

Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District

Parent Guide
to
Kindergarten Curriculum



HWRSD MISSION STATEMENT

*Our mission is to be one community of learners
committed to educating productive and responsible world citizens
within a safe, healthful environment.*

KINDERGARTEN

The purpose of kindergarten is to provide a basic foundation for your child's education. It is a program geared to make the transition from home to school as smooth as possible, and to make each child's first experience with school a successful and happy one. The kindergarten program is designed to help stimulate a good self-concept, providing each child with many experiences of achievement. Kindergarten children will work and create independently and learn to cooperate with others in a group. Our program provides opportunities for social and emotional development, and expands physical and mental growth.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

The HWRSD reading program provides "...an appropriate balance between explicit, systematic instruction in the relationship between sounds and letters and a focus on the meaning of written language through the use of high quality reading materials and authentic language materials" (MA Department of Education, 2001). Primary Curriculum Resources: *Invitations to Literacy* (Houghton-Mifflin, 1997), leveled books, Collins Writing, Handwriting Without Tears.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- ☆ Identify upper and lower case letters.
- ☆ Recognize that written words are separated by spaces.
- ☆ Recognize that sentences in print are made up of separate words.
- ☆ Understand that a sound is a phoneme, or one distinct sound.
- ☆ Recognize and produce rhyming words.
- ☆ Identify the initial, medial, and final sounds of a word.
- ☆ Blend sounds to make words.
- ☆ Know that there is a link between letters and sounds.
- ☆ Recognize letter-sound matches by naming and identifying each letter of the alphabet.
- ☆ Understand that written words are composed of letters that represent sounds.
- ☆ Use letter-sound matches to decode simple words.
- ☆ Make predictions using prior knowledge, pictures, and text.
- ☆ Ask questions about the important characters, settings, and events.
- ☆ Retell important facts from a text heard or read.
- ☆ Identify a regular beat and similarities of sounds in words in responding to rhythm and rhyme in poetry.
- ☆ Dictate sentences for a story and collaborate to put the sentences in chronological sequence.
- ☆ Draw pictures and/or use letters or phonetically spelled words give others information.
- ☆ Dictate sentences for a letter or directions and collaborate to put sentences in order.
- ☆ Print upper- and lower-case letters of the alphabet.

MATHEMATICS

Primary Curriculum Resources:

The kindergarten mathematics curriculum is anchored by several units of study from *Investigations in Number, Data, and Space* (Scott-Foresman Addison-Wesley, 2002), which are designed to develop understanding of mathematics concepts through student-centered activities. The units of study are: *Mathematical Thinking in Kindergarten; Patterns, Trains, and Hopscotch Paths; Making Shapes and Building Blocks; Collecting, Counting, and Measuring; Counting Ourselves and Others*. Content is often addressed through children's literature. Classroom routines include: Attendance, Counting Jar, Calendar, Today's Question, and Patterns on the Pocket Chart.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- ☆ Count by ones to at least 20.
- ☆ Match quantities up to at least 10 with numerals and words.
- ☆ Identify the attributes of objects. Sort and classify objects.
- ☆ Name, describe, sort, and draw simple two-dimensional shapes.
- ☆ Recognize and compare objects of different sizes.
- ☆ Collect, sort, organize, and draw conclusions about data.
- ☆ Use objects and drawings to model and solve related addition and subtraction problems to ten.
- ☆ Identify, reproduce, describe, extend, and create color, rhythmic, shape, number, and letter repeating patterns with simple attributes.
- ☆ Name, describe, sort, and draw simple two-dimensional shapes.
- ☆ Describe attributes of two-dimensional shapes.
- ☆ Name and compare three-dimensional shapes.
- ☆ Identify positions of objects in sequences (e.g., first, second) up to fifth.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY/ENGINEERING

The science curriculum is designed to help students develop scientific reasoning as they investigate and solve complex real-world problems using the tools they need. The following units are studied in the classroom and are enriched through a weekly science lab: Characteristics of Living Things; Exploring with the Senses; Pushes and Pulls; Dinosaurs; Looking at the Sky.

HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

The history and social science curriculum draws on and integrates several disciplines and fields of study. Kindergarten students will learn about the major national symbols, holidays, monuments, and important figures in U. S. history. Students will learn the songs, "America" and "The Star Spangled Banner". They will know that Washington D.C. is the capital of our country and Boston is the capital of Massachusetts. They will read folk tales and fables from other lands. The three social science units explored at the kindergarten level are *My School Community, Me, and My Family*.

MUSIC AND VISUAL ARTS

For all children at all ability levels, the arts play a central role in human development. Cognitive, language, and social- emotional development are positively impacted by participation in the arts. Much research substantiates that good arts programs in elementary and middle schools not only build skills needed to learn math, reading, and writing, but motivate students, particularly those who are at risk of failure. In music class, students develop proficiency in singing; reading and notation; playing instruments; improvisation and composition; and critical response. During art, which may be integrated into other content areas, students develop proficiency in methods, materials, and techniques; elements and principles of design; observation, abstraction, invention, and expression; exhibiting; and critical response.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

As an integral part of the total educational process, health and physical education will create opportunities to develop a lifelong physically active lifestyle as well as respect for self and others, through a safe learning environment. Through health literacy, self-management skills (Second Step), and health promotion, comprehensive health education teaches fundamental health concepts, promotes habits and conduct that enhance health and wellness, and guides efforts to build healthy families, relationships, schools, and communities (Massachusetts Department of Education, 1999). Students experience health/physical education class twice weekly.



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