

Kindergarten Core Curriculum Highlights

In a nurturing, learner-centered environment that encourages active student engagement, risk-taking, and independence, kindergarten students will concentrate on these and other skills:

LANGUAGE ARTS AND SOCIAL STUDIES

- Reading through a balanced approach to literacy, which includes differentiated word work, sight word recognition, shared reading, independent reading, and read-alouds from a range of rich literature across genres
- Decoding using learned reading strategies
- Self-selecting appropriate-level books based on interest; daily reading in an effort to build reading fluency and stamina
- Learning comprehension strategies such as predicting, inferring, retelling, and making connections through interactive read-alouds modeled by an experienced reader
- Writing for a variety of purposes and participating in the complete writing process; focusing on building writing volume, stamina, and organization; and adding detail to written work
- Applying capitalization, punctuation, spacing, and spelling, which are taught and reinforced during Writer's Workshop
- Understanding and applying word patterns that center on both phonics generalizations and high-frequency words taught in a differentiated small-group setting
- Developing accurate pencil grip and letter formation, including directionality and stroke sequence
- Integrating social studies concepts

MATH

- Understanding place value
- Representing and solving problems involving addition and subtraction
- Understanding and applying properties of operations
- Adding and subtracting within 20
- Working with addition and subtraction equations
- Using place value understanding and properties of operations to add and subtract
- Measuring lengths using manipulatives
- Telling and writing time to the quarter hour and developing a sense of duration

- Reasoning with shapes and understanding their attributes
- Visualizing fractions as part of a whole
- Representing and interpreting data
- Making sense of problems and persevering in solving them
- Reasoning abstractly and quantitatively

STEAM

- Asking questions and defining problems; planning and conducting investigations; collecting and recording data; and engaging in critical conversations
- Planning and carrying out investigations
- Developing and using models
- Using mathematics, information, computer technology, and computational thinking
- Constructing explanations and designing solutions
- Engaging in arguments from evidence
- Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information
- Practicing the engineering design process:
 - Defining the problem
 - Identifying possible solutions
 - Designing a solution
 - Creating a prototype and optimizing its design
- Observing animals and plants and their environments

TECHNOLOGY

- Learning basic functions of the computer and the St. Francis network
- Locating specific keys on the keyboard using Learning.com's online technology curriculum
- Exploring and building proficiency with software, websites, and apps that support core curriculum concepts and differentiated instruction
- Practicing logical thinking through basic programming
- Expressing creativity and problem solving