

# Harford County Public Schools

## Meeting the Maryland State Department Voluntary State Curriculum Standards for Kindergarten



### Kindergarten

Welcome to kindergarten! Kindergarten is the most exciting milestone for children and parents. Kindergarten sets the standard for the family's expectations for their child's educational journey for life. Kindergarten fosters independence and "real" thinking about learning social studies, math, science, and language arts. Children begin to expand learning in creative ways through art, music, physical education, and the library. A hands-on experience in the learning process enables all children to learn in their own style. Each day of school provides a new learning experience for kindergarten students.

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### Reading/English Language Arts

**Reading:** The ability to hear, identify, and manipulate individual sounds in spoken words is an important kindergarten skill. Students will:

- repeat and produce rhyming words
- blend sounds and syllables to form words
- clap words in a sentence
- identify the first sound in a word
- substitute beginning sounds in words to form new words
- group words as same or different by beginning and ending sounds
- identify all upper and lower case letters in the alphabet
- identify letters and match to sound

**Vocabulary skills** are increased by listening to, independently reading, and discussing a variety of reading materials. Students will learn to read orally with accuracy and with expression. Students will:

- understand the use of punctuation
- use knowledge of ending punctuation to signal expression in reading
- recognize designated sight words
- read familiar text with accuracy and expression
- use words to describe location, size, color, and shape
- use names and labels of basic concepts, such as stop, go, boys, girls, in, and out
- understand, acquire, and use new vocabulary

**Comprehension:** Using a variety of strategies to understand what they read, children will begin to construct meaning to their reading. Students will:

- make connections to the text using illustrations, photographs, and prior knowledge
- demonstrate an understanding of concepts of print to determine how print is organized
- read a minimum of 15 books
- track print from left to right and from top to bottom
- match oral words to printed words
- recall and discuss information from text

**Writing:** Developing writing skills that convey meaning and are descriptive is a skill for children to achieve success. Students will:

- dictate or write words, phrases, or sentences related to ideas or pictures
- write to express personal ideas using drawings, symbols, letters, or words
- write using journals or logs
- contribute to a shared writing experience or topic of interest
- identify and use words to communicate feelings



### Mathematics

**Knowledge of algebra patterns, and functions of numbers:** Students will use a variety of ways to represent, model, analyze, and solve mathematical or real-world problems.

Students will:

- identify and copy number patterns
- sort a collection of objects
- understand how to write problems using numbers and symbols (+,-)
- understand relationships like greater than, less than, and equal
- locate numbers on a number line
- use objects to count to 10
- identify triangles, circles, square, and rectangles
- match, sort and group objects according to size, shape, and color

**Knowledge of geometry:** Students will begin to describe, think about, and solve problems to provide logical answers.

Students will:

- use position words such as over, under, above, on, next to behind
- use manipulatives to solve simple problems
- recognize and describe geometric shapes

**Knowledge of measurement:** Mathematics skills are further strengthened by using a variety of techniques to understand and demonstrate measurement. Students will:

- group, compare, and describe objects by using length/height, weight, and volume
- recognize time by identifying the days of the week and understanding words like yesterday, today, morning, afternoon, and tomorrow
- compare and describe temperature—January temperature as compared to June temperature
- measure objects and pictures of objects

**Knowledge of number relationships:** Being able to describe, represent, or apply numbers or their relationships is a skill that will provide the basic foundation of mathematics.

Students will:

- understand and demonstrate concepts like: more than, less than, fewer than, as many as, one more than
- count by 5s and 10s
- count to 31
- count backward from 10
- use concrete materials to show number concepts

### Science

**Constructing knowledge:** Students will begin to think about the world around them by observing, demonstrating, and seeking answers to questions. Students will:

- seek information through reading, observation, exploration, and investigation
- use whole numbers and simple fractions in ordering, counting, identifying, measuring, and describing things and experiences
- use tools like thermometers, magnifiers, rulers, or balances

### Science

**Applying evidence and reasoning:** Students will learn that people are more likely to believe your answers if you can give good reasons for them. Students will:

- provide reasons for accepting or rejecting ideas
- develop reasonable explanations for observations made, investigations completed, and information gained by sharing ideas and listening to others' ideas
- explain why it is important to make some fresh observations when people give different descriptions of the same thing

**Technology:** Students will demonstrate their ability to design and make things, identify parts of things, and examine a variety of physical models for the purpose of describing things in the real world. Students will:

- make something out of paper, cardboard, wood, plastic or existing objects that can be used to perform a task
- recognize the use of tools to do things better or more easily
- explain that sometimes it is not possible to make or do everything that is designed
- explain that a model of something is different from the real thing

### Social Studies

**History:** Students need to understand how individuals and societies have changed over time. Students will:

- distinguish between past, present, and future time
- identify and describe events of the day in order
- describe events in terms of yesterday, today, and tomorrow
- compare tools and toys of the past with those of today
- observe and discuss photographs of the past

**Geography:** Using geography, students will understand the role of culture and environment in the location and how it is important to them. Students will:

- describe how people adapt to and modify their environment
- identify ways that people travel on land, water, and air
- explain how transportation is used to move goods and people from place to place
- identify ways that people communicate messages
- identify and describe how a globe and map can be used

**Economics:** Students will learn processes to become effective citizens, workers, and consumers. Students will:

- describe different jobs and what is required to perform them
- recognize natural resources, such as water, trees, and plants which can be used to make products
- be aware of technology and how it affects life

**Political Science:** Understanding democratic skills and attitudes to become responsible citizens also helps children become successful students. Students will:

- identify the importance of rules for the classroom and school
- identify common symbols like the American Flag and Statue of Liberty
- practice being a citizen by saying the Pledge of Allegiance and singing the Star Spangled Banner.