

## KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

### **To Parents/Guardian:**

This guideline contains a brief description of each of the subjects your child will study in kindergarten. It is designed to provide you with a general overview of the content and skills which are taught as well as other pertinent information. Teaching strategies will, of course, vary according to the needs of the class. We hope that the use of this brochure and the meetings with your child's teachers and learning specialists will keep you informed about the goals of the Andover Public Schools and your child's learning progress.

*The Elementary School Principals*

### **Social/Emotional**

The social and emotional development of the child is of great significance in kindergarten. Children begin to recognize the need for making choices and adjusting to a variety of situations. During the kindergarten year, students move from an egocentric approach to getting along with people beyond their family circle. They begin to discover and relate to others from their first-hand contact with their physical and social environment.

### **English/Language Arts**

In kindergarten we use a balanced literacy approach which provides for a literacy-rich environment where children partake in various reading and writing activities. Balanced literacy is organized around the literacy frameworks. Experiences in shared reading and writing, read-alouds, word study, and guided reading provide students with the strategies and support they need as they progress toward becoming independent readers and writers.

Writing is an integral part of our program. Children express their ideas starting with drawing and dictating to an adult, and progress to using letters and words to represent their thoughts. Students use phonetically spelled words in their written work. Kindergarten students move from stage to stage in the reading and writing process at their own level.

Kindergarten teachers extend oral language by encouraging children to express their thoughts and ideas in complete sentences, while increasing their vocabulary. Language skills are further developed through discussing stories and poems and learning to listen to others express their ideas.

### **Mathematics**

The goal of the *Everyday Math* program is for students to become confident problem-solvers who value and enjoy math. Some of the key features of the program include problem solving for everyday situations and developing readiness through hands-on activities and exposure to new concepts. Students learn to sort and classify, identify and write numbers, create simple patterns, and identify shapes. Children work cooperatively on explorations and projects that pave the way for the introduction of new mathematical ideas.

**Number Sense & Operations** Students will gain an understanding of what numbers are and how they relate to each other as they count, identify and write numerals, add and subtract numbers, identify coins, estimate, and use math vocabulary.

**Patterns, Relationships and Algebra** Students will sort and classify objects by color, shape, size, number and other properties. They will identify, generate, and extend simple patterns, (ab, aabb, abc).

**Geometry and Measurement** Through daily activities students will learn about calendar skills, attributes of two-and-three dimensional shapes, and measurement using non-standard units.

**Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability** Students will learn to collect, graph, and interpret data through their daily work.

### **Science and Technology/Engineering**

Through the science program, kindergarten children develop methods to obtain answers to the many wonders that exist in the world of science. They will learn that science can improve or change our world and can also cause problems for people, places, and animals. Water, Woodland Animals, and Tools are the units of study which complement the science frame-works for the life science, physical science, and earth science components.

**Water** - Children will be able to observe how water takes the shape of its container, how water can change its form, what objects sink/float, observe substances that absorb and repel water, and observe substances that dissolve in water.

**Woodland Animals** -Students will name and identify woodland animals indigenous to Andover and study their behavior, needs, and habitats.

**Tools** - Students will identify tools and simple machines. They will learn how people and animals use parts of their bodies as tools.

### **History and Social Science**

Children learn about schools and the community, as well as explore the differences and similarities of families. Emphasis is placed on helping children identify their thoughts and feelings around these themes and share them with their classmates. The following are the units that compliment the social studies frameworks.

**History and Geography** - Children will begin to learn about time and chronology. They will identify sequential actions in stories and use them to apply to personal experiences. They will learn to use a map and a globe and use appropriate vocabulary to describe location and direction. Much of our curriculum focuses on identifying and describing events and people celebrated during national holidays and why we celebrate them. Students also learn about their neighborhood, community members, and American symbols. Students will learn their address including street, town, state, and country.

**Civics and Government** - Students will understand the concepts of authority, fairness, responsibility, and rules.

**Economics** Students will understand why people work and how they use money to buy things they want and need. Related vocabulary such as jobs, money, buying, and selling will be used during discussion.

### **Music**

In kindergarten, children learn developmentally appropriate songs that are often integrated with class themes. Children listen, move, and perform in order to distinguish the expressive qualities of music. They learn to find the home tone of songs and are encouraged to sing independently. They begin to use rhythm and tonal instruments to accompany songs, poems and stories.

### **Physical Education**

A movement exploration approach is used in teaching locomotive movements, balance, eye-hand and eye-foot coordination, and spatial awareness. Children use a variety of equipment including balloons, balls, hoops, and gymnastic apparatus in learning basic skills. It is important for children to dress appropriately for activities. Sneakers are required for participation.