

Commack Public Schools



Curriculum Guide *for* *Kindergarten Families*

The Commack School District Mission Statement

*Within the context of a caring community of learners,
our primary mission is to provide an exemplary learning experience
that will allow each child to acquire the necessary knowledge, skills, attitudes,
and values to become a successful, contributing member within our school
community and greater society.*

2018 - 2019

What your child will be taught in Kindergarten

This guide provides parents and guardians with an overview of the curriculum for kindergarten and provides a snapshot of the concepts and skills children will be taught in English Language Arts, social studies, mathematics, science, technology, library, art, music, physical education, health, and character education. The curriculum of the Commack Public Schools follows the guidelines set forth by the New York State Department of Education (NYSED) and creates clear expectations for what your child should know and be able to do in these academic areas. Elementary teachers recognize that children develop at different rates socially, emotionally, and academically. Our program is designed to meet the needs of all learners. Knowing what your child is learning strengthens the partnership between you and your child's teachers.

English Language Arts

The program is based on the foundation that children learn through rich, meaningful, and developmentally appropriate experiences with print. Our classrooms are rich with literature that provides children with the opportunity to expand reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

Reading

Literature and Informational Text

- Ask and answer questions
- Retell key ideas
- Identify characters and setting
- Investigate unknown words in a text
- Develop an appreciation for literature of various genres
- Make connections and identify similarities and differences in text and characters
- Draw conclusions
- Actively engage in guided reading activities

Print Concepts

- Basic features of print
- Spaces between words
- Directionality
- Uppercase and lowercase letters

Phonological Awareness

- Rhyming words
- Syllables
- Letter sound connection
- C-V-C words

Phonics and Word Recognition

- Develop letter-sound correspondence
- Identify patterns in words
- Vowels
- High Frequency Words

Fluency

- Read text with purpose and understanding



Writing

- Generate ideas for writing
- Write ideas with a sequence of events
- With guidance and support children begin to plan, revise, and edit work utilizing the writing process
- Strengthen fine motor skills
- Practice letter formation

Grammar and Usage

- Upper and lowercase
- Nouns and verbs
- Question words
- Capital letters and punctuation
- Spell simple words phonetically

Vocabulary

- Determine meaning of unknown and multiple meaning words
- Use of suffix and prefix
- Synonyms and antonyms

Listening/Speaking

- Participate in collaborative conversations
- Listen, speak, and respond respectfully
- Demonstrate an understanding of a text read aloud or other media through discussion
- Ask and answer questions in order to seek help, get information or to clarify
- Listen to and follow oral directions
- Speak audibly and express thoughts, feelings and ideas clearly

Social Studies

The Social Studies program focuses on encouraging an understanding of self, family, home, and community. Social interaction skills are an important aspect of the kindergarten program. Children begin to learn about their role as citizens.

Identity

Myself and Others:

- Develop multicultural awareness
- Understand needs, wants, talents, abilities, and feelings of self and others

My Family and Other Families:

- Explore traditions and cultures

My School and My Community:

- Appreciate and follow rules
- Appreciate role of community helpers



Citizenship

- Learn the meaning of various symbols
- Participate in the Pledge of Allegiance
- Recognize the flag

Roles of Citizens

- Develop an understanding of rights and responsibilities
- Work and play cooperatively
- Demonstrate respect for self and others
- Understand rules and the importance of them
- Contribute to a classroom and school community

Interdependence

- Develop an understanding that people help one another
- Begin to learn the differences between needs and wants

Geography

- Name home, school, and community
- Learn the difference between land and water

Mathematics

The program is structured on the principle that children are able to apply and adapt acquired mathematical ideas to new situations when they develop conceptual understanding. Conceptual understanding is understanding the 'why' in mathematics. Allowing children time to progress with concrete materials, followed by visual representations, will develop a strong number sense and a conceptual understanding.

Concepts:

- Quantities to 5: counting objects, 1:1 correspondence, writing the digits, composing and decomposing to 5

- Counting objects to 20 using models (ten-frame, number bind, rekenrek, bean sticks, base ten blocks) to build teen numbers up to and including 20

- Counting in sequence to 100

- Comparing quantities

- The actions of adding and subtracting to include addition stories to show adding on and combining, as well as subtraction stories to show taking away

- Classifying Words

Science

The Science program introduces life and physical sciences through investigation and exploration. Children begin to develop the skills of observing, comparing, classifying, predicting, drawing conclusions, problem solving, and communicating.

Inquiry Skills

- Demonstrate safety in science
- Develop problem solving language skills
- Develop measurement skills related to science using standard and non-standard measurement tools

Living Environment

- Identify and compare living and non-living things
- Explore growth and change in animals and plants
- Identify the five senses

Physical Setting

- Identify weather and seasonal changes
- Explore simple machines

Technology

- Demonstrate knowledge of how computers are used in daily life
- Identify the parts of the computer
- Interact appropriately with the computer
- Learn to use the mouse
- Use the computer to practice academic skills learned

Library

- Learn how to use the library resources
- Learn how to care for library materials
- Develop awareness of the parts of a book
- Participate in story time and book discussions

Art

Art provides children with opportunities to further creative expression and build language. Children will build self esteem through positive art experiences.

- Use a variety of materials and medium to develop motor skills
- Identify primary colors
- Learn to appreciate the work of famous artists
- Create multidimensional art projects



Music

Music also provides children with opportunities for creative expression and movement.

