

Preschool Curriculum

Kindergarten

Our Kindergarten program allows for students to learn in the ways in which children learn best- through play. Students begin to develop the numerous fundamental skills that help lay the foundation for later learning and success. Students expand their love for learning while learning how to communicate with teachers and peers. They are engaged in a variety of educational opportunities throughout the school day, including a variety of classes designed to provide enrichment.

Reading and Writing

Reading is taught through a multi-sensory, systematic, research-based approach using resources that engage students in acquiring the skills to decode (read) and encode (spell). Reading materials are intentionally designed to pair with our phonics program to help students practice their phonics and decoding skills while building enduring content and vocabulary knowledge. Teachers use a formalized framework for writing instruction and practice that reinforces the processes, techniques, and organization of early writing, while working on correct letter formation and grip.

Mathematics

The use of hands-on manipulatives helps children develop an understanding of how concrete ideas translate into abstract concepts. Counting with cubes, exploring quantities, comparing/contrasting, and measuring with standard and non-standard tools allow children to explore how to solve problems. Our program balances conceptual understanding with procedural fluency. Computer-based math assessments provide insight into each student's individual math skills. The assessment then links to lessons which provide engaging instruction in mathematics designed to address students' individual mathematical needs.

Social Studies

At the Kindergarten level, the goal of the social studies curriculum is to spark students' curiosities about the broader world. Across its units in *history*, *civics*, *geography*, and *economics*, the program challenges students to first explore who they are in the context of their family, school, and community, and then compare these ideas to different time periods and locales.

Art

Basic knowledge of the proper use of art tools, materials, and classroom procedures is introduced. Students are introduced to the three basic elements of art: color, shape, and texture. The classes are taught through hands-on guided lessons.

Library

The mission of the library is to encourage curiosity and to support instruction through collaboration with classroom teachers. Students in Kindergarten attend regular library lessons. Our youngest students enjoy story time while learning how to use a library.

Music

The Kindergarten music class serves as an introduction to singing, listening, rhythmic and creative movement activities. Concepts of music that Kindergarten students will be able to identify are rhythm (beat and tempo), tone color, melody, form, dynamics, and style. The class provides a wide range of activities that involve classical works, traditional and folk songs, and music from other cultures. Students will perform in several choral programs throughout the year.

Physical Education

Children are introduced to activities to build strength, stamina, and awareness of their bodies in space. The focus is on the development of gross motor skills through cooperative games and teamwork. Sharing, taking turns, and exhibiting self-control are taught and practiced within the context of this class.

Science

Kindergarten students will use inquiry to focus on questions about the world around them. They will be exposed to the areas of earth science, physical science, and life science.

Spanish

The overall objective is to develop and reinforce communicative competency in listening, speaking, writing and culture. Through essentially an inductive approach, students will gain an intuitive understanding of how the language is acquired and how they can use this knowledge to express themselves linguistically.

Technology

Students develop the ability to navigate in virtual environments such as electronic books, software, and websites by drawing, stamping, painting and typing original ideas and sentences using digital tools and productivity software. They also communicate about technology using developmentally appropriate and accurate terminology.