



The Country School Kindergarten Program

Young children learn by doing. An effective learning environment results from a balance of playful discovery and directed instruction. Different levels of ability, development, and learning styles are both expected and accepted in Kindergarten.

LANGUAGE ARTS The communications skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking are woven throughout the Kindergarten curriculum.

Reading Children are introduced to reading and writing skills through quality literature. Directed phonics instruction helps the children to understand the relationships between letters and sounds. This empowers beginning readers to unlock the codes that connect the words they hear with the words they see in print.

Writing Creative writing begins with writing activities that include dictating stories, drawing pictures/word stories, and writing words/sentences/stories using developmental or invented spelling. These activities encourage individual expression as well as provide meaningful practice with sound/symbol relationships. Kindergarten introduces students to the D'Nealian handwriting method. It continues through grade five.

Listening and speaking The Kindergarten day is full of experiences in listening and speaking. Sharing time, group discussion, story times, language experience, role playing, reading, writing, and reciting prose and poetry all help to strengthen confidence in listening and speaking.

MATHEMATICS The Kindergarten math program is designed to introduce a wide range of mathematical concepts as well as ensure a knowledge of the basic arithmetic skills that relate to their own world. The children become actively involved with concrete materials and make many discoveries using a wide variety of manipulatives. During the school year, children work on patterning, classifying, graphing, sorting, measurement, addition, subtraction, place value, problem solving, geometry, money, and fractions. Children share discoveries and ideas with one another and learn to share the classroom space and materials.

SOCIAL STUDIES The focus in social studies begins with the concept of "me" and broadens to the school community. Kindergartners reach out into the larger community by participating in community projects. Kindergarten children start school with a great deal of experience interacting in the world. The goal is to build on knowledge children bring to the classroom and to help them explore new horizons.



Kindergarten

is a time for young children...

- to learn about themselves, about being responsible individuals, and about working with others
- to begin to develop sound work habits, skills, and a positive attitude toward learning
- to explore and discover at an individual pace
- to be adventuresome and to take risks in a supportive and nurturing environment
- to experience challenging mental and physical activity
- to discover the joys of learning and school!

SCIENCE The goal of Kindergarten science is to help students gain an awareness of living things and the environment. The children are involved in creative problem solving and a variety of hands-on experiences. They are encouraged to question, experiment, collect, and conclude in a wide variety of situations.

MUSIC Kindergarten music classes focus on performance through rhythm band and singing, music appreciation through films of ballets and operas, and theory by learning note values and improvisation on the black keys of the piano. They also learn about stage presence and how to be a good audience.

ART In Kindergarten, children are encouraged to think creatively and imaginatively. Students interpret their world through drawing, painting, printing, color, and using three-dimensional design. Learning about famous artists is also introduced through a variety of art projects. The creative process is emphasized throughout all our projects and in a variety of media.

SPANISH Throughout their Kindergarten year, students are exposed to Spanish lessons. Students sing, play games and interact in bilingual lessons that emphasize speaking and listening. Each month, students learn new vocabulary and a new song focused around a theme. Through fun and play, students develop an ear for the sounds of Spanish, and gain confidence in communicating.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION Children begin the foundation of a positive attitude toward a healthy body and physical fitness. Kindergartners participate in basic locomotive movement skills, cooperative games, jumping rope, rhythms, and fundamental mechanics. Throwing and catching skills are also introduced at this level.

LIBRARY In addition to learning the correct terms for areas of the library and parts of a book, Kindergartners learn to select their own books and check them out independently. Through reading, storytelling, puppets, and art and craft projects, Kindergartners learn that the world of books is an exciting and stimulating one.

COMPUTER Kindergarten has computer class for one period each week. The program correlates with the early language and math skills that are being developed in the classroom. It introduces and builds computer literacy skills which are utilized through the eighth grade. In addition, Kindergartners use the Apple MacBook and iPod touch to explore content-related software programs throughout their day.

KINDERGARTEN SCHEDULE The daily schedule for the Kindergarten program is Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 8:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., and Tuesday and Thursday 8:15 a.m. to 3:20 p.m. On Monday and Wednesday, we also offer, for an additional charge, an optional afternoon program which extends the day to 3:20 p.m. The focus is on socialization rather than academics. Monday and Wednesday afternoon can be added on a regular or occasional basis.

The Country School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, age, gender, nationality or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, employment policies, financial aid programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

THE COUNTRY SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

The Country School is an independent, coeducational, K-8 school founded in 1934. It offers a challenging program in a nurturing environment with small classes, individual attention, and outstanding teachers as its hallmarks. A traditional, structured, responsive, and age-appropriate curriculum focuses on building basic skills and serves a range of student abilities within a family school context. The school strives to educate the whole child in an atmosphere that fosters high academic standards, instills a love of learning, and provides a solid foundation for future education. Enrichment in the arts, athletics, and co-curricular activities offers additional arenas for individual achievement and leadership. By emphasizing the importance of strong values and character, the faculty consistently reinforces responsible behavior, self-discipline, and positive attitudes. Working in concert, Country School teachers and parents help students develop confidence and competence and reach toward their highest potential.

Early morning care begins at 6:45 a.m. and an **after school care** program provides supervision of the children until 5:30 p.m. each weekday.

Please ask about our financial aid program.

