

ART

- Develops and builds self-esteem through positive, successful art experiences
- Explores principles and elements of art on its most basic levels
- Uses a variety of materials and tools appropriately to develop motor skills
- Explores authors and artists through the art room

INFORMATION CENTER

- Recognizes various literary forms
Biography, Fairy Tales, Folk Tales
- Examines nonfiction features
Index, Table of Contents, Glossary
- Demonstrates listening and viewing skills
- Introduces correct terminology for parts of the book
- Introduction of cultural diversity through literature
- Exhibits proper Library/Media Center behavior
Proper care and responsibility for materials, equipment and facility.



INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY

- Students are introduced to the basic parts of a computer and learn to use the mouse and keyboard
- Exposure to subject related multimedia software (eg. *Starfall*, *United Streaming*, *SmartBoard*)
- Uses software for study, practice and individualized instruction (eg. *Millie's Math House*, *Biale's Book House*, *Sammy's Science House*, *Trudy's Time & Place*)
- Uses drawing software to communicate language, math, social studies, or science concepts (eg. *KidPix Studio*)



Updated August 2010



MUSIC

- Explores and improvises locomotor movement
- Explores fast, slow, long, and short movements
- Explores simple rhythm patterns
- Recognizes vocal tone color
- Hears a variety of musical genres
- Recognizes loud and soft
- Explores high and low
- Explores a steady beat
- Plays simple, varied rhythm instruments
- Explores musical and vocal sounds
- Sings unaccompanied, accompanied, and in unison



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Demonstrates knowledge and understanding of safety and rules
- Develops basic listening skills and the ability to successfully follow directions
- Develops fundamental motor skills and movement concepts
- Develops fundamental body and spatial awareness
- Develops awareness of basic social and cooperative skills



THREE VILLAGE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Essentials of Learning Kindergarten



Building futures one child at a time...

The mission of the Three Village Central School District, in concert with its families and community, is to provide an educational environment which will enable each student to achieve a high level of academic proficiency and to become a well-rounded individual who is an involved, responsible citizen.



What your children will be taught in Kindergarten

This guide provides parents and guardians with an overview of the concepts and skills children will be taught in Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Art, Information Center, Music, and Physical Education over the course of the school year. As elementary teachers, we recognize that all children develop at different rates socially, emotionally, and academically. We celebrate diversity within our student body, we differentiate instruction and incorporate instructional strategies that will excite, motivate, and challenge all students to achieve their greatest potential. Our elementary program is supportive, nurturing, and provides students with numerous and varied learning experiences to achieve the *Essentials of Learning*.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Our Language Arts program is based on the foundation that children learn through rich, meaningful, and developmentally appropriate experiences. Children will be immersed in a literate environment with opportunities to explore and develop skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The kindergarten literacy program fosters an appreciation of literature by providing a print rich environment while engaging youngsters in the process of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. It is in this manner that we hope to create lifelong learners in the very earliest years of the school experience.

Reading Readiness

- Recognizes alphabet
- Develops letter-sound associations
- Identifies rhyming words
- Understands that print contains a message
- Reads pattern books from memory
- Begins to develop strategies for reading simple, predictable text using picture clues, phonics, and context clues
- Becomes familiar with environmental print
- Develops comprehension strategies
 - Makes predictions about stories
 - Becomes familiar with character and setting
 - Retells story or parts of story from memory
 - Draws conclusions and makes judgments about stories
- Explores a variety of authors, illustrators, and genres



Written Expression

- Draws pictures to express ideas
- Expresses ideas through dictation
- Combines pictures, letters, and words
- Uses developmental spelling
- Practices letter formation and directional/spatial conventions of print

Listening and Speaking

- Listens and speaks at appropriate times
- Responds appropriately
- Speaks in sentences to express ideas
- Participates in dramatic play
- Demonstrates awareness of rhyme and rhythm in language through songs, stories, and poetry
- Listens attentively to stories
- Participates in story telling and interpretation of stories
- Listens to and follows oral directions
- Describes objects and pictures
- Participates in large and small group discussion

MATHEMATICS

Many mathematical concepts are introduced in kindergarten. They are related in concrete ways to actual life interests and experiences. While introduced in kindergarten, these concepts may not be completely internalized until later.

