

# KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM

## Balanced Literacy

The School District of Fort Atkinson offers a balanced literacy approach to teaching reading, writing and spelling. In a balanced literacy program, how you teach is as important as what you teach. Students are taught at their instructional level insuring that all students progress and learn. Reading, writing and spelling are continuously integrated to develop all language arts skills.



### READING

By the end of kindergarten, we expect students to have the following reading skills:

- Listen attentively to stories
- Recognize and apply all 26 letters in text (both upper and lowercase)
- Understand basic letter/sound relationships
- Understands the difference between a letter and a word
- Hears, recognizes and creates rhyming words
- With teacher support, uses information from pictures, sentence patterns and phonics to gain meaning
- Understand directionality of print and that print contains a message
- Use pictures and patterns to read familiar stories
- Recognizes sight words in different contexts
- Ask questions to stories read aloud



### WRITING AND SPELLING

Through Writer's Workshop, we expect our Kindergarten students to have the following writing/spelling skills at the end of the year:

- Writes first and last name correctly
- With teacher support, generates ideas for writing including brainstorming, identifying a topic and responding to a writing prompt
- Creates a draft of writing using sounds to write unknown words, matching pictures to text, and incorporating simple sentences
- Begins to use basic writing conventions (directionality, capitalization, punctuation and spacing)
- Rereads own writing
- Shares own writing with teacher to make improvements
- Applies teacher suggestions to writing
- Writes for different audiences in different forms of writing (letter, story, etc)
- Forms letters correctly
- Uses and spells high frequency words correctly in writing
- Recognizes environmental print (child notices words and writes words that are important to them)

## Mathematics

By the end of kindergarten, we expect students to have the following math skills:

- Rote counts accurately to 100
- Counts a group of objects to 31
- Recognizes and names numbers to 100
- Writes numbers with minimal reversals to 100
- Combines and separates sets of objects
- Understands concept of more and less than including the mathematical signs
- Recognizes and describes patterns and understands that patterns can be formed in different ways
- Extends and creates patterns
- Recognizes and names the five basic shapes (square, circle, triangle, rectangle and oval)
- Understands basic concepts of a calendar (days of the week, months of the year, dates)
- Tells time to the hour verbally and in written form
- Understands concept of money and identifies and names coins (penny, nickel, dime and quarter)
- Understands the concept of measurement and uses nonstandard measurement to determine length of objects



## Integrated Social Studies

The kindergarten program focuses on developmentally appropriate activities which provide opportunities for students to participate in activities and discussions to help them learn more about themselves as well as the people and world around them. Essential understandings or social studies “big ideas” are presented along with integrated geography and map skills, introductory vocabulary and a selection of key historical figures, events and symbols.

During kindergarten, students will experience the following social studies units:

- Families and Friends
- A Big Wide World
- Our Country
- Long Ago and Today

## Integrated Science

During kindergarten science, students discover and learn about the universe, the world and their own environment.

During kindergarten, students will experience the following science areas:

- Basic Science Skills - Observing and Classifying
- Life Science - Plants and Animals, Life Cycles, Needs of Living Things, Environments
- Earth Science - Weather
- Physical Science - Forces, Properties of Objects, Forms of Energy

## Allied Arts

### ART

By the end of kindergarten, we expect students to have the following art skills:

- Displays creativity in work
- Reflects pride and enthusiasm in art work
- Employs original ideas
- Demonstrates craftsmanship
- Respects efforts of peers and working artists

### HEALTH

During kindergarten, students will learn age-appropriate concepts related to the following areas:

- Safety and Accident Prevention
- Nutrition
- Personal Health
- Mental and Social Health
- Family Life Education
- Medicine Safety
- Prevention and Control of Disease

### MUSIC

By the end of kindergarten, we expect students to have the following music skills:

- Uses singing voice to match pitch
- Plays instruments maintaining a beat and performing short patterns
- Responds to tempos and various music dynamics
- Identifies classroom instruments

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION

By the end of kindergarten, students will have experienced and enhanced the following physical education skills:

Locomotor Skills	Ball Handling	Personal Fitness	Tumbling
Rhythm and Dance	Use of Manipulatives	Cooperative Activities & Adventures	Good Sportsmanship