



STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Curriculum Overview Kindergarten

Course Description:

The Kindergarten student will be immersed in a literature-rich environment to develop oral language skills, basic phonetic principles and an appreciation for literature. Math instruction will emphasize problem solving, communicating, reasoning, making connections and using representations. In science, emphasis is placed on using the senses to gather information. Development of the concepts of past and present in history and social studies will provide the kindergarten student with opportunities to use words that describe people, places, events, economic choices, and time relationships. Students will develop skills and concepts in art and music with exposure to art history and world cultures. In health education the emphasis will be on personal health habits, safety, and social skills. Physical education will develop fundamental movement skills such as body awareness, spatial awareness, and locomotive and ball skills.

Essential Knowledge and Skills/Processes:

READING / ENGLISH:

- Build oral communication skills
 - Express ideas in complete sentences and express needs through direct requests
 - Follow rules for conversation, including taking turns and staying on topic
 - Follow one- and two-step directions
 - Work respectfully with others
- Grow in oral, early literacy skills
- Identify, segment, and blend phonemes (sounds) within words
- Understand how print is organized and read (left to right, top to bottom, match voice with print)
- Understand that print has meaning
 - Identify common signs and logos
 - Read name and commonly used high-frequency words
- Develop an understanding of basic phonetic principles
 - Identify and name the capital and lowercase letters of the alphabet
 - Match sounds to appropriate letters (consonants, short vowels, and digraphs)
 - Accurate finger-point reading in familiar text
- Expand vocabulary and use of word meanings
 - Use number words
 - Identify and name people, places, and things
 - Describe location, size, color, and shape
 - Identify actions
- Demonstrate comprehension of fiction and nonfiction texts
 - Relate experiences to what is read
 - Use pictures to make predictions
 - Ask and answer questions about what is read
 - Use story elements of characters, setting, and events to retell stories sequentially using beginning, middle, and end
- Identify text features specific to the topic (titles, headings, and pictures)
- Print in manuscript
 - Print capital and lowercase letters of the alphabet independently
 - Print first and last name
- Write in a variety of forms
 - Generate ideas including drawing pictures
 - Use letters to phonetically spell words that describe pictures or experiences
 - Write left to right and top to bottom
 - Compose simple sentences
- Conduct research to answer questions or solve problems using available resources

MATHEMATICS:

- Count, compare and describe no more than three sets containing up to 10 objects (more, fewer, the same)
- Tell how many, write or select corresponding number for 20 or fewer concrete objects
- Count forward to 100 by ones and backward starting at any number up to 10
- Count by tens to 100
- Identify the number after any given number to 100 without counting.
- Identify the number before any given number to 10 without counting
- Sort and classify objects by 1 attribute
- Investigate fractions (halves) as fair shares
- Model adding and subtracting using up to 10 concrete objects
- Recognize a penny, nickel, dime and quarter and their respective values in pennies
- Compare two objects or events according to the following attributes: length (shorter, longer), height (taller, shorter), weight (heavier, lighter), volume (more, less), time (longer, shorter), and temperature (hotter, colder)

- Investigate time by reading and interpreting a calendar
- Identify, describe, extend, create and transfer repeating patterns
- Identify, describe, and compare plane geometric figures (circle, square, triangle, and rectangle)
- Describe location of one object relative to another (e.g., above, below, next to)
- Sort and classify objects by 1 attribute
- Gather, organize, and represent data in object/picture graphs, and tables, and answer related questions

SCIENCE:

- Conduct investigations in which basic properties of objects are identified by direct observation and sequences of events are predicted
- Investigate the human senses of taste, touch, smell, hearing, and sight using the appropriate descriptive terms and observing the associated sense organs
- Investigate magnets and the concepts of attraction, repulsion, metal, and nonmetal
- Describe physical objects in terms of color, shape, texture, size, weight, and speed
- Observe and describe properties of water such as states, flow, and concepts of floating and sinking
- Investigate basic needs and life processes of plants and animals including the concepts of change, life cycles, and need for air, water, and food
- Observe the relationships of light and shadow
- Investigate and note patterns as seen in weather changes and growth in plants and animals, and that changes may be fast or slow
- Investigate the concepts of reuse, recycling and conservation of water and energy

