

Kindergarten Curriculum

Laurel Academy

Social Skills

Through classroom routines and example, children are encouraged to develop and demonstrate consideration for others. Turn-taking, sharing, and communicating appropriately are all emphasised. Children are also encouraged to express their feelings and to be assertive when resolving personal concerns. Respect for others and oneself are emphasised.

Language Skills

Students are taught to read using a systematic phonics approach. Students read individually with the teacher each day and a record book is sent home for the purpose of informing parents about their child's progress. Group and individual activities are conducted in a way that encourages the development of better vocabularies and speech skills.

In order to develop the children's appreciation of written language and books, they are regularly read stories and poetry, often based on a topic or theme already being investigated. Such readings encourage discussion and imagination, as well as increased understanding of our language and what we can do with it.

The classroom library is always accessible, and offers new and different titles regularly. These books stretch children's imaginations, and present important issues and ideas. The collection presents stories representing various cultures, times, and places.

Once children are able to print, they are given journals in which they can express their ideas in writing.

The children are encouraged to develop skill and confidence in speaking. Teachers offer routine opportunities (e.g. show & tell, group discussions) for each child to speak in front of a group.

Number Skills

Through hands-on group and individual activities and the use of manipulatives, children learn to count, to identify the number symbols, and to understand quantity. Once this is mastered, they move on to simple addition and then subtraction problems. More abstract concepts such as time, graphing and measurement are also taught. Generally, Junior Kindergartners and Senior Kindergartners work on grade one and two level math respectively.

Art

Children are encouraged to express their ideas and imagination through various media/materials. Art activities promote visual perception skills and recognition of differences in shape, colour, and texture. In addition, they introduce, to the students, the basic techniques and media which form the foundation of the art program in the primary grades.

Science

The children learn about a variety of topics, including field, forest, pond and stream ecosystems and the plants and animals that thrive in each; the seasons; weather and the water cycle; and our solar system.

History

Children study the fascinating world of dinosaurs, Ancient Egypt, the Vikings, pirates, knights & castles, explorers & pirates, and the pioneers through stories, hands-on and dramatic activities, and crafts.

Social Studies / Geography

Through stories and books, models, photographs and hand-outs, children explore concepts related to their community, and contrast this to other communities and places. Children learn about diverse cultures and different ways of life.

Problem-Solving

Children's logical and problem-solving abilities are developed through puzzles, group discussions, games, and activities, and hand-out problems involving patterns, numbers and spatial skills.

French

Kindergarten students develop a basic French vocabulary through songs and oral activities based on a number of units which may include "Me voilà" (About me), "Fruits et légumes" (Fruits and vegetables), "Mes jouets" (My toys), "En hiver" (Winter), "Chez moi" (At my home), "Au printemps" (Spring), "Nos amis les animaux" (Our friends the animals), and "En route!"(On our way).

Music

Kindergarten students work with the basics of musical structure - pitch, tempo, rhythm, melody, etc. - through rhythm instruments, musical tapes, stories and games, and songs, in order to develop a foundation for later study of theoretical concepts.

Physical Education

Children participate in games and activities which improve their coordination, balance, dexterity and control, while developing the skills which will prepare them for physical games and sports, e.g. kicking, catching and throwing a ball, running and jumping, and learning to follow rules in a simple game.

Computers

Each child enjoys scheduled, individual computer time on the classroom Macintosh computer. By controlling the mouse, the children access a world of colour, games, puzzles, and letters & numbers, from a number of excellent programs/CDs.