



# KINDERGARTEN

Curriculum Overview  
 Melissa Martin  
 Principal  
 Christina De Joy  
 Director of Teaching and Learning

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 EMPOWERING THE FUTURE — with Mattawan Pride

The mission of Mattawan Early Elementary School is to develop eager and goal-driven learners who thrive through hands-on experiences, play, and dialogue. Data, connectivity, and collaboration will guide solution-focused work, supporting the social-emotional, behavioral, and academic success of everyone in the learning community.



## The Kindergarten Experience

The kindergarten program will encourage growth of the “whole child” in the following areas: language, motor control, affective (social, emotional, and personal), and cognitive. Play will be an integral part of the kindergarten curriculum. It is the child’s way of learning, exploring, and understanding the world, as well as a source of pleasure. Play is a way to test new ideas, practice new skills, and begin to see new relationships.

### Learning Behaviors

Kindergarten focuses on promoting a positive learning environment and self-esteem. Developing the ability to share, cooperate and interact with other children and adults lays the foundation for success. Parents, teachers, and children working together help each other reach his/her full potential.

#### **Kindergarten children will work toward:**

- working and playing cooperatively with others
- feeling secure and at ease at school
- trying new activities; taking risks
- asking for help when needed
- following classroom and school rules
- exhibiting self control
- taking responsibility for personal belongings and needs
- working and playing well in small groups and whole/large groups

### **Lifeskills**

Each month we focus of one of the following lifeskills:

- Friendship
- Responsibility
- Patience
- Caring
- Problem Solving
- Perseverance
- Cooperation
- Effort
- Flexibility

### Math

Lessons with open ended experiences encourage young children to explore and discover problem solving techniques. Concepts such as patterning, sorting, classifying, counting, and comparing are explored, along with introducing numbers and number values. This is accomplished through games, construction, manipulation and interaction with materials. Opportunities are provided to use real, concrete materials for verbalization and observation.

#### **Kindergarten children will work toward:**

- solidifying the concept of numbers representing values or amounts
- developing an understanding of the relationship between numbers, that numbers include other numbers, and beginning the concept of place value
- exploring shape, color, and number patterns
- using the vocabulary of math
- solving problems using manipulatives and strategies
- counting by ones and tens
- developing an understanding of addition as putting together and adding to, and subtraction as taking apart and taking from
- identifying geometric shapes

### Technology

#### **Kindergarten children will:**

- begin to gain general technology awareness
- understand a keyboard
- manipulate programs
- navigate through a web site
- begin to use technology as a learning tool

### Science

Kindergarten children will construct knowledge through observing, comparing, classifying and investigating. Children will explore the areas of life, earth & space and physical science. Our science curriculum utilizes the Mystery Science curriculum units listed below which are aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards.

#### **Kindergarten children will work toward:**

#### **Life Science: Plant & Animal Secrets**

- Knowing how animals and plants meet their needs

#### **Earth/Space Science: Weather Watching**

- Developing the habit of becoming weather watchers who take pleasure in noticing weather patterns and predicting changes.

#### **Physical Science: Force Olympics**

- Developing their first concept of “force,” and the idea that by playing with forces and thinking about them, we can accomplish surprisingly big things.

### Reading

Reading is a process by which children learn that print is a way to send and receive messages. Kindergarten instruction builds on stories and experiences from the child's background knowledge. Instruction focuses on a variety of strategies to help children create meaning from print, to call reading and to view reading as enjoyable.

#### **Kindergarten students will work toward:**

- Developing phonemic awareness, including the concept of rhyme, as well as blending and segmenting sounds in words.
- Learning letters and sounds through activities and guided practice.
- Learning print concepts through modeling by the teacher and participating in shared reading and writing activities.
- Reading words using phonics skills and high frequency words in a variety of contexts such as morning messages, environmental print, shared reading, as well as fictional informational text.
- Developing as early readers using their phonics skills and other important reading strategies.
- Developing their comprehension skills in a variety of contexts such as independent reading, shared reading and interactive read alouds.
- Retelling using story elements (i.e., characters, setting, problem, events, solutions).
- Making personal and real world connections.

### Writing

Kindergarten students will experience the process of writing in the genres of Narrative, Informational, and Opinion writing as aligned in the Common Core State Standards. The philosophy and principles of the writer's workshop create a learning environment that does the following

- Encourages independence
- Gives the long writer a high degree of choice within a framework
- Has procedures that are consistent for accessing materials and self-selecting a personal working space
- Structures the environment to encourage writers to take risks and learn their craft.
- Provides a scaffolding support system to all writers
- Gives students frequent response to their writing
- Has a regular and predictable time to write
- Gives students direct instruction in writing by different methods; whole class, small group, individual
- Uses literature to teach students the craft of writing

### Book Exchange

#### **Kindergarten children will learn:**

- Zones of Regulation
- Story Elements
- Understanding/Comparing Fiction and Nonfiction
- Organization of the library
- How to take care of a book
- Where is the call number and what is it?

### Social Studies

Children in kindergarten will focus on developing an understanding of self and family. Building positive self-concepts and getting along in our school community are important aspects of the kindergarten year. Through the use of literature, instructional materials, discussions, and projects, the students will have opportunities to increase understanding of their world.

#### **Kindergarten children will work toward:**

- adjusting to school, learning to make new friends and working together as a team
- learning the importance of appreciating similarities and differences of individuals
- describing families and what makes up families-discussing similarities and differences of families
- Experiencing a variety of people and cultures

### Community Time

During this 20 minute daily meeting our students will:

- Have conversations about life skills
- Build Social Emotional Capacity
- Problem solve classroom problems
- Learn to problem solve and compromise
- Practice communication skills
- Build resilience
- Practice zones of regulation



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