SOCIAL STUDIES:

- Understand that history relates to events and people of other times by identifying people and events in Stafford's history
- Study the people and events associated with major holidays: Thanksgiving, President's Day, Independence Day
- Become familiar with maps and globes as representations of earth
- Use simple maps to tell directions and locate places.
- Identify community and map symbols
- Match job descriptions with the names of jobs
- Identify basic economic terms and concepts, including money, goods, wants, savings, and making choices
- Recognize the need for good citizenship and ways they can be good citizens
- Identify traditionally patriotic symbols and learn traditionally patriotic activities

Physical Education/ Health Objectives:

Participating in a variety of movement experiences to develop fundamental movement patterns is the primary focus of the kindergarten physical education curriculum. While children at this level vary in maturity across all movement skills, they should demonstrate continuous improvement in movement under very simple conditions. While developing fundamental skill patterns, students begin to learn key movement concepts that help them perform in a variety of educational games, dances, and gymnastics. They learn how their bodies react to vigorous physical activity. Students learn to use safe practices, cooperate with and respect others, and follow classroom rules. Experiences in physical education help them develop a positive attitude for leading a healthy, active lifestyle.

- Demonstrate progress toward the mature form of selected locomotor, non-locomotor, and manipulative skills to understand the various ways the body can move.
- Identify basic structures of the body and basic spatial awareness concepts.
- Identify basic fitness concepts.
- Use appropriate behaviors and safe practices in physical activity settings.
- Identify basic concepts of energy balance.

Kindergarten students recognize basic facts and concepts about their bodies and begin to acquire skills and practices that keep them safe and healthy. Students learn to seek help and advice from parents/guardians and other trusted adults and begin to learn how to seek reliable health information. They understand how to make good decisions about simple health issues, respect others, follow school safety rules, and be responsible.

- Identify and describe key health and safety concepts.
- Recognize the need for regular physical activity.
- Describe the five senses (sight, hearing, smell, taste, touch) and major body parts (e.g., head, trunk, arms, legs, hands, and feet).
- Identify that hand washing reduces the chance of becoming sick.
- Describe alternatives to television watching.
- Describe healthy meal choices that include all food groups.
- Discuss how to express and handle emotions appropriately.
- Describe a variety of healthy snacks foods
- Describe common safety rules and practices for individuals, families, and communities.
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- Apply strategies for establishing social and physical barriers, to include polite refusal skills, cooperation with others, and adaptation to change.
- The student will identify healthy decisions.
- The student will describe and demonstrate behaviors that promote health and prevent injury and disease.

Fine Arts Objectives:

- Learn to fold
- Manipulate scissors, cut 2-D shapes
- Glue appropriately
- Construct 3-D forms
- Experience painting
- Practice safety procedures
- Follow directions
- Recognize spatial relationships
- Identify 2-D shapes
- Recognize lines, colors, and textures

- Express personal experiences
- Begin global awareness through use of maps and globes

Music:

- Demonstrate the steady beat by clapping, moving and playing
- Echo, read and play rhythms from written notation
- Participate in singing activities with and without accompaniment
- Learn simple choreography to songs
- Identify, high and low, loud and soft, fast and slow, long and short sounds, and singing vs. speaking voice
- Distinguish between a march and a lullaby
- Identify patterns in music
- Identify classroom instruments by sight and sound

Resources:

Resources concerning the Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools and more can be found at the Virginia Department of Education website: <http://www.doe.virginia.gov> Helpful resources at this site include subject and grade level Standards of Learning, Curriculum Frameworks, and Scope and Sequence documents.

Additional resources are listed below:

Reading

- <http://www.ed.gov/parents/read/resources/readingtips>

Math

- Subitizing Tree (app): Students practice the instant recognition of quantities up to 10 (without counting).
- Greg Tang Math (<http://www.gregtangmath.com>): A variety of engaging games that build number understanding and relationships
- Number Rack by The Math Learning Center