



montgomeryschool

1141 Kimberton Road, Chester Springs, PA 19425

2017-2018

PREKINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The prekindergarten year is truly a time when curiosity and wonder fills a child's life, and when young children are beginning to develop relationships with peers and adults beyond the family. Often, we think of this age in terms of life being simple, when in fact these are some of the most complex and critically important times in child development.

Montgomery School's prekindergarten program provides exactly the right environment to guide young children and their families through these formative years. The most important focus is social and emotional development so that children learn how to navigate school experiences with a strong sense of self and learn how to attune themselves to others.

Our classrooms are filled with personal warmth and attentiveness. At the same time, the prekindergarten program is grounded in sound principles of learning and high standards. Each day, the students are introduced to foundational concepts that prepare them well for their primary years. As importantly, they learn in ways that are hands-on, process oriented, building layer upon layer of what they already know. Learning is an exciting adventure. Classrooms have a variety of activities, for example, dramatic play, motor manipulatives, art and puzzles.

The class is thematically based and rich in divergent and creative thinking skills. Beyond the classroom, all children attend Physical Education, Music, Library and Art as well as grow in character development by participating in Chapel and community service outreach. The extended day Prekindergarten students experience Technology and Spanish classes taught two days in a six-day rotation. Parent coffees round out the experiences families enjoy in our Prekindergarten program.

Children learn by doing and by active involvement in the educational process. We structure the classroom environment to provide opportunities for exploration, discovery and most important, success.

LANGUAGE and EARLY LITERACY

Given opportunities to interact with adults and peers in language and print-rich environments, young children develop vocabulary, language skills and knowledge of the world around them.

SKILLS

- Listening/Comprehension
- Print Awareness
- Initial consonant sounds
- Letter formation
- Phonemic awareness
- Left to right tracking

The Wilson Foundations Pre-K Activity Set supports students' emerging understanding of the alphabetic principles of **letter-sound associations and alphabetical order**, and the written language skill of **manuscript letter formation**.

The literacy skills taught include:

- Knowledge of the names and sounds associated with printed letters
- Ability to manipulate the sounds of spoken language
- Ability to rapidly name letters, numbers, objects, or colors
- Ability to write isolated letters or one's name
- Ability to remember spoken information for a short time

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Morning Message
Journals
Language Experience Stories
Writing Stories
Classroom Generated Books
Poetry, Songs and Games
Environmental Print
Book Writing

TEACHER RESOURCES

Creating Young Writers, by Vicki Spandel
Already Ready. Nurturing Writers in Preschool and Kindergarten by Katie Wood Ray & Matt
Literacy Beginnings. A Prekindergarten Handbook
Various Literature Trade Books and Professional Publications
The Foundations Pre-K Activity Set

MATHEMATICS

The Singapore Math method of teaching and learning has been implemented since the fall of 2011, using the *US Edition of Primary Mathematics* textbook and workbook series.

Singapore Math emphasizes the development of strong number sense, excellent mental math skills, and a deep understanding of place value. The curriculum is based on a progression from a concrete experience (using manipulatives), to a pictorial stage (picture representations), and finally to an abstract level or algorithm. The sequence gives students a solid understanding of basic mathematical concepts and relationships. These concepts are taught to mastery with a focus on early math vocabulary and math literacy. Singapore Math's framework has problem solving at the heart of the curriculum to foster strong mathematical thinkers, who are persistent and confident math students.

SKILLS

- Matching
- Counting
- Logical Thinking
- Predicting, comparing, classifying
- Problem solving
- Money
- Measurement tools
- Sorting and grouping
- Place Value
- Spatial relations
- Weight, length, capacity

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Daily Calendar Work

Classroom manipulatives and games

Math Journals

Music and Movement activities

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies is the study of how people live, work, interact with others, and solve problems. The foundation of social studies for young children begins with their personal experiences and their interaction with family and friends. For young children, the family, the school, the neighborhood and the community are components of social studies. We will also do a unit of study about Mexico, our neighbor to the South.

In prekindergarten, the children will explore and gain information through hands-on experiences, many books and field trips. They will demonstrate their understanding through multiple forms of expression such as, drawing, dramatic play, conversation, art media, and music/movement.

SCIENCE

Science in prekindergarten is centered around the children learning about the natural and scientific world around them. The students will be introduced to scientific processes such as observation, exploration, and hypothesising. They will practice inferring meaning and purpose behind experiments and discussion. The students will listen to and respond to stories with scientific purpose/content. It is

our hope that the students will learn to use various manipulatives in our classroom to problem solve. The students will be encouraged to apply the skills they acquire in other academic subjects to enhance the scientific experience.

- Identify that plants and animals have life cycles
- Identify parts of living things
- Use the five senses as tools with which to observe, classify, collect information, and describe observations
- Match types of clothing to seasonal weather conditions
- Identify changes that occur in animals during the seasons
- Describe change in home and school environments
- Describe objects according to size, shape, color, or properties of matter
- Experiment with changes in matter
- Experiment with changes in substances when combined
- Explore and describe motion of toys and objects
- Use magnets to explore and sort materials
- Predict a reaction based on previous experiences
- Participate in scientific investigations
- Observe and explore water in solid and liquid states
- Identify a variety of uses for water
- Identify season that corresponds with observable conditions
- Identify how weather affects daily life
- Identify the characteristics of the sun, moon, stars, and clouds
- Identify examples of technology
- Use simple tools and materials
- Engage in STEM activities

RESOURCES

- Lego We Do STEM activity sets
- various science tools/materials in our classroom such as scales, magnifying glasses
- Science journal entries
- outdoor campus
- Scholastic *Let's Find Out* educational magazines
- www.scholastic.com/lfo

SERVICE LEARNING

Montgomery has always taken pride in teaching our students the importance of service to others, which is part of our school mission. The service projects are directly tied to our classroom curriculum. This approach gives students the opportunity to observe directly the measurable change that is provided through their efforts in a grade appropriate way. The project will not only affect the recipient of the service, but also the providers -- our students. In prekindergarten, the service learning project relates to our immediate community. In Spring PreK leads our "Keep our Campus Clean" project. The prekindergarten class encourages their fellow schoolmates to take pride in our school community by picking up litter, turning off lights, recycling, and conserving water.