The children work with concrete objects first, then move to semi-abstract (picture drawing), and finally to abstract symbols (0, 1, 2, 3, 4). The children become actively involved with concrete materials and make discoveries using a variety of manipulatives.

Number Sense & Operations

- Counts to 20 in numerical order
- Recognizes whole numbers 1 to 20
- Places numbers in sequential order from 1 to 20
- Demonstrates one to one correspondence
- Understands the concept of sets
- Uses manipulatives to show number meanings
- Explores ordinal numbers
- Explores place value through counting and tally marks
- Combines and subtracts two simple sets using manipulatives
- Explores operations for problem solving
- Sequences a variety of objects to explore numbers through 20 or beyond

Algebra

- Recognizes, extends, and creates patterns that repeat
- Describes patterns
- Uses manipulatives to create patterns with color, size and shape
- Explores greater than, less than, and equal to

Geometry

- Recognizes basic shapes
- Uses concrete materials to show spatial relationships
- Uses terms such as over, under, below, next to and between
- Sorts and compares objects according to attributes
- Explores vertical and horizontal orientation of objects



Updated August 2010

Measurement

- Develops a sense of time to include day, month, year, yesterday, today, tomorrow, days of the week, and seasons
- Demonstrates awareness of size
- Orders objects according to length, weight, and capacity
- Explores basic coins and bills

Statistics and Probability

- Begins to develop a variety of estimation skills and strategies
- Discusses the certainty and uncertainty of simple events
- Represents data using manipulatives
- Sorts and organizes objects by two attributes
- Creates pictograph for quantities up to 10

SOCIAL STUDIES

The Social Studies program at the kindergarten level is primarily focused on the individual child and how the child relates and responds to his/her family, school, and community. Children's relationships with others in the classroom and school become sources for social studies learning. Social interaction skills are integral to the kindergarten program. Children also begin to learn about their roles as citizens by accepting rights and responsibilities in the classroom and by learning about rules and laws.

Identity

Myself and Others

- Develops multicultural awareness
- Understands needs, wants, talents, abilities, and feelings of self and others
- Understands similarities and uniqueness among people

My Family and Other Families

- Explores traditions and cultures
- Explores uniqueness of family unit

My School and Community

- Appreciates rules
- Appreciates roles of community helpers

Citizenship

Symbols of Citizenship

- Has knowledge and respect for the flag
- Recognizes symbols including flag, Statue of Liberty, bald eagle, bluebird, and Liberty Bell

Roles of Citizenship

- Develops and understands rights and responsibilities
- Practices socialization with peers and adults (working and playing cooperatively)
- Demonstrates respect for the classroom, school, and community
- Examines school and home rules and the importance of having them
- Makes and changes rules and laws to promote and provide safety for all
- Contributes to a classroom community



Interdependence

- Develops an understanding that people rely on one another for goods and services
- Examines the differences between needs and wants
- Explores economic choices and decisions

Geography

- Locates home, school, neighborhood, and community
- Understands the difference between land and water
- Learns that places can be found on maps and globes

History

- Explores holidays and celebrations
- Understands that people use folktales, music, legends, and oral histories to teach values, ideas, and traditions
- Explores current and past events

SCIENCE

The Science program in kindergarten introduces life and physical sciences through sensory experiences. Children are guided to develop the skills of observing, comparing, classifying, defining problems, predicting, seeking alternatives, drawing conclusions, problem solving, and communicating.

Plants

- Identify the basic parts of a plant and what plants need for survival

The Five Senses

- Identify the five senses and how they assist in interacting with the world around us

Hygiene

- Practice the importance of healthy personal hygiene habits and explore personal growth and change

Nutrition

- Investigates the basics of proper nutrition and how eating healthy results in healthy growth

Insects/Lady Bugs

- Discover how insects, like all living things, have survival needs, and grow and change through their life cycle

Arctic/Farm Animals

- Compare and contrast what animals need for survival and how they adapt to their habitats

Human Interaction with Environment

- Explore the impact of human beings on the environment and what can be done to protect the planet and our natural resources

Living vs. Non-Living

- Identify and compare the characteristics of living and non-living things and explore what all living things need for survival

Seasons/Weather

- Observe the changes in weather on a daily, monthly and seasonal basis