades, and simple games | learn about traditions from Spanish-speaking countries (Dia de los Muertos, Navidad, Cinco de Mayo)

Resources include: Rockalingua | Pocoyó en Español | Bilingual picture books | Youtube Channels (Pingfong en Espanol, Smile and learn en Espanol, Super Simple en Espanol, Basho and Friends)

Physical Education

Our lower school curriculum is movement-based. Students learn through gameplay and skill development. From Junior Kindergarten to second grade, our program is a spiraling curriculum that builds upon itself. Through this curriculum, our students will also develop and grow in sportsmanship, cooperation, and physical fitness.

Distinguish between dominant and non-dominant sides | Develop sliding, hopping, leaping, and galloping locomotor skills | Kick a stationary ball with each foot | Strike a ball with a plastic bat | Begin dribbling with hands and feet | Clap and march to a beat | learn to chase and evade | Develop balancing skills | learn the boundaries of a game

Specialty Subject Schedule

Spanish — 30 minutes, 2 times a week

library — 30 minutes, 2 times a week

Music — 30 minutes, 2 times a week

Physical Education — 30 minutes daily