- Explore melodies that have patterns and use a family of tones
- Explore rhythm, harmony, and strong and weak beats
- Learn about different types of music and musical instruments
- Learn about famous music and musicians



Physical Education

Physical Education provides children with the opportunity to learn the importance of exercise and good sportsmanship.

- Develop spatial awareness
- Learn about safety, following rules, and playing fair
- Learn to work cooperatively and take turns
- Develop motor skills such as skipping, running, and galloping, etc.
- Develop skills used in various sports, such as throwing, etc.

Health and Character Education

Children will learn to make decisions regarding healthy behaviors.

- Learn about nutrition, healthy life choices, and the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse
- Learn to demonstrate the importance of character: courtesy, honesty, attaining pride, responsibility, accountability, compassion, tolerance, endurance, and respect

Movement in the Arts

Movement in the Arts provides extra time for children during their school day to positively harness their energy, creates a healthy space to tap into their mindfulness, and aides in the success of their progress both in and out of their learning environment.

- Develop healthy strategies to promote overall success using physical, musical, and artistic outlets
- Demonstrates cooperative learning while promoting good sportsmanship and positive social behavior
- Establishes confidence while learning the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle
- Develops lifelong tools utilizing mindfulness to combat anxiety and stress
- Introduces basic movements, cooperative games, fitness, dance, drumming and yoga
- Develops the student's ability to control their body movements

Guidelines for Homework Best Practice: Commack UFSD

Kindergarten-Specific Guidelines

The following Guidelines for Homework Best Practices have been designed by Commack educators. Classroom teachers make important instructional decisions every day. These decisions are based on the specific needs of each child and can result in individualized differentiated homework assignments that may vary from, but continue to reflect, the guidelines as necessary and appropriate.

Homework Defined

Any assignment, written or otherwise, to be completed outside of the classroom.

Purpose and Benefits of Homework

The purpose of homework is the reinforcement, extension, and / or application of content and skills previously taught in school.

Homework may provide further benefits to students and their families.

These may include the following:

- Providing families with insight regarding each child's learning;
- Developing responsibility and accountability;
- Fostering independent learning;
- Offering opportunities for confidence building; and
- Strengthening executive functioning skills (time management and organization).

Important Notes About Kindergarten Homework

- As the year progresses, the children grow and mature. They develop more skills and gain stamina. Therefore, it is appropriate that homework may look differently in June than it does in September. Homework may change in frequency and complexity.
- Other than specifically-designed, long-term assignments, homework is intended to be completed on a daily basis, reviewed by the teacher in a timely manner.
- Although children all work at different paces, kindergarten homework is generally intended to add approximately ten to fifteen minutes of academic reinforcement outside the classroom. This means that on nights when homework is assigned, kindergarteners may spend approximately ten to fifteen minutes on daily homework assignments. This is inclusive of written assignments, activities, and/or reading. Homework may or may not be assigned every night.
- Families are encouraged to contact the teacher directly regarding any difficulties with homework (too challenging, not challenging enough, time spent on assignments, unable to complete).

What Does Homework Look Like for A Kindergarten Student In Commack?

- Homework reinforces concepts/skills taught in the classroom. Some homework assignments are directly related to current topics of study and some are designed as review for previously taught concepts/skills. Homework is developmentally appropriate with clear directions and well-defined expectations. Clear directions should be provided so families can provide support.
- Homework may include a continuation of classwork, for example, questions #1 through #5 were completed in class and examples #6 and #7 will be completed for homework.
- Homework takes a variety of forms and structures. Typical daily assignments for a kindergarten student in Commack may include, but are not limited to, the following:

Math

- Teacher-Selected Math Worksheets or Workbook Pages (publisher or teacher-created); and
- Math Manipulatives (i.e. counters, games, cubes, and other materials).

English Language Arts (ELA)

- Worksheet (publisher or teacher-created);
- Writing activity (i.e. draw a picture and label it, draw a picture and write a sentence to match);
- Reading (independently, to a friend or sibling, to an adult);
- Listening to an adult or other family member read; and
- Sight word practice (i.e. bingo, memory, word rings, Go Fish, etc.).

Other Content and/or Skill Areas

- Science and social studies concepts are often reinforced through ELA activities outlined above as well as activities such as the following:
 - “discussion” such as social studies, field trip, current event, science topic, video, etc.
- Social and Emotional Learning is often reinforced through ELA activities outlined above as well as activities such as the following:
 - Drawing pictures, games, discussions, etc.
- Fine motor skills and language development are often reinforced through ELA activities outlined above as well as activities such as the following:
 - Cutting, pasting, drawing, coloring and games that require students to follow directions etc.
 - Handwriting and letter formation practice.

COMMACK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Donald A. James
Superintendent of Schools

Mrs. Laura A. Newman
Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations

Mrs. Amy J. Ryan
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction,
Assessment, and Student Support Services

Mr. Reza Kolahifar
Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Mr. Jordan F. Cox
Executive Director of Instructional Services

Dr. Michael Inforna
Curriculum Associate for Secondary Education

Ms. Sari Goldberg
Curriculum Associate for Elementary Education

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Steven Hartman, President
Mr. Jarrett Behar, Vice President
Mrs. Jennifer Carpenter, Trustee
Mr. William Hender, Trustee

