

Lower School Course Outline Pre-Kindergarten

Subject: Language Arts



Introduction:

The pre-kindergarten language arts curriculum encourages young children to grow as natural communicators. During the school day, students participate in a variety of sensory experiences – to see, hear, touch, taste, and smell things around them – and symbolize these experiences through art, language, dramatic play, music, and movement.

Content:

Verbal Communication:

A goal of this program is to encourage the confident expression of each child's thoughts and ideas. Conversations about the children's learning experiences promote and extend the children's vocabulary development. Opportunities are provided for students to develop their listening skills through shared reading activities, circle time, and Show and Tell.

Phonemic Awareness and Pre-Reading Skills:

Pre-kindergarteners are immersed in a literature rich environment. Teachers read aloud daily from a variety of genres - picture books, nonfiction, poetry, nursery rhymes, fairy tales, "big books," and class created books. The children are exposed to the alphabet, letter-sound association, and rhyming.

Written Communication:

The program enhances the connection between the spoken word and its written expression. As the children investigate each letter of the alphabet, they practice letter formation through a multi-sensory approach.

Approach:

Several instructional techniques are employed. Teacher directed instruction, interactive writing, cooperative group activities, whole group readings and art/constructive projects.

Materials:

Materials include, but are not limited to, children's literature, child generated books, simple text books, project construction and writing tools.

Evaluation process:

Teacher observations form the core evaluation process at the Pre-Kindergarten level.

Lower School Course Outline Pre-Kindergarten

Subject: Math

Introduction:

Mathematics in Pre-Kindergarten is a developmental program which uses an experiential approach. The primary goal is helping each child develop an understanding of math concepts related to everyday situations and events.

Content:

Numeration:

The students are exposed to numbers, counting activities, and number-set correspondence.

Geometry:

The students identify the basic shapes: circle, oval, square, rectangle, triangle, and diamond.

Data/Chance:

The students learn to sort and classify objects by color, shape, and size. The children experiment with estimation activities. They also use charts and graphs to display information.

Patterns and Functions:

The children create, describe, and recognize simple patterns using people, manipulatives, and colors.

Measurement:

The students are exposed to first hand practice with estimation and comparison. They compare objects using non-standard units of measurement.

Approach:

Teacher-directed instruction leads to manipulative and inquiry based experiences. Cooperative group work and active student participation are essential components.

Materials:

Trade books, manipulative materials, project construction, charts, graphs and games are used.

Evaluation Process:

Teacher observations form the core of the evaluation process at the Pre-Kindergarten level.

Lower School Course Outline Pre-Kindergarten

Subject: Social Studies

Introduction:

The goals of pre-kindergarten social studies program are based on developing children's awareness while celebrating the uniqueness and individuality of each member of the classroom community. The program encourages the children to be an active, industrious member of their classroom community as well as the school community and the world around them.

Content:

Who am I?

The children begin to develop a good self-image as they discover what makes them an individual with unique and special qualities to share with others. Children are taught and encouraged to accept themselves for who they are and learn to be an essential member of the group.

My Family and Friends:

The children discover the importance of families and friends. They learn about different types of families and how our families function within a community. They identify the roles of family members and how each member brings something special into the family. The children develop an appreciation for friends, the characteristics of a friend, how friends respect and care for each other. Through conflict resolution the children learn to work through problems with conversation and joint decision making.

How I Grow:

Children learn to identify body parts and their uses. They develop an understanding of different feelings and emotions. Throughout the school year, the children document their growth on a growth chart, observing the changes occurring with their weight and height.

Family Holidays:

The children discover, learn to appreciate, and understand different family celebrations. They learn the history and traditions of these holiday celebrations.

Community Helpers:

The children learn about different community helpers: the tools they use, the jobs they do, and how they help us. The children are taught the importance of each community helper and that they are friends to all of us.

Approach:

Students are immersed in observing change in the world around them. Literature prompts discussion, investigation and discovery. Art projects act to consolidate processed information and form response vehicles.

Materials:

Trade books, topical art and construction projects.

Evaluation process:

Teacher observations form the core of the evaluation process in the Pre-kindergarten program.

Lower School Course Outline Pre-Kindergarten

Subject: Science

Introduction:

The goals of the pre-kindergarten science program are designed to build on the children's natural curiosities about the world around them. A variety of learning experiences provide opportunities to develop inquiry skills required for problem solving in all areas of life. Each experience is designed to meet the varying interests and abilities of the students.

Content:

Exploring colors:

The children identify the primary colors and learn to mix these colors to create secondary colors.

Seasons and Weather:

The children learn about the four seasons and the influence they have on each child's daily life. The children learn about seasonal changes that occur, how to dress for each season, and activities related to each season.

Animals - pets, farm, forest, pond, and zoo:

The children learn to classify animals according to where they live. They learn about animal care, hibernation, and the foods they eat.

Discovering the five senses:

The children learn to identify, use, and appreciate their five senses through various activities created to utilize each sense.

Health Science

The children learn the importance of cleanliness, caring for their own body and eating healthy, nutritional foods. The children participate in one trimester of yoga classes.

Approach:

Science instructional techniques are varied, yet remain inquiry based. Topical literature, careful observation and simple experimentation are the constructs of scientific discovery in Pre-Kindergarten.

Materials:

Trade books, published children's literature, project construction and the natural world provide hands-on, concrete materials to aid in the learning process.

Evaluation process:

Teacher observations form the core of the evaluation process in the Pre-Kindergarten program.