



# What Your Child Will Learn in Kindergarten

## **Greetings Kindergarten Parents!**

In Harford County Public Schools (HCPS), we are committed to ensuring that every child graduates having received an outstanding education. We know that you as parents are integral to this process and want you to know the role that the Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards (MCCRS) serve in the implementation of our curriculum.

## **How do the MCCRS relate to the Common Core State Standards?**

In school year 2013-2014, Maryland implemented the MCCRS in all schools across the state. Maryland's new standards are based on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), a set of consistent, high-quality academic goals in English language arts and mathematics, adopted by Maryland and more than 40 other states. The MCCRS define the knowledge and skills all students should master by the end of each grade level in order to graduate from high school fully prepared to enter college and the workforce.

## **What is the connection between the MCCRS and the HCPS curriculum?**

The MCCRS guide HCPS instructional leaders to develop and refine curriculum so that teachers consistently create lessons that give our students the most essential knowledge and skills they need to progress academically.

## **What will lessons look like in the classroom?**

Teachers are encouraged to create engaging and interactive lessons, integrating technology when appropriate. Our teachers provide the best environment for learning so that our children grow as learners but also gain the content and skills necessary to become productive members of our workforce and society.

## **How do the MCCRS affect all content areas?**

The MCCRS clearly define benchmarks for learning in reading, writing, and mathematics. The literacy expectations for English language arts are clearly outlined, but just as importantly, so are the expectations for literacy in all content areas. For students to be college and career ready, they must be proficient in reading and writing complex informational and technical texts. This means that instruction in EVERY classroom focuses on both the critical content as well as the reading and writing skills necessary to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of that discipline.

## **How can you support your child at home?**

As you review this brochure, think about ways you can support your child's learning at home. We need your help as we implement our curriculum and hold students to the highest standards of academic performance. Through a strong partnership with you, we will ensure that your child is fully prepared for success in school, work, and life.

# A Sample of What Your Child Will Learn

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

### Reading

- Blend and segment sounds and syllables to form words.
- Recognize and produce rhyming words.
- Recognize and name all upper and lowercase letters of the alphabet.
- Group words as same or different by beginning and ending sounds.
- Recall and discuss key details in the text.
- Ask and answer questions about unknown words.
- Identify book concepts: role of author/illustrator and parts of a book (front/back, pages/print, title and title page).
- Read from left to right and top to bottom.
- Identify basic similarities and differences between two texts on the same topic.
- Read emergent-reader text with purpose and understanding.

### Writing

- Write to express personal ideas and opinions using drawings, symbols, letters, or words.
- Draw, dictate, or write about an event by sequencing the events and providing a reaction to what happened.
- Identify and use words to communicate feelings.
- Participate in shared research and writing projects.

### Speaking and Listening

- Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions.
- Describe familiar people, places, things, and events.
- Speak audibly and express thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly.

### Language

- Print many upper and lowercase letters.
- Capitalize first words in sentences and the pronoun I.
- Recognize and name end punctuation.
- Recognize designated sight words as well as acquire and use new vocabulary.

## MATHEMATICS

### Counting and Number Relationships

- Count to 100 by ones and by tens.
- Write numbers from 0-20.
- Count forward beginning from a given number within the known sequence.

### Operations and Algebraic Thinking

- Solve addition and subtraction word problems, and add and subtract within 10.
- Fluently add and subtract within 5.

### Numbers and Operations in Base Ten

- Work with numbers 11-19 to gain foundations for place value.

### Measurement and Data

- Describe the length and weight of an object.
- Count the numbers of objects in a category.

### Geometry

- Correctly name shapes regardless of their orientation or size.
- Analyze and compare two- and three-dimensional shapes.

### Mathematical Practices

- Make sense of and persevere in solving problems.
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
- Model with mathematics, use appropriate tools strategically, and attend to precision.
- Look for and make use of structure as well as express regularity in repeated reasoning.

# A Sample of What Your Child Will Learn

## SCIENCE

### Construct Knowledge

- Seek information through reading, observation, exploration, and investigations.
- Use whole numbers and simple fractions in ordering, counting, identifying, measuring, and describing things and experiences.
- Use tools such as thermometers, magnifiers, rulers, or balances.

### Apply Evidence and Reasoning

- 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 idea or situation.

### Understand and Use Technology

- 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

- 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

- 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 maps can be used.

### Economics

- Describe some 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

- 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.

# A Sample of What Your Child Will Learn

## UNIFIED ARTS

### Art

- Describe how artists use the art elements taught in Kindergarten in artworks.
- Describe ideas expressed by different artists.
- Create artwork that explores the use of the art elements taught in Kindergarten to express personal ideas.

### Media

- Respond to literature shared aloud in a variety of age-appropriate ways.
- Demonstrate understanding of book selection, book care, parts of a book, text features, and story elements.
- Gather, organize, and share information in a variety of age-appropriate ways.

### Music

- Respond to sounds through listening, performing, reading symbols, and movement.
- Explore the relationship of music to dance, theater, the visual arts, and other disciplines.
- Participate in activities representing various cultures, holidays, and historical events.
- Create music through experimentation, improvisation, and composition.
- Evaluate musical composition using established criteria.

### Physical Education

- Demonstrate an overhand throw.
- Identify activities and foods that are heart healthy.
- Dribble a playground ball with dominant hand.
- Perform the following skills with a mature pattern: run, jump, and walk a line.
- Demonstrate safe use of space and care of equipment.

### *A Message from the Superintendent:*

*Kindergarten is an exciting milestone for children and parents. During this important year, parents create expectations that will last throughout their children's academic journey. Please know that learning does not end in the classroom. Children need help and support at home to succeed in school, beginning in the earliest of grades. Make time to read with your child, play games with your child, and support your child during homework time. This will keep you be informed about what your child is working on, and will help you be the first to know if your child needs extra support with a specific topic. Look forward to each new school day with energy and excitement.*

*Barbara Canavan*



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