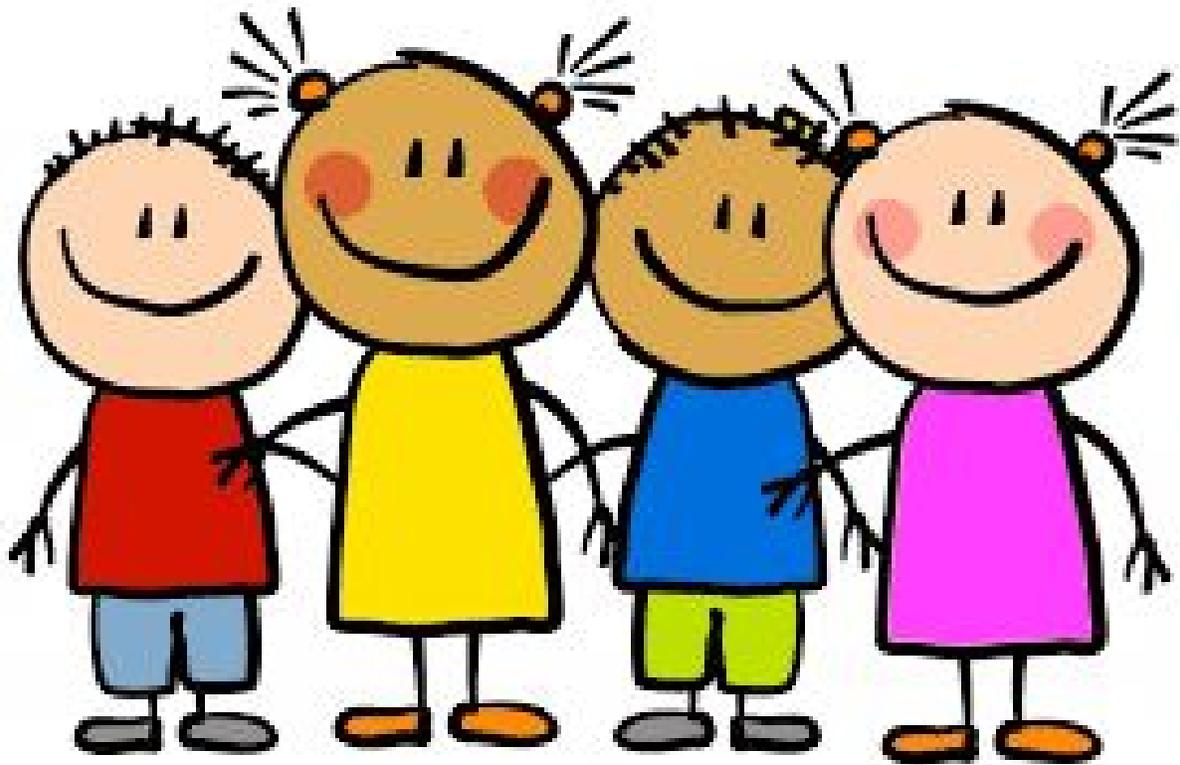


Welcome to Kindergarten!



Curriculum Overview
2020-2021

Kindergarten Daily Schedule Sample

Due to the abbreviated day, not all components of the schedule will be covered daily. The main focus is on reading, writing and math.

Morning Activity Time/Free Choice

Morning Meeting

- Greeting/Game
- Share
- Alphabet Book or Activity
- Morning Message

Literacy

- Lively Letters
- Reading Workshop
- Writing Workshop
- Handwriting
- Poetry Journals
- Word Work
- Phonics
- Read Aloud

Math

- Calendar/Weather
- Everyday Mathematics

Science, Social Studies, Health

- Projects
- Learning Centers

Lunch

Special

- Art, Music, P.E., Library, Computer

Recess

Literacy

Kindergarten literacy instruction is multi layered and is designed to foster lifelong readers and writers. It includes phonological awareness activities, shared reading, read alouds, reading workshop, writing workshop, interactive writing, phonics and word work.

Phonological Awareness: Students will understand that spoken language can be taken apart in many different ways: sentences broken into words, words divided into syllables, syllables divided into individual sounds. Phonological awareness includes rhyme.

Shared Reading: Students will join in or share the reading of a book while guided and supported by a teacher. During shared reading, the instructor explicitly models and teaches the skills of proficient readers.

Read Alouds: Students will listen to books their teachers read aloud. Sometimes the books will be read for pure enjoyment. Other times, teachers will guide students through intentional conversation about the books they read.

Reading and Writing Workshop: The workshop approach to reading and writing fosters confidence, independence and marked growth in literacy skills. Both reading and writing workshop follow the same format:

- *Mini lesson: Teachers explicitly teach and model reading and writing skills.

- *Independent work time: Students read and write independently, with partners or in small groups.

- *Sharing: Class joins to celebrate work, practice as a whole group or work collaboratively with others.

Reading Units of Study	Writing Units of Study
We are Readers: Students build a reading identity	Launching the Writing Workshop: Students are introduced to writing
Emergent Readers: Students look closely at familiar texts	Show and Tell: Students write pattern books
Super Powers: Students learn print strategies and sight word power	Personal Narrative: Students write about their lives
Bigger Books, Bigger Reading Muscles: Students internalize and practice reading strategies	How-To and All About Writing: Students write to teach others
Reading for Information: Students learn how to read nonfiction books	Persuasive Writing: Students write opinion pieces and/or persuasive letters

Phonics: Students will learn that letters represent the sounds of speech. The kindergarten team uses multiple means of teaching phonics. One common approach is through the Lively Letters Program. It is researched based and uses colorful pictures, music and story characters to teach letters and sounds. The letters and stories provide students with kinesthetic cues for how to produce the letter sounds.

