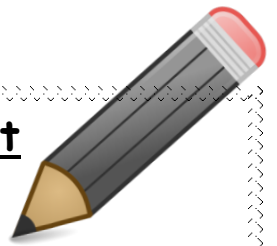


Optional Kindergarten Parent Information Sheet



Who:

Optional Kindergarten is a program for students who are Kindergarten eligible (must be 5 by September 15th) and may need an extra year to prepare for full-day Kindergarten.

Why:

Just because your child will be five does not mean that they are ready to master all five-year old skills. We take your child where they are and adjust our curriculum to support academic, social, and emotional readiness. In Kindergarten, frustration can develop because the curriculum is counting on certain skills to already be mastered at the beginning of the year. Optional Kindergarten is not for "behavior kids" - it is an extra year to grow academically and emotionally before Kindergarten.

What:

Our program focuses on many of the same skills and concepts as Kindergarten. The difference is the speed and mastery level expectations. For example, in Kindergarten, they are typically done learning letters after the first several weeks of school. In Optional Kindergarten, we take the time to make sure the students know and are comfortable with letters before we move on. We do not expect and count on mastery right away.

Our curriculum is based on the following readiness skills:

**Social and Emotional Development* - Students will work on getting along and playing with others, taking turns, gaining independence, focusing on a given task, following directions, and becoming more confident.

**Academic Development* - Students will work on a variety of math and literacy skills. These include number recognition, counting, patterning, sorting, writing numbers, and basic story problems. Our main focuses for literacy are letter recognition and sounds, word segmenting, beginning sounds, sounding out and writing words, sight words, word families, and retelling stories.

**Fine Motor Development* - Students will work on refining fine motor skills that include holding their writing utensil correctly and using scissors properly.

When:

Optional Kindergarten is a half-day program that meets Monday-Friday. The morning section meets from 8:10-11:10 and the afternoon section from 12:15-3:15. Optional Kindergarten classes will not be in session on 1:00 dismissal days.