

HERITAGE OAK

Private Education

Junior Kindergarten Curriculum Synopsis

We believe that developmental readiness is crucial to success in school. Carefully planned, supportive early education prepares children to enter kindergarten with the confidence and skills to do well, both academically and socially. Acting as a bridge between pre-kindergarten and kindergarten, Junior Kindergarten provides our students with an extra year to develop before beginning our challenging academic program.

The curriculum is designed to develop verbal, reading, writing, mathematics, phonics, social studies, and science skills by having the students engage in a rich array of experiences that develop these key academic areas. The pace may differ from student to student, but all children will be guided to develop their critical thinking and problem solving skills to their fullest abilities. Our purpose is to enable the children to continue their enthusiasm to become self-motivated students, eager and ready to learn.

When they enter their Kindergarten year, the student will be more confident learners, leaders of their classes, and ready for the many challenging elementary years that lie ahead.

4 & 5 year olds learn...

LANGUAGE & LITERACY

- Recognize, write and apply the sounds to all letters of the alphabet
- Develop sight vocabulary of familiar words
- Substitute initial sounds in words to form new words
- Learn short vowel sounds, blends, digraphs, and diphthongs
- Emergent reading and reading comprehension skills
- Listen to and discuss a variety of literary texts representing diverse cultures, perspectives, and ethnicities
- Acquire reading fluency skills and accuracy
- Learn the spelling rules of words in the reading text
- Make predictions by examining the title, cover, illustrations/photographs, and familiar author or topic
- Enhance critical thinking skills to predict outcomes
- Retell the story by sequencing the main events, identifying the characters, and the setting of the story
- Recognize that space is used to separate words
- Identify rhythms and patterns of language, including rhyme and repetition
- Prepare writing for display by revising and editing using rules, such as capital letters, and punctuation
- Write clear and coherent sentences that represent a central idea

MATHEMATICS

- Represent simple repeating patterns using up to 4 different objects, while differentiating the core of the pattern
- Explore relationships by comparing groups of no more than 20 objects to determine more or less
- Count and write numbers to 50 and construct relationships based on quantity
- Count orally by ones, two, fives, and tens
- Represent numeric quantities to model addition/subtraction expressions with a value of no more than 20
- Measure length of objects using non-standard and standard units
- Telling time to the hour, half hour and quarter hour
- Identify and name the value of pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters
- Express solutions using concrete materials, pictorial, graphical, or algebraic methods, and in written form
- Solve real-life problems involving coins, time, calendars, and temperature

SCIENCE

- Seek information through reading, observing, exploring, and investigations
- Use whole numbers and simple, everyday fractions in ordering, counting, identifying, measuring, and describing things and experiences
- Examine and describe Earth materials: rocks, soil, water
- Identify and describe the sun, moon, and stars
- Record observations using pictures, pictographs, or written/oral language
- Describe qualitative changes in weather, such as temperature, precipitation, wind, etc.
- Experiment, identify and describe features (observable parts) of animals and plants
- Observe and describe the ways in which a variety of objects' motion can be changed

SOCIAL STUDIES

- Generate and follow classroom rules that promote order and safety in the classroom
- Identify and demonstrate appropriate social skills, such as listening to others, settling disagreements, and taking turns that help people live, work and play together at home and in school
- Give examples of qualities, such as customs, interests, skills, and experiences that make individuals and families in their immediate environment unique
- Identify common symbols, such as the American Flag, Statue of Liberty, Bald Eagle, and White House
- Identify that money is used to buy goods
- Describe a globe as a model of Earth showing land and water
- Recognize that maps are models of places
- Discuss that places have natural/physical features and human-made features
- Distinguish factual from fictional information
- Read and obtain information from texts representing diversity in content and culture

PHYSICAL WELLNESS

- Development of body control and movements, as well as eye-hand coordination
- Enhance gross motor skills
- Establish good health and nutrition habits

ART

- Begin to learn painting and drawing techniques with tempura paint, watercolors and crayons
- Highlight texture and printmaking
- Work on fine motor skills as they tear, glue, sew, and paste various art projects
- Introduced to new artists each week and learn about various aspects of their work and lives

MUSIC

- Introduced to a variety of musical genres
- Music and movement to allow students to develop special skills and an awareness of diverse vocal styles
- Use simple instruments and clapping patterns to develop rhythm and beat

FRENCH

- The students learn basic greetings
- Students will be able to count from 1-20
- Vocabulary that includes: colors, family members, fruits, vegetables, and animals
- The students will sing songs and play games in order to reinforce the concepts

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- Verbally express feelings and behaviors
- Act on instruction and repeat spoken directions
- Engage in question and answer dialogue with peers and teachers and work collaboratively at school
- Develop attention span and the ability to stay on task
- Emphasis on character development, moral awareness, and a respect for diversity