



WISSAHICKON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Elementary Curriculum Information for Parents

Kindergarten

Kindergarten is an exciting time for students. There are multiple learning opportunities offered throughout the school day with a strong emphasis on developing the whole child: academically, socially, and emotionally.

The classroom schedules have been designed to create large, uninterrupted blocks of instructional time; in addition, the 30-minute, “Practice, Intervention and Enrichment”, known as PIE time, will allow for further differentiation and individualization of instruction for all students. Our K-5 schools follow a 12-day rotation cycle for the Encore classes, which includes Art, Music, Health and Physical Education, Library, and School Counseling. Recess is a time when our students take a break from learning in the classroom in order to engage in more informal interactions with their peers. Recess supports the development of social skills and the overall health and well-being of our students. During this time, students engage in unstructured play and make choices, develop rules for play, and practice important social skills such as sharing, taking turns, being a good sport, cooperating, listening to others, and solving conflicts.

If you have any questions regarding your child’s educational program, please contact your child’s teacher for more information.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

The English Language Arts program in Wissahickon is an intensive exploration of oral, visual, and technological communication. In Kindergarten, students follow the language and literacy framework, which provides a structure to help students construct meaning in their lives through reading and writing. Skills taught in Kindergarten include:

- Demonstrate understanding of spoken words, syllables, and sounds (phonemes);
- Read emergent reader text with purpose and understanding;
- Answer questions about key details in a text, with prompting and support;
- Identify parts of a book (title, author) and parts of a text (beginning, end, details);
- Use words and phrases acquired through conversations, reading and being read to, and responses to texts;
- Make connections between the illustrations and the text in a story (read or read aloud);
- Actively engage in group reading activities with purpose and understanding;
- Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose informative/explanatory texts;
- Demonstrate a grade appropriate command of the conventions of standard English grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.
- Practice the correct formation of manuscript letters and apply in their writing.

Wissahickon uses *Wonders*, by McGraw-Hill, as the core English-Language Arts program. Using a rich range of diverse print and digital media, *Wonders* provides the instructional support and materials to teach the rigor, intent, and depth of the Pennsylvania Core Standards. In addition, we use the *Kid Writing* program as a part of the writing component.



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MATHEMATICS

The Wissahickon Mathematics program is a dynamic curriculum integrating the computation, problem-solving, and the use of manipulatives and mathematical tools. Exploring the world of numbers, students in Kindergarten are taught the following concepts:

- Write and recite the count sequence to 20;
- Use place value to compose and decompose numbers within 19;
- Add and subtract within 10;
- Identify and describe two- and three-dimensional shapes;
- Describe and compare attributes of length, area, weight, and capacity of everyday objects.

As the core Mathematics program, Wissahickon uses the *Everyday Math 4*, developed at the University of Chicago. Kindergarten classrooms are buzzing with activity during mathematics as students engage in a wide range of activities and games designed for purposeful learning. Students enjoy working with numbers while developing strong numeracy skills and create a foundation of critical basic facts.

ENCORE SUBJECTS

Kindergarten students also study Art, Health and Physical Education, Library, and Music. Additionally, all students have the opportunity to work with our School Counselor as they develop their academic, career, and social skills. Students attend these encore classes on a weekly basis.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Students in Kindergarten pursue a focus of the local, state, and national community, as well as family, the school, and the larger world. Important people in helping to shape the United States will also be explored with a focus on history, geography, economics, and civics and government. The topics for Kindergarten include: *Being a Good Citizen, Johnny Appleseed, Benjamin Franklin, Election Day and Citizenship, Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, Where We Live, Stories of the Past, and Betsy Ross* (Flag Day celebration). An appreciation of the diverse cultures in our community is incorporated through individualized classroom activities and rich literature connections. During Social Studies, students are engaged in classroom discussions, research, simulations and explorations, digital learning, and reading.

SCIENCE

Wissahickon kindergartners are scientists investigating the world through a curriculum based on three hands-on kits: Early Explorations, Balls and Ramps, and Rainbows. During those explorations, students follow the scientific process, making hypotheses, and testing their conjectures. They revise their thinking based on experiments, collecting and organizing data, and then analyzing that data to develop new understandings. It is an inquiry-based program supplemented by both related literature and informational texts.