

Kindergarten Academics

The Academy provides a venue in which all students can be educated and assessed in both traditional and non-traditional ways, thereby helping children to thrive in all learning environments. The Kindergarten curriculum is fully aligned with state content expectations, is challenging, differentiated, project driven and real-world connected both in and through the arts and technology. At WMAAA, your child will become a confident and excited learner.

Language Arts:

Our Kindergarten English Language Arts program focuses on supporting the needs of many different types of readers and writers, from pre-readers/writers to emergent reader/writers. Even with the wide range of reading and writing readiness skills in the classroom, instruction for all students focuses on developing alphabetic principles, phonemic awareness, phonics skills, vocabulary, fluency, text comprehension. Students are guided to insure that reading and writing skills are developing in a well rounded, sequentially progressive way. The Kindergarten English Language Arts student will do the following:

- Recognize that words are composed of sounds blended together and carry meaning
- Understand the alphabetic principle and demonstrate letter and sound fluency
- Recognize 25 high frequency, personally meaningful words
- Understand the structure of text
- Demonstrate fluency in letter and sound recognition
- Respond thoughtfully to various types of texts
- Identify narrative genre of stories, nursery rhymes, poetry and songs and information genre
- Learn to monitor comprehension
- Write various personal narrative using current writing skills.

Science:

Kindergarten students are naturally curious about their world. We build on this natural curiosity by providing units of study and exploration that are of a high interest level to 5 and 6 year olds. This provides students opportunities to ask questions, investigate hypotheses, make, record and discuss observations as they build scientific knowledge. Units are within the earth, biological and physical science fields and will include the following:

- Matter, motion and magnets
- Fire safety
- Seasons
- Food groups
- Five senses
- Dental health
- Water exploration
- Ecology of plants
- Life cycle of a butterfly.

Mathematics:

Kindergarten mathematics study focuses on daily experiences with numbers. Counting with one-to-one correspondence, comparing groups of more or less, reading and writing numbers are essential skills for further progress in mathematics. Early algebra skills start with the ability recognize, build and describe numeric and shape patterns that are either repeating or growing. Students will learn to identify and describe shapes in their world and to compare weight and length of objects. Kindergarten students will do the following:

- Count objects and read and write numbers
- Compare quantities using same, more than or less than
- Describe or make stories to represent math situations
- Perform addition to 10
- Explore patterns
- Begin to tell time
- Build mathematics vocabulary
- Perform measurement with various tools
- Explore properties of shapes
- Practice counting coin money.

Social Studies:

Through the lens of “myself and others”, students study concepts of history, geography, civics and government, and economics. Units of study include the following :

- I Am Unique
- Fire Safety
- Families Are the Same, Families Are Different
- Culture and Traditions of the Season
- Post Office
- Black History and Presidents
- Mapping My World
- Stranger Danger
- Summer Safety.



Every Child Successful, Everyday !

Kindergarten Arts

The academy places an equal emphasis on the arts and academic subjects within our curriculum. To help achieve this, our arts program has two distinctive goals. The first goal is achieved through the arts and academics integration process, whereby academic concepts studied in the classroom are studied and reinforced through the arts. Secondly, specific arts skills, which have been aligned with the state and national standards for the arts, are studied with the intent to developing basic arts competencies. In Kindergarten, scheduled arts classroom time includes both of these components and all students receive instruction in all four arts forms within the year.

Dance:

Kindergarten dancers will do the following:

- Demonstrate the ability to define and maintain personal space
- Demonstrate body part awareness through movement
- Demonstrate basic loco-motor movements such as hop, gallop, jump and skip
- Demonstrate axial movements (movements that stay in one place) such as bend, stretch, balance
- Demonstrate various shapes at low, middle and high levels
- Demonstrate moving to a musical beat and responding to changes in tempo
- Demonstrate concentration and focus while performing movement skills
- Use dance to learn about or reinforce knowledge from other disciplines.

Music:

Kindergarten musicians will do the following:

- Distinguish between speaking and singing voice, singing soft and loud
- Sing unaccompanied melodies
- Internalize steady beat and echo short phrases with accurate rhythm
- Follow beginning and cut-off cues
- Play steady beat and simple rhythmic patterns
- Recognize introductions, and recognize the same and different sections of music
- Use music to learn about or reinforce knowledge from other disciplines.

Drama:

Kindergarten actors will do the following:

- Imitate variations of body movement and voice
- Imitate characters from their experience and imagination
- Define cooperative skills for group work
- Repeat a story or event
- Explore the senses through dramatic play
- Identify characters, plot and setting in a dramatic play
- Identify and imitate their wants and needs based on life experience, stories and imagination
- Use drama to learn about or reinforce knowledge from other disciplines.

Visual Art:

Kindergarten artists will do the following:

- Describe and demonstrate safe and responsible use of art materials and methods used in class
- Create art that communicates real and imaginary experiences
- Explore proportion when drawing existing objects
- Explore mixing secondary colors from primary colors
- Sign finished artwork
- Verbally describe a personal work of art
- Explain the story or idea behind a work of art
- Use art to learn about or reinforce knowledge from other disciplines.

