

All About Kindergarten



SOUTH SCHOOL

Glencoe School District





Simple tips to support your child for their Kindergarten year...

Talk with your child. Have reciprocal conversations and give your child time to share. Listen to their ideas and thoughts.

Read together every day. Have your child select their favorite books and talk about the story. Give your child the opportunity to tell stories as well.

Support your child to practice writing. Encourage your child to draw and use letters and shapes. Start with the letters in their name and build upon familiar words.

Explore numbers together as you count and measure. Encourage your child to count and sort items like laundry, silverware or coins. Find ways to measure in the kitchen.

Encourage your child to share. Teach your child to take turns, listen and follow directions. Play games which practice these skills.

Help your child to develop a sense of responsibility. Let your child select clothes and begin a household chore such as cleaning their room or emptying the dishwasher.

Encourage active learning with your child. Take walks and explore, visit the park, play games with your child. These will all support their ongoing learning as a student in kindergarten.

While in Kindergarten, your child will learn...

- To enjoy and appreciate all aspects of school and gain confidence.
- To be respectful to all people as they listen and share with others.
- How to express feelings through "I Messages".
- About diversity and acceptance through the WE CARE Program.
- Early literacy skills including concept of print, decoding strategies and sound blends.
- To correctly form each letter and number.
- To count and estimate.
- Graphing and shapes, through the use of manipulative materials.
- That stories are pleasurable and how to listen for details.
- Sequencing of stories with characters and setting.
- To make predictions and use higher-level questioning - across literacy, math, science and social studies.
- And so much more than we have room to list!



All children develop at their own pace and some skills take a child longer to master. Share praise with your child for their efforts as they attempt new tasks. Enjoy this special time in your child's development!



What Does
Kindergarten
Look Like
At South School?

A Yearly Overview:

A monthly thematic approach correlates to our balanced literacy materials. Books and activities are selected to coincide with these themes. Tactile experiences help children with the letters. A phonemic awareness program helps children associate letters with sounds and builds a strong foundation for literacy skills. Teachers provide the motivation, time, material and structure for handwriting, writing, reading, listening and sharing. We make use of The Everyday Mathematics Program and provide daily practice with mathematical routines. Examples of concepts introduced are shapes, number sense, writing numbers, money, counting and much more. Life, Physical and Earth Sciences are taught through specific inquiry units, which are highly interactive and hands-on.

An *Essential Question* guides the Social Studies curriculum throughout the year in every grade level. Kindergarten students focus on the question, **Who am I?**

Kindergarten Social Studies Topics Covered:

- ◆ Making good decisions.
- ◆ Patriotism
- ◆ The Pledge of Allegiance
- ◆ Community services
- ◆ Leadership & friendship
- ◆ Traditions
- ◆ Jobs and resources
- ◆ Rules and responsibilities

A Daily Overview:

The day usually begins with a classroom meeting. A daily calendar routine is incorporated and emphasizes dates, the days of the week, months and year. Classrooms utilize a combination of whole group instruction and learning centers for math, science, writing, art, games, computers and reading. Once a week, on a particular day, children have special classes of library and computers, as well as:

Art, where children have the opportunity to express themselves in a variety of media. The concepts of drawing, painting, paper construction, clay and art appreciation are presented throughout the year.

Music, in which groundwork is laid for future encounters with music. Highlights of the year include active experiences involving singing, playing instruments, moving, listening to music and dancing.

Physical Education, designed to motivate, encourage and contribute to healthy attitudes toward physical fitness. Examples of the skills covered are:

- Cooperation games
- Ball handling skills
- Catching and throwing
- Hula-hoop skills
- Run, hop, skip & jump
- Tumbling & movement
- Manipulative Skills
- Turn, twist, bend
- Ice-skating
- Dance
- Jump rope
- Stretching

Foreign Language also begins in kindergarten with Spanish. Children will explore the language and culture as they practice basic conversation skills and vocabulary development.

Differentiation:

Glencoe School District 35 embraces a philosophy of modifying the curricular content, instructional methods or product outcomes to match the learner. In this way, we can better meet the needs of the individual learner. Among other strategies we utilize extension activities, flexible grouping, journals, critical thinking activities, integrated centers, active questioning, leveling of books, and resident expert activities to accommodate our diverse learners.

The Mystery Visitor Program:

We believe that the path to appreciating diversity begins with the discovery of differences. In the early primary years, children learn to internalize positive attitudes and transfer them to new situations. The program provides opportunity for students to be aware, appreciate and enjoy differences. It also addresses the importance of respectfully expressing their curiosity. Children are introduced to diversity within their own community, while helping them develop an admiration for others and recognize the potential within themselves.



Each month, a prearranged visitor will spend time in each kindergarten classroom. Prior to the visit, students will read recommended materials in preparation. On the day of the visit, the Mystery Visitor will share their story with them and conclude by reinforcing their role with our **WE CARE** monthly theme. Children will have the opportunity to discuss the visit and share with their families as a take home book with be shared each month.

Our District 35 **WE CARE** Themes

- Teamwork & Respect
- Making Healthy Choices
- Helping Others & Service Learning
- Feelings & Empathy
- Honoring our Past
- Celebrating Diversity
- Impulse Control & Managing Your Emotions
- Problem Solving
- Accomplishments & Goal Setting

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