

Each day of kindergarten is filled with lessons that will help your child grow in his/her language, literacy, mathematical, social, and thinking abilities. The kindergarten teachers organize the lessons around a theme that will help young children focus their curiosity and develop their understanding of the world around them. Though the theme may change frequently, the daily schedule will remain constant; therefore, the school day will become predictable and comfortable for your child. The majority of our themes are taken from the Journeys curriculum.

A typical day in kindergarten consists of the following components:

Greetings

After Morning Meeting, the children enter the classroom, greet each other, unpack, sign-in, and make their way to the carpet. While seated at the carpet, we sing a song, share classroom announcements, and review our Project Pride rules.

Calendar and Daily Message

The calendar lessons incorporate the following math skills: counting (ones, fives, and tens), picture patterns, number patterns, days of the week, months of the year, graphing, number combinations, and weather observations.

In the daily message, the students discuss the days of the week and solve a "math problem of the day." In addition, the daily message is a great tool to help your child focus on letters/sounds, words, punctuation, and other concepts of print. The class discusses the conventions of writing as well as comprehension of new ideas.

enVision Math

enVision Math is a comprehensive Kindergarten—Grade 5 mathematics program. The program supports the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. It emphasizes the Critical Areas.

It also encourages in depth of understanding through interactive lessons, research based instructional approaches, and differentiated instructional resources to ensure success for all students. Through the enVision Math program, students are given multiple opportunities to learn a math concept using different strategies and modalities.

Exploratory Class

During the exploratory classes, the children are instructed on the different art forms. The exploratory classes are: Dance, Drama/Theatre, Music, Visual Arts, Physical Education, and Library.

Literacy Block: Journeys

Students take part in small group instruction and independent work that will develop the children's reading and writing skills. The literacy centers use components of the Journeys curriculum and the Six + 1 Traits of Writing.

In the Journeys curriculum, the Common Core Standards are integrated into every unit and lesson. The curriculum incorporates explicit instruction of Foundational Skills including basic reading and decoding skills. Students analyze both fictional and nonfiction texts. Students engage in multiple readings of complex and exemplar texts. Students participate in Daily Classroom Conversations to help them learn to clearly express their ideas in a variety of settings. Students answer text-based questions that are thought-provoking and engage the students in depth classroom discussions. The program offers differentiated instruction based on children's individual needs.

Journeys: Guided Reading Groups

The Journeys program incorporates a Reader's Workshop Approach to guided reading. The *Journeys* Reader's Workshop Approach is designed to get students thinking, talking, reading, and writing about text in a way that supports learning and fosters a love of reading. The Reader's Workshop Approach divides the reading block time into three main categories: Whole Group, Small Group, and Independent Literacy Time.

Whole Group Instruction

Whole Group instruction using Journeys literature selections ensures that all students learn the same literacy skills through on-level interactive and shared reading, mini-lessons, and genre studies.

Small Group Guided Reading

Students work in small, flexible groups using Leveled Readers on their instructional level as they move toward reading more complex text.

Independent Literacy Work

Students practice and extend skills and strategies taught during Whole Group and Small Group instruction, while the teacher works with Guided Reading Groups.

Journeys: Writing and Language Development Lessons

Journeys writing instruction aligns to the Common Core State Standards. The lessons are taught through a Writer's Workshop format. Through this format, the lessons:

- Focus on informative (explanatory), argumentative (opinion), and narrative writing
- Incorporate modeled, collaborative, and independent writing
- Provide Opportunities for writing conferences with students
- Integrate all six Writing Traits and the Writing Process

Journeys: Six +1 Traits of Writing

During the Journeys writing lessons, the students are introduced to the writing process and the six + 1 traits of good writing (sentence fluency, ideas, word choice, presentation, organization, voice, and conventions). Throughout this program, the students gain mastery of the mechanics of writing- punctuation, spelling, and correct usage. Skills lessons are introduced in a meaningful way in context of the students' writing.

Lunch/Outdoor Play

We engage in outdoor play (recess) from 11:20 - 11:45 AM. The children eat lunch from 11:50 AM - 12:20 PM. We will have a second recess from 1:55 - 2:15 PM.

Rest Time / Daydream

This short rest period provides the children with the opportunity to listen to soothing stories, poetry, and music while re-energizing for the rest of the day.

Choice Time

The classroom is divided into different learning centers including art, Play-Doh, math, discovery, blocks, dramatic play, writing, computer, and book nook. In these learning centers,

the children problem-solve, explore materials, experiment, observe, and record. In addition, the children interact with each other, enhancing their interpersonal and oral language skills.

Story Time

As the students listen to a wide variety of stories, they make predictions about what they think will happen in the book. They also recall events in the books and relate the stories to their own lives. In addition, the students answer comprehension questions and act out scenes from the book. Through Story Tree, the children develop thinking and language skills.

Dismissal

Students are dismissed at 3:20 PM. It's a busy day but the students enjoy it!