

Princeton Charter School

Kindergarten Program

English Language and Literature: Kindergarten

The goals of the kindergarten English language and literature program are to guide each child:

- to learn the phonetic connection between words and sounds;
- to recognize all the letters of the alphabet and their sounds;
- to form upper-case and lower-case letters correctly;
- to develop good listening and speaking skills.

Reading Program The kindergarten class uses the *Open Court Reading* program, which emphasizes the foundations of reading: reading aloud, print awareness, phonemic awareness through oral blending and segmentation, the alphabetic principle, explicit systematic phonics and blending, fluency using decodable books for initial reading experience, comprehension strategies and skills, spelling, and writing. Each foundation is addressed specifically with complete instructions on how, when and why to use them in the program.

Specifically, the kindergarten program introduces the alphabet and how it works, connects sounds with letters, explores concepts in science, social studies, literature, and the arts, and teaches thinking through story making and participative listening.

Writing Program Grades K-2 use the *Units of Study for Primary Writing: A Yearlong Curriculum (Grades K-2)*, First Hand. This writing program guides writing instruction and assessment for young learners.

The Nuts and Bolts of Teaching Writing, Lucy Calkins, First Hand.

Launching a Writing Workshop, Lucy Calkins and Leah Mermelstein, First Hand.

Small Moments, Personal Narrative Writing, Lucy Calkins and Abby Oxenhorn, First Hand.

Writing for Readers: Teaching Skills and Strategies, Lucy Calkins and Natalie Louis, First Hand.

The Craft of Revision, Lucy Calkins and Pat Bleichman, First Hand.

Authors as Mentors, Lucy Calkins and Amanda Hartman, First Hand.

Nonfiction Writing: Procedures and Reports, Lucy Calkins and Laurie Pessah, First Hand.

Poetry: Powerful Thoughts in Tiny Packages, Lucy Calkins and Stepanie Parson, First Hand.

The Conferring Handbook, Lucy Calkins, Amanda Hartman, Zoe White, and the Units of Study Coauthors, First Hand.

Workbooks

Letters and Numbers for Me, Jan Olsen, Handwriting Without Tears.

Spelling Connection: Grade K, J. Richard Gentry, Zaner-Bloser, Inc.

Mathematics: Kindergarten

The goals of the kindergarten mathematics course are for students to:

- develop mathematical reasoning, problem solving, and communication skills;
- develop counting skills; and
- develop spatial sense.

Course Content:

Position and Classification
Comparison and Patterns
Number Readiness and Graphing
Numbers to 31
Geometry, Fractions, Measurement
Money and Time
Addition and Subtraction Readiness

Textbooks:

New Jersey HSP Math, Grade K, Harcourt, Inc.

History and Geography: Kindergarten

In kindergarten, history time is story time, with history and geography taught through folk tales, legends, myths, accounts of historical events, and maps. The teacher reads stories aloud every day, and children may also read stories independently. Listening to and reading these stories builds a child's sense of the world as a community and introduces new vocabulary and basic cultural knowledge. Major geographical features affecting people's lives are studied as stories are read from each region.

The objectives of the program are to:

- develop children's knowledge and appreciation of the world's stories;
- develop children's knowledge and appreciation of the similarity and diversity of the world's peoples and places; and
- learn the continents of Earth.

Stories - A collection of folk literature from around the world has been assembled in the school library. Reading these folk stories provides the focus for the study of people's lives in many places and at many times.

Geography:

Continents and Maps, Pearson Learning and Core Knowledge Foundation.

Science: Kindergarten

In kindergarten, the science program centers on activities through which students:

- engage their curiosity about the world around them;
- communicate observations and comparisons;
- begin to develop a scientific vocabulary;
- observe living organisms over time;
- ask questions and make and record observations.

Topics:

Trees - their characteristics, structures, and life cycles.

Animals - their life cycles, habitats, environments, and care.

Magnetism - experiments with this natural force.

Sunshine & Shadows - relationship between the sun's position and shadows it casts.

Five Senses - how we perceive the world around us.

Instructional Materials:

Full Option Science System: Trees; Animals Two by Two, Lawrence Hall of Science, University of California, Berkeley.

Sunshine and Shadows K, Delta Science Modules II.

Smell, Taste, Touch Discovery Kit, Delta Education.