

Kindergarten Parent Information

2009-2010

Reading

Letterbooks - Our reading series, *Lippencott Beginning to Read, Write & Listen*, helps the students learn to read by building letters and words. The students will be placed into reading groups approximately nine weeks into the school year. Your child will be placed with other students who are working at the same pace. Letterbooks will be graded in four categories: *Following Directions, Letter and Sound Recognition, Ability to accurately blend Sounds, and Neatness.*

Open Court - This is our district-adopted series that focuses on building reading skills based on phonetics and the use of Sight Words. There is a workbook and a set of take-home books that help to support this series. Keep the take-home books in a special place so your child can re-read them often at home.

Writing

Encouraging children to write helps them organize their thoughts and helps in the reading process. Early writing begins with scribbles, then progresses to letters, then words. Children move on to "inventive spelling" which involves experimenting with their knowledge of letter sounds to write words. Experiences in spelling and handwriting in their *Journals* help the child develop into a competent reader and writer.

Science and Social Studies

Science and Social Studies are taught through lessons that revolve on a weekly theme or unit. In Science, the student is challenged to explore his environment through topics such as the Five Senses, Seasons and Weather, Living and Non-Living Things, and Plant and Animal Lifecycles. In Social Studies, the student will recognize responsibilities and roles in the family, at school, and in his larger community. Some topics included are Family and Holiday Traditions, Community Helpers, Fire Safety, and Texas.

Math

Our newly adopted *EnVision Math* program combines the use of manipulatives and writing representations with interactive digital learning. It aims to engage children in various hands-on activities, teach them strategies to develop problem solving skills, and expose them to different mathematical situations drawn from real life experiences.

Conferences

Conferences are an essential part of your child's education. They are held as needed. The Kindergarten conference period is 1:05-1:50 p.m. To schedule a conference, please send a note in the Red Folder. Your child's Teacher will contact you as soon as possible to set up and confirm the time and date of the conference.

Conduct Picnic

Each month, The Teachers celebrate great behavior by having a Conduct Picnic. It may be held in the classroom or outside. In order to take part in the Conduct Picnic, your child must earn all green faces for the month. We love to celebrate good choices and good behavior!

Field Trips

The Kindergartners will go on two Field Trips: one in the Fall and one in the Spring. Parents may join us but must fill out an HISD background check form and be on our approved volunteer list. Children with poor classroom conduct/ behavior will not be able to attend the Field trips.

Lunch Money

Your child may bring money each day for lunch (\$1.60) but it is highly recommended that you pre-pay for your child's lunch account from 7:20-7:50 a.m. at the cafeteria. Only cash is accepted.

Absences and Tardies

Please remember to send a doctor's note or a written note that is dated and signed the day after an absence. Tardies are marked after the 7:50 bell. Always be in school and on time!

Family Projects

Throughout the year, your child will receive instructions for a family project. The idea is to spend time together working on a fun activity. These projects will be displayed in the hallway for everyone's enjoyment.

Gingerbread Doll: Your child will be given a small Gingerbread doll to decorate in the traditional dress of your heritage. (First Week of December)

100th Day Project: Celebrate the 100th Day of school by collecting and arranging 100 items on a poster board. (Last Week of January)

Insect Project: Create an insect using recycled items from home (First Week of May)