

The Kindergarten Day

The kindergarten day runs from 9:10-12:05 for the AM session and 12:50-3:45 for the PM session. Attendance is taken promptly at 9:10 and 12:50. Absences should be reported to the attendance phone line at 610-240-1465 or emailed to desattendance@tesd.net. In the event of a 2 hour delay, morning sessions will run from 11:10 am-1:05 pm and the afternoon sessions will run from 1:50 pm-3:45 pm.

Our Philosophy

The kindergarten program is designed to help each child develop physically, emotionally, and socially by providing a rich variety of activities and experiences. The importance of meeting the individual needs and interests of children is emphasized through various components of the program. A setting is created to allow the child freedom to explore and discover, with many opportunities to respond to a varied program of cognitive and affective skills. Kindergarten provides an environment that nurtures growth and fosters success. The goals of this program are to provide children with opportunities to develop an eagerness and independence for learning, a positive self-concept, creativity, and an understanding and appreciation of the world about them.

The Kindergarten Curriculum

Language Arts

Reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills are the core of our language arts program. Students will use the Wonders reading curriculum from McGraw-Hill and a variety of supplemental instructional materials to develop the skills prerequisite for reading. Children are eager to read and write and the skills are closely related. We encourage inventive spelling (writing the sounds heard in words). Our goal is that children make the letter/sound connection and become comfortable writing. Activities are provided to give opportunities to organize and express thoughts in front of peers. All through the day, children are exposed to various types of literature. We strive to develop a love of reading and emphasize specific skills such as: identifying story elements (main idea, story sequence, character recall, problem/solution), concepts of print, phonological awareness (beginning-middle-ending sounds, manipulating sounds, rhyming) and developing a strong sight word vocabulary. We work closely with our reading specialist to meet the needs of each child from those just learning the alphabet to those already reading. Children who need a "boost" with language skills may qualify for BRIDGE, our early intervention program. The program enhances language development and reading readiness skills. The Kindergarten Screening results along with teacher input are used to select children for further assessment to determine eligibility for BRIDGE. Language arts instruction is delivered in a one hour block with one half hour devoted to whole group instruction and a second half hour focusing on small group work. Students who qualify for the BRIDGE program meet with a reading teacher each day during the small group portion of the language arts block.

Students enter and exit the BRIDGE program throughout the year, depending on need.

Math

TE students use the Math in Focus curriculum and other supplemental materials. Skills are introduced and developed in:

- Number Systems, Relationships: recognize numbers, rote and skip counting, more, less, equivalent sets, one-to-one correspondence, fractions
- Computation: introduction to addition and subtraction
- Estimation: use concrete objects to estimate
- Measurement: length, height, weight, volume, temperature, telling time, calendar
- Mathematical Reasoning: compare using math vocabulary
- Mathematical Problem Solving: identify information needed to solve problems, analyze possible solutions, demonstrate various strategies to solve problems
- Statistics and Data Analysis: gather, organize, and analyze information from graphs/charts
- Probability and Predictions: predict results and outcomes
- Geometry and Algebra: identify shapes (two and three dimensional), explore symmetry, identify, extend, create patterns
- Money: identify coins and their values

Science

Science instruction takes place in one of our two science labs. Science is formally taught once per cycle and is also integrated into other subject areas. Our goal is to provide hands-on activities to get students excited about science. Topics studied include the senses, properties, introduction to agriculture, habitats, hibernation, landforms, weather, energy, ecology, how things move, day/night, life cycles, insects, and water.

Social Studies

Devon students follow a district-wide holiday curriculum studying ten holidays with the meaning of the holiday as the focus in kindergarten. The ten holidays are: Yom Kippur, Diwali, Ramadan, Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Chinese New Year, Passover, and Easter. We also focus on friendships and developing a strong self-concept with lessons taught by our guidance counselor once per cycle.

Social Skills/Work Habits

In kindergarten, the children learn to work and play with others, develop independence, accept responsibility, listen while others speak, show self-control, be cooperative, and develop a good self-concept. They also develop the ability to follow directions, listen attentively, work independently, use time wisely, and complete tasks within an expected amount of time. We provide activities

throughout the day to formally teach these skills and give children the opportunity to practice and strengthen them.

Motor Skills

The children will be developing fine and large motor skills daily. We will be working with scissors, crayons, paint, playing games, learning new programs on the computer, practicing proper letter formation, and writing words and short sentences. Children will be encouraged to tie their own shoes and handle their coats, gloves, hats, etc. Large motor activities will be offered both in the regular classroom and our physical education program.

Special Areas

Kindergarten students attend music, library, and gym once per 6-day cycle and have art twice per cycle. More information about special area teachers and their specific curricula can be found on their individual teacher webpages.

Miscellaneous Information

Parent/School Communication

Parents meet with teachers in early September before school begins for a parent teacher conference. At this time, kindergartners work with reading teachers on a district-wide assessment, The Kindergarten Screening. This screening gives teachers information about each student's knowledge upon entering kindergarten to enable us to plan appropriate instruction for all students. Two other district-wide assessments are given to kindergartners – The Mid-Year Screening in February and the Kindergarten Inventory of Developmental Skills in May. Additional parent conferences are scheduled in the fall and spring. Progress reports are sent home in November, February, and June. Progress reports give detailed information about each child's individual progress across all curricular areas.

Each student will have a folder provided by the classroom teacher that should be brought to and from school each day. Students will put notes from the teacher, information from the school office, and their daily work in their folders each day to bring home. Please take the opportunity to go through your child's folder each night. Weekly newsletters are sent home each Friday to give parents information about activities in the classroom that week and upcoming events. The Devon Dispatch, a school-wide newsletter, is sent home electronically by the PTO throughout the school year.

Snack/Recess

Children should bring simple, easy to eat, "nut free" snacks daily. Students are encouraged to wear sneakers every day for recess and to dress for the weather. Weather and schedule permitting, we go outside each day!

Parent/School Partnership

We believe that learning is a unique and personal experience. Our aim is to stimulate each child to think, analyze, discover, and explore. It is our desire to create a happy and warm atmosphere in which each child is filled with the excitement and wonder of learning. We believe that parents and teachers working together in partnership will ensure a happy and successful experience in kindergarten!