

# Parent Newsletter



**Kindergarten**

**September 2019**



Each month, you will receive a Parent Newsletter. This is one way for us to communicate what is happening in the classrooms and throughout the school. Typically, this newsletter will include The Common Core State Standards we are addressing during the month and an update on school events.

## **Instructional Focus**

A collaborative and coordinated school-wide initiative is for all teachers to use continued strategic assessments in instruction to ensure that all students can monitor their own understanding and clearly articulate the characteristics of high quality work.

All students will:

- Be engaged in all learning lessons and activities that will consist of multiple entry points for various types of learners .
- Create goals with their teacher and monitor their learning through the use of student-friendly rubrics, checklists, and learning standards .
- Learn how to use a student-friendly rubric to help them become strong readers, writers, mathematicians, artists, and scientists.

## **Assessment and Goal Setting in Kindergarten**



The beginning of the year is a busy time for Kindergarten teachers as they are getting to know your child. They are assessing your child to see what letters and numbers they know. They are analyzing your child's writing on paper—their drawings and any markings they might make on the lines. They are also giving your child a book and seeing what experience they have with literacy. Teachers use both formal and informal assessments to make goals for and with your child. They use the assessments to plan meaningful learning experiences that will help your child meet and exceed the standards for Kindergarten. You can help your child reach his/her goals by reading every night, practicing letters, numbers, and having your child write "stories" at home.



In this unit “We Are Readers”, Kindergarten students will understand that there is a relationship between illustrations and words. They will learn that it is important to try their best to figure out what the words in their books are saying and that there are ways to problem solve when they come to tricky words. In fictional books, Kindergarten students will be able to identify characters, settings, and major events in stories. In nonfictional books, they will learn that asking and answering questions about a text will help them to get information about that text. Kindergarten students will also be able to identify the main topic and retell key details from informational texts.

The priority standards that will be addressed during this unit are:

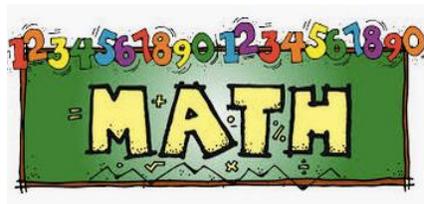
The priority standards that will be addressed during this unit are:

- Demonstrate understanding of the organization and basic features of print.
- Demonstrate understanding of spoken words, syllables, and sounds (phonemes).
- Develop and answer questions about a text.
- Retell stories or share key details from a text.



In this unit, “Launching the Writing Workshop”, Kindergarten students will write about topics they know all about, and write about true stories from their own lives. Kindergarten students will be able to identify characters, setting, and major events in their own writing using a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing. Kindergarten writers will understand that pictures and words in a sequence help tell a story. Students will learn to revise their work, by looking back at their writing to see if they can add more to it. Kindergarten writers will learn to draft a story across pages, edit their story, and publish their finished piece. The priority standard that will be addressed during this unit is:

- Use a combination of drawing, dictating, oral expression, and/or emergent writing to name a familiar topic and supply information.



We are excited to implement a new mathematics program this year called enVision $math$ 2.0 Common Core. This program is a comprehensive mathematics curriculum aligned to the Common Core State Standards. Students will learn mathematics through project-based learning and visual learning strategies. In the first topic, Kindergarten students will learn to model, read, and write the number 0-5. In this unit, students count up to five objects in various arrangements, tell how many and write the numeral. The priority standards that will be addressed during this unit are:

- Know number names and count the sequence.

- Count to tell the number of objects.



In the Amplify science program, Kindergarten students will be working on Unit Two, “Solids and Liquids”. In this unit, students will:

- \*Identify and sort solid and liquid matter by observing patterns.
- \*Identify and classify matter as hot, warm, cool or cold.
- \*Observe that liquids can change to solids and that solids can change to liquids and identify the cause of these changes.
- \*Explain that solids and liquids have properties, and some properties are based upon the temperature of the material, and explain how temperature (energy) affects matter.



In this unit: My School and School Community, students will be learning about the essential question: “What does it mean to be a member of a school community?” Students will learn that all people share similarities and differences and these differences make us special, or unique. Students will learn that children and adults have rights and responsibilities at home, at school, in the classroom, and in the community.

### **Important Dates**

September 30 – October 1: Rosh Hashanah – School is closed.

October 9: Yom Kippur – School is closed.

October 14: Columbus Day– School is closed.