

The Top 10 Things You Need to Know About Kindergarten

1. How is discipline addressed in the Kindergarten classroom?

Liberty Pines Academy sets high expectations for behavior. All Kindergarten classroom behavior plans revolve around the 3R's: Responsibility, Respectful, and Ready to Learn. All classrooms use rewards and consequences to reinforce good behavior.

2. How will the teacher communicate with me?

- *Communication Folder
- *Classroom Newsletters
- *Class Websites
- *School Newsletters
- *Phone calls/emails

3. What are the core academics in Kindergarten?

Each subject area below gives a brief description of just a *few* of the skills that will be covered this year. All kindergarten children are expected to demonstrate these skills by the end of the year. We do realize that students come to school at varying levels, both socially and academically and we will work hard to meet all students' need.

Reading

The students will listen to conversation and stories for meaning; know the sequence of events, characters and setting of a story; be able to retell a story (beginning, middle, end); know rhymes, rhythms, and patterned structure in child's text; know the names of upper and lowercase letters, as well as their sounds; know the alphabetical order of the letters; understand basic phonetic principals identify frequency used words; and select material to read for pleasure. Each teacher will be working with students in small guided reading groups, selecting materials and/or literature which are on the child's reading level.

Writing

The students will be involved in both shared and independent writing activities throughout the year. Students will be able to write in response to a given prompt, using at least initial consonant sounds. We would like to see the children striving to use beginning, medial, and ending sounds while putting spaces between their words. We would also like to see the students identify and attempt to use correct punctuation.

Math

The teacher will use a hands-on approach to help the students achieve many mathematical skills. A few of the concepts are identify, extend, and construct patterns (both pictorial and numerical); identify and know the value of coins; tell time to the hour; understand and apply basic addition and subtraction; collect, display data and make generalizations; create and interpret graphs; explore various measuring tools for measuring length, weight, and capacity and to identify whole and equal parts.

Social Studies

The students will understand why rules are necessary; respect individual differences; vote on classroom issues to express a preference; distinguish between the past, present, and future; identify patriotic holidays; compare the lives of students and families in another country with their own; know the globe is a model of the earth; and locate the state of Florida on a map or globe. Social studies also encompasses Character Counts! We teach the six pillars of character: Respect, Responsibility, Caring, Citizenship, Trustworthiness, and Fairness. Students will know and be able to demonstrate behavior associated with these pillars.

Science

Science, like math, will be taught using a hands-on approach, but through experiments done in the classroom. The students will demonstrate curiosity about scientific concepts; observe characteristics and behaviors of living and non-living things; know ways living things change and grow over time; be able to identify the five senses and understand how the senses work together to find out things about the world; know that matter exists in different states; know the objects have many different observable properties; know that the motion of an object can be changed by a push or pull; and understand that different things move at different speeds.

4. How will I know how my child is doing academically?

Each nine week a report card will be sent home informing you of how your child performed during the nine week grading period. The kindergarten teachers will be setting up conferences after the first report cards goes out to go over it with you. The teachers use many different assessments to determine where your child is academically. Some of the assessments are chapter tests (math); theme skills tests (reading), which are given about every three weeks, and DIBELS, which is a test that assesses your child's knowledge of phonics and phonemic awareness and is given three times during the year.

5. What resources does my child receive while at school?

- *Art
- *Music
- *PE

6. What additional activities will my child participate in during the school day?

- *Recess
- *Cooking
- *Snack
- *Centers

7. What is the homework policy in Kindergarten?

The district policy regarding homework states that students should be spending 10 minutes times the grade level they are in. (ex. 1st grade+10 minutes). Therefore, Kindergarten students are not assigned formal homework. Our philosophy in Kindergarten is to provide meaningful learning experiences for your child. We do send home a monthly reading log where you and your child log books that you read together during the month. We also send home a monthly homework calendar that had activities listed that you and your child can complete. Most activities take less than 5 minutes. We do collect the reading logs and calendars at the end of the month so your child can share with us what they are doing at home.

8. Will my Kindergartener be going on field trips?

Yes, we will be having in house field trips as well as off campus field trips. All field trips will be connected to our curriculum.

9. What can I do to help my child build his/her independence?

Independence and responsibility go hand in hand. Encourage your child to try things on his or her own (packing up backpack, tying their shoes, self-help skills). Realize that your child will make mistakes, but will grow in the process.

10. How can I make my child's Kindergarten year a success?

- *Support your child's teacher
- *Stay involved
- *Be positive, positive, positive