



What Your Child Will Learn in Prekindergarten

Greetings Prekindergarten 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

- Count, pronounce, blend, and segment syllables in spoken words.
- Recognize that letters represent sounds.
- Identify and repeat beginning sounds in words.
- Recognize rhyming words from non-rhyming words.
- Identify and name some upper and lower case letters in words (child's own name).
- Demonstrate book concepts: role of author/illustrator and parts of a book (front/back, pages/print, words/spaces, and title).
- Read from left to right and top to bottom.
- Sequence and retell events or brief stories.
- Use pictures to perform a task.

Writing

- Generate ideas by drawing, dictating, and using letters, letter-like shapes, and symbols.
- Write to express personal ideas.
- Contribute to a shared writing experience or topic of interest.
- Identify and use words to communicate feelings.
- Print uppercase and lowercase letters in first name.

Speaking and Listening

- Listen attentively in a variety of situations.
- Communicate ideas clearly when speaking.
- Classify information.
- Listen to a variety of text and responds to questions.

Language

- Use illustrations to find meaning of unknown words.
- Understand that print conveys meaning.
- Understand that speech can be written and read.

MATHEMATICS

Counting and Number Relationships

- Count numbers in order to 10.
- Identify written numbers 0-10.
- Sequence numbers 0-10.
- Construct sets of objects 0-10.

Operations and Algebraic Thinking

- Solve addition and subtraction word problems, and add and subtract within 5.
- Fluently add and subtract within 3.

Numbers and Operations in Base Ten

- Work with numbers 1-10 to gain foundations for place value.

Measurement and Data

- Describe the length and weight of an object.
- Sort objects into categories.

Geometry

- Correctly name some shapes regardless of their orientation or size.
- Analyze and compare some 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

- Use tools such as thermometers, magnifiers, rulers, or balances to extend their senses and gather data.
- Seek information through reading, observation, exploration, and investigations.

Apply Evidence and Reasoning

- Provide reasons for accepting or rejecting ideas examined.
- 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 item 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 and describe how a globe and maps can be used.

Economics

- Recognize that people have choices.
- Recognize that workers do jobs in the home and school.
- 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

Through a Thematic Approach

Art

- Identify the art elements taught in Prekindergarten in artworks and the environment.
- Describe and share artworks.
- Create artwork that explores the use of the art elements taught in Prekindergarten to communicate ideas.

Media

- Listen to and discuss stories and be able to tell a story's structure.
- Demonstrate responsible behaviors when using/sharing ideas and information.
- Explore different formats and strategies to find and organize information.

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

- Throw a ball.
- Name ways exercise affects the body.
- Kick a stationary ball.
- Identify and move body parts.
- Participate in a simple game.

A Message from the Superintendent:

Although prekindergarten is not mandatory in the state of Maryland, Harford County Public Schools has classes for prekindergarten in many of the elementary schools throughout the county. Our programs are developmentally appropriate, skill-oriented, and provide a foundation for kindergarten. The curriculum is fun, highly interactive, and focuses on essential knowledge and skills for mathematics, language arts, science, and social studies. Prekindergarten students receive art, media, music, and physical education through a thematic approach rather than through "specials" which they will begin in kindergarten. Teacher-led activities and lessons ensure that young children get the support that is needed for them to be successful in their first experiences with school.

Barbara Canavan



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