Word Work: This is a hands-on time to explore spellings and meanings of words. Depending on their developmental level, students will use this time to focus on letters and sounds, read and spell words or work on word meanings.

Math

This year your child will be using Kindergarten Everyday Mathematics, a program created through the University of Chicago Mathematics Project. This program is based on research and experiences that show young children are capable of far more mathematics learning in kindergarten than was previously believed possible, provided that the content is presented in ways appropriate for children of kindergarten age.

To many of us who learned to think of mathematics primarily as written work, it may be hard at first to believe that considerable mathematics learning is taking place in this program. Few papers come home. The children seem to be playing! However, these playful activities are meaningful and productive and help children become independent and comfortable thinkers about mathematical ideas. Research has shown that young children often have difficulty with written and symbolic mathematics if it is emphasized too early - before a strong foundation based on experience and understanding has been built.

You will see your child become excited by a wealth of mathematics activities, including counting, numeration, measurement, geometry, patterns, data collecting and calculator use. Classroom routines give children real-life opportunities to develop and refine a variety of mathematics skills. These include such activities as keeping track of the number of days in school, monitoring and graphing daily temperature and other weather conditions, recording attendance, counting the time it takes to clean up and charting the daily schedule.

We hope that through Kindergarten Everyday Mathematics, both you and your child will find that mathematics is useful, enjoyable, varied and meaningful. Just as we know that telling stories and reading books to children help to foster a love of reading, your support of mathematics learning will help your child develop confidence and competence. This will carry over into many areas in everyday life and the school curriculum, this year and in years to come.

Science, Social Studies and Health Units

Due to the abbreviated day, the main focus of the kindergarten curriculum is on reading, writing and math. These topics may be briefly taught this year.

Yearlong	Community Building Feelings Hygiene All About Me Weather/Seasons
September	Community Building Feelings Family Life Cycle of Butterflies
October	Life Cycle of Apples Fire Safety Life Cycle of Pumpkins
November	Five Senses
December	Community Workers
January	Habitats
February	Dental Health
March	Force and Motion
April	Plants
May	Life Cycle of Chickens
June	End of Year Wrap Up

Zaner-Bloser Handwriting

Horace Mitchell Primary school has adopted Zaner-Bloser Handwriting curriculum. On their website, Zaner-Bloser shares the following frequently asked questions:

What is the link between handwriting and literacy development?

By learning vertical manuscript, children learn to write the same letters they see in books, strengthening the reading-writing connection. Learning to print focuses the students' attention on the distinctive shapes and features of letters, leading to improved letter recognition.

Is the Zaner-Bloser vertical alphabet developmentally appropriate?

By age three, children produce drawings that are composed of the same basic lines that constitute manuscript letters: vertical lines, horizontal lines, and circles. Because of such early experience, most 6 and 7-year-olds can create these vertical and horizontal lines more easily than the relatively complicated connections associated with slanted manuscript or cursive writing.

Why is Zaner-Bloser alphabet easier to write?

The popularity of the vertical manuscript alphabet is a direct result of its being an easily learned system that relates closely to initial learning. Before starting school, many children learn how to write traditional (vertical) manuscript letters from their parents, preschool, teachers, or by modeling from the storybooks and environment. Because there are only four simple strokes that make up the vertical manuscript alphabet, writing the letterforms is quickly mastered by young children.

Zaner-Bloser handwriting provides the instruction all students need.

Using a formal curriculum to teach handwriting has many benefits for students. It is directly related to their attitudes toward and confidence in writing. Good handwriting is linked to improved fluency in writing, improved composition, and higher test scores. In contrast, students who struggle with handwriting often lack confidence in their written work, avoid writing, and become discouraged about expressing their thoughts in written form. Additionally, these students may face barriers to learning across academic areas due to (1) incomplete work because handwriting takes longer, (2) decreased legibility, or (3) short or simple answers because the physical act of writing is too difficult.

Explicit and well-designed handwriting instruction leads to improved legibility, higher quality writing, and positive attitudes toward writing.

Therefore teaching a handwriting program such as Zaner-Bloser enables students to express their ideas, share their stories with a public audience, and develop enthusiasm for the lifelong skill of writing.

To learn more about Zaner-Bloser handwriting, parents are encouraged to visit their website for more information on alignment to the Common Core Standards, to view grade level samples, and to try out the Zaner-Bloser manuscript and cursive fonts.

www.zaner-bloser.com

A B C D E F G H I

J K L M N O P Q

R S T U V W X Y Z

a b c d e f g h i j k

l m n o p q r s t u v

w x y z , ' " ,

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

How can I help my child succeed in school?

- *Read every day! Take turns at reading to your child and having your child read to you, asking questions to promote comprehension skills.
- *Be positive, speaking well of school and learning. Encourage your child to talk about all of the fun things they have done or are going to do at school.
- *Create a consistent after school routine including meal times and play time (creating a visual display of this for your child can be very beneficial).
- *Ensure your child is getting plenty of sleep on a school night, so they are fresh for school in the morning.
- *Encourage your child in all aspects of academics, praising them both in their successes and their efforts.
- *Teach your child to be responsible for their actions.
- *Stay involved! Inquire about ways to support your child's learning at home.
- *Communicate! Keep in regular contact with your child's teacher.