



## **Mt. Lebanon School District**

### **Elementary Curriculum**

#### **Kindergarten**

##### **English Language Arts**

English Language Arts is a foundational part of the Kindergarten curriculum. Phonological awareness skills are learned through activities such as rhyming, counting syllables and isolating sounds in words. Students identify letter names and sounds and are able to recognize forty or more high frequency words. These skills are used as they learn how to blend the sounds together to read words and sentences in decodable books. Students are exposed to a variety of picture books and informational texts. Students are able to identify characters, settings, main idea, and major events in stories as well as retell details in informational books. They also learn how to compare and contrast story details using a Venn diagram. Writing skills are integrated into the ELA time. The children write sentences and stories using their letter and sound knowledge to spell phonetically. As writers, they focus their writing on a specific topic, use descriptive words and create illustrations rich with details. They also learn how to use capital letters and ending punctuation marks. All students are provided with ELA opportunities that foster writing, reading fluency and comprehension.

##### **Mathematics**

Kindergarten students work on developing number sense skills, counting and comparing numbers and amounts, and describing and comparing measurable attributes of everyday objects. They develop an understanding of 2D/3D shapes, their characteristics, attributes, the relationships between them, ways to describe and name 2D/3D shapes and ways to compose and decompose them. Kindergarten students understand addition as putting together and adding to, understand subtraction as taking apart and taking from and become fluent with appropriate addition and subtraction facts.

##### **Science**

The science program provides students with a substantial knowledge base of facts, concepts, and principles. It enhances students' attitudes toward science and encourages their natural curiosity. We also teach students to use and apply science-related thinking and process skills (e.g. observation, questioning, data gathering, note taking, analysis, and hypothesizing). Students learn to work cooperatively in small groups with an emphasis on learning essential content and developing science process skills. Our science curriculum provides lessons and curriculum units

in life science. In the Life Science unit the students systematically investigate trees so that they develop a better understanding of trees' place at school and in the community. They also have experiences that allow them to understand about all plants.

### **Social Studies**

At the start of the school year Kindergarten students help create their classroom rules and learn the importance of working together. Each month one of the district's character education attributes is explored through stories and songs. The attributes are respect, honesty, love, justice, courage, loyalty, and hope. As they move through each month of the year, students learn about seasonal changes, national holidays, patriotic songs, and important historic figures like Martin Luther King, Jr. Students take two field trips. One to visit a local farm and one of the building's choice; both of which are connected to the grade level curriculum. Parents can help by talking about family rules, what happens in nature as the seasons change, and pointing out special events on your family calendar.

### **Library**

In Kindergarten, students visit the library once a week (for thirty minutes) for a book exchange and a lesson. Lessons focus on book care and library citizenship, listening skills and appreciation of literary works by prominent authors and illustrators.

### **Technology Assured Experiences**

Students in Kindergarten have the opportunity to interact with and utilize a variety of technology tools at school. Some important concepts covered include basic use of hardware (keyboard, mouse, headphones) and software (locating, launching, saving and printing.) They are introduced to basic word processing skills and using the internet. They also learn about viruses.

### **Counseling**

Our Kindergarten students begin participating in the school counseling program. The curriculum consists of structured lessons, presented by the school counselor in the classroom, designed to help students attain the academic, career and social/emotional competencies and to provide all students with the knowledge, attitudes and skills appropriate for their developmental level. The Kindergarten classroom lessons are designed to teach and reinforce school readiness and social skills: active listening, feeling identification, concepts of personal space, self control, character development, social problem solving, career awareness, diversity and inclusion and healthy decision making. Units are flexible and may vary in order based on student needs and schedules.