WILLIAMSVILLE
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Est. 1893

GRADE K

OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION

GRADE LEVEL EXPECTATIONS

Kindergarten is a year of growth as students build academic, social, and creative skills that support future learning. Students develop confidence as readers, writers, mathematicians, scientists, artists, musicians, and active learners. The skills identified below represent a consolidated list of the most important grade-level learning priorities. They are not intended to represent a comprehensive list of all standards or content taught during kindergarten. Instruction encompasses the full range of New York State grade-level standards across all subject areas.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)

- Ask and answer questions about key details, predict what happens next, and identify the major events and lessons in a story.
- Determine the difference between fictional and informational books. Evaluate the meaning of unknown words and use them in complete sentences.
- Use position words (like on, in, out) to expand sentences from fragments to complete thoughts.
- Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to sequence events, compare characters, and state a preference with reasons.
- Demonstrate understanding of spoken words, syllables and sounds. Identify names and sounds of all upper and lower case letters of the alphabet.
- Hear individual sounds in words when matching them to letters, starting with 3-letter words (consonant-vowel-consonant, like cat) and learn irregular high-frequency words such as the, of, and said.
- Master the "tripod grip" and pre-writing strokes (lines and curves) and develop letter formation. Apply learning of how to track text from left-to-right and top-to-bottom while writing the specific letters that represent the sounds they are learning.

MATH

- Count to 100 by ones and tens and accurately count groups of objects.
- Represent numbers to 20 using numerals, pictures, objects, and ten-and-one relationships.
- Compare numbers and quantities to determine which is greater, less, or equal.
- Solve simple addition and subtraction situations within 10 using models and strategies.
- Identify and describe two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes and their attributes.
- Sort and compare objects by measurable attributes such as length, weight, and category.



SCIENCE

- Observe and categorize matter into solids and liquids, explore how vibrating materials produce sounds, and practice recording their observations.
- Investigate how pushes and pulls can start, stop, or change the speed and direction of objects, and design simple devices (like ramps or strings) to move items faster.
- Explore what familiar plants and animals need to survive (such as food, water, light, and air) and how external body parts/plant structures help them interact with their environment.
- Develop simple models and drawings to demonstrate that young plants and animals are similar to, but not exactly like, their parents.
- Observe and track predictable natural patterns—such as the apparent motion of the Sun, Moon, and stars, changing seasons, and daily local weather conditions—using simple tools to observe and record data.

SCREENING

Grade-level assessments are designed to measure student progress, guide instruction, and ensure students receive the appropriate resources and support to meet grade-level expectations.

- Reading: The Aimsweb Universal Screener is utilized three times per year to assess letter naming fluency and letter word sound fluency.
- Math: The Bridges in Mathematics screeners are brief, teacher-led assessments utilized up to three times per year to identify student readiness, check prerequisite skills, and guide instructional support.

STATE ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- WIDA Access for students identified as English language learners



GRADE K

SOCIAL STUDIES

- Explore personal identity, family traditions, and the ways people are unique and connected to others.
- Learn how rules help families, classrooms, and communities work together while recognizing the roles of community helpers and leaders.
- Develop geographic awareness by using maps, globes, and positional words to describe locations and surroundings.
- Distinguish between needs and wants while exploring how people make choices about resources.
- dentify important American symbols, traditions, and celebrations that represent the United States.
- Use simple timelines and vocabulary such as past, present, and future to understand personal and community history.

ART

- Create and develop original artwork by exploring, planning, and expressing ideas using a variety of materials, tools, and techniques.
- Present artwork by selecting, preparing, and sharing work while explaining artistic choices and creative processes.
- Respond to artwork by observing, describing, interpreting, and evaluating works of art using age-appropriate art vocabulary.
- Connect art to personal experiences, other subject areas, cultures, traditions, and historical contexts to deepen understanding of art and its role in the world.

MUSIC

- Create simple rhythms and melodies using singing, instruments, movement, and sound.
- Perform and respond to music by singing, playing, and moving while identifying basic musical elements (beat, tempo, dynamics, and pitch) and describing what is heard and felt.
- Present music by participating in classroom performances and demonstrating appropriate performance etiquette.
- Connect music to personal experiences, other subject areas, cultures, traditions, and historical contexts to deepen understanding of music and its role in the world.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Demonstrate competency in a variety of motor skills and movement patterns.
- Applies knowledge of concepts, principles, strategies, and tactics related to movement and performance.
- Demonstrate the knowledge and skills to achieve and maintain a health enhancing level of physical activity and fitness.
- Recognize the value of physical activity for overall wellness, enjoyment, challenge, and/or self expression.

TIPS FOR PARENTS/ GUARDIANS

Reading Habits: Read to your child every day using age-appropriate books with rich vocabulary.

Communication: Encourage your child to speak in complete sentences and listen attentively to their answers.

Language Play: Play rhyming games, read nursery rhymes together, and play "opposites" games (e.g., hot/cold).

Life Skills: Help your child practice self-care skills like buttoning, tying, zipping, and using utensils.

Math: Count objects together throughout the day (snacks, toys, steps, groceries) and ask, "How do you know there are ___?" Encouraging children to explain their thinking builds number sense.

Civic and Global Engagement: Point out community helpers, national symbols, and neighborhood landmarks during everyday outings.

Scientific Thinking: Support curiosity by encouraging your child to ask questions, and make observations about weather, plants, animals, and the world around them.

Home Language Use: Use your native language at home with your child. Strong native language skills help students to succeed in school.