

# Kindergarten

Syllabus  
2020-2021

## **Programs Taught**

*Reading Mastery Signatures Kindergarten:* This program begins by teaching the sounds letters make. Students learn different letters of the alphabet in a unique order and initially they do not learn the name of the letters. The program moves on to reading words, paragraphs and then stories as well as building vocabulary and comprehension skills. Reading lessons move quickly and involve discussion among the students and teacher. Students are grouped by reading ability which is based on tests they have taken early in the year. Once the program is underway, students are tested every 5 lessons to ensure that they are on track with the group.

*Language For Learning:* This program teaches children words, concepts, and statements that are important to written and oral language. Kindergarteners will master basic information such as days of the week, seasons, months of the year, object identification, and locations. Workbook activities are aimed to let the student demonstrate mastery of the lesson. Mastery tests will be administered every 10 lessons.

*Language For Thinking:* This program is a continuation of the *Language for Learning* program. This program enriches children's words and statements which is important to how they speak and then to how they will write. Both programs emphasize language as a means of describing the world as a tool for thinking and solving problems. The language that is taught helps to describe learning and instruction. Key components in the program include reasoning and critical thinking, vocabulary development, observing and describing, comprehension concepts, and interpreting graphic displays.

*Early Birds Singapore Math:* This program focuses on in-depth understanding of the essential math skills using textbooks and manipulatives. These textbooks have a consistent and strong emphasis on problem solving and model drawing. Explanations of math concepts are exceptionally clear and simple and at times may seem slow paced, but build a strong math foundation for future math levels. This program is based on the idea that mathematical concepts should be taught from concrete to pictorial to abstract.

*Core Knowledge:* This program is our read aloud program. This program allows students to participate in two quarters of science topics and two quarters of social studies topics. Students will read fictional and non-fiction stories with comprehension checks and other reading applications. Students will participate in various activities connected to these topics.

## **Grades**

*Tests:* two parts (roughly 65%)

*Classwork/Participation:* one part (roughly 35%)

### **Report Cards:**

P - Proficient

I - In Progress

N - Needs Development

### **Conduct Grades:**

1 – Outstanding

2 – Satisfactory

3 – Unsatisfactory

Social Foundations can be found on the report card as an area for student's social and peer interactions. Teachers observe and take notes about how learners communicate, play, and problem solve with their peers. This grade is a reflection of their progress.

Very often parents are most concerned with the letter portion of the grade. If you have any questions you should always contact the teacher. We urge you to pay attention to the Conduct section of the grade. This is denoted with a number. We feel that the effort and behavior put forth by a student can set the tone for the trajectory of their entire school career. Please urge your child to do their best. A "P" might be impressive, but accompanied with a 3 is still a cause for concern. Hopefully, if there is a behavior issue, contact has already been made before report cards are issued. Keep in mind awards are given for conduct and effort at the end of the year ceremony.

**\*\*To be promoted from Kindergarten, students must complete Reading Mastery Signatures K and Language for Learning\*\***

### **Skills Taught and Nurtured**

- Work habits
- Listening skills
- Social skills
- Emotional skills
- Speaking skills
- Language skills
- Math skills
- Healthy habits
- Reading skills
- Fine motor skill

### **Handwriting**

Handwriting is assigned daily to practice letter formation for both uppercase and lowercase. This is a time to also practice appropriate spacing between letters and words. There will be a letter of the week with daily worksheets to practice letter formation. This work is not graded, but feedback is given to help improve handwriting.

### **Centers**

As we are learning at home feel free to create centers for your learner around the house. Here are some suggested centers -

#### *Academic:*

Math Centers - pattern blocks, tangrams, patterning, puzzles, sorting

Language Centers - sequencing, before and after, classifying, memory games, positional words

Fine Motor Centers - cutting, lacing, handwriting, shoe-tying, links, play dough,

Science Center - magnifying glass, nets, books, goggles, bugs, bug boxes

Literacy Center - sound cards, word cards, story writing, magnetic letters, rhyming game

#### *Social:*

- Housekeeping
- Library
- Board games
- Play dough
- Blocks
- Puppets
- Dinosaurs
- Dramatic play

### **Study Topics**

During Enrichment and Read Aloud students are able to study important thematic topics while focusing attention on meeting the Common Core State Standards. Standards are used every day in many different ways during reading,

language, and math but using the Core Knowledge program and other outside books allows for a richer focus of these standards. Here a few topics studied and examined throughout the year:

- The five senses
- Plants
- School rules
- Friendship
- Farm life
- Biographies
- Holidays
- Folktales
- Gardens
- Seasons
- Black history

## **Projects**

Character Day

100 Days of School

\*\*More information to come later\*\*

## **Portfolios**

Student work will be collected throughout the year and put into portfolios. These portfolios will consist of student class work. These samples will come from projects or activities that show high levels of learning and understanding. Portfolios demonstrate student growth over the academic year. Please save your some pieces of work to show growth. Teachers will reach out about what projects to save and turn in to the school for the teacher to collect.