



Cobb County School District Parent's Guide to LEARNING in Kindergarten



LEARNING

The Cobb County School District is committed to providing your child an academic experience that will develop his or her knowledge and skills at every grade-level and to ensuring a strong foundation is established for your child to reach his or her greatest potential. Our teaching is aligned with content standards and our teachers bring those standards to life for your child through various strategies designed to meet your child's learning strengths and needs.

In Cobb County classrooms, students are immersed every day in learning experiences based on exploration, problem-solving, and critical thinking in all content areas, including the core areas of English Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science; and in specialized content including Health, Physical Education, Visual Arts, Music, and Technology. Excellence in teaching guides your child's educational experience from Kindergarten to graduation and into life. Below is an overview of what your child will be learning this year.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Students in Kindergarten are excited to learn how to read, write, and communicate on grade level. Students are immersed in letter recognition, phonics, and early reading skills. In addition, students learn to read with purpose and understanding, and participate in group discussions about texts. Listening and writing skills help students communicate thoughts and opinions about books. Early learners enjoy visits to their classroom and school library to explore the world of books. Students work on literacy skills that include expression, grade level phonics, and vocabulary.

MATHEMATICS

Kindergartners are learning the conceptual understanding of numeracy that is foundational for successful mathematics students. Students grow their skills and understanding of counting, addition and subtraction. They learn how to describe, compare and compose basic shapes. Students use hands-on resources such as pattern blocks, ten-frames and other manipulatives to conceptually understand the mathematics that they are learning. They apply math concepts to learn about the world around them and how to apply math in their daily lives when problem-solving.

SCIENCE

Science in Kindergarten centers on a hands-on, student-centered exploration of our natural world. Earth, Life and Physical Science are studied giving students opportunities to build their understanding of core ideas. Kindergarten students explore the world of plants and expand their knowledge of living organisms. They learn about non-living matter and how to recognize similarities and differences in living and non-living things. Finally, they begin basic explorations of rocks, gravity, and matter as they build their early conceptions of the world.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Kindergarten students are part of an active classroom where they explore their responsibilities as citizens and community members. The importance and history of American holidays and symbols is a focus of their learning. Students also use maps to develop a basic understanding of geography. A unit on the economy starts Kindergarten students on a path to understanding how money is used in basic commerce, and in their daily lives.

PARENT TIPS: Reading

Daily reading as a family is an enjoyable and important way to grow a love of learning. Create time to read during breakfast or in the evening before bed. Share your own favorite childhood books and talk about why the book is one you still love. Visit your local library and take advantage of school book fairs and literacy events. By sharing what you love about reading and showing them how much it means to you by reading with them, students will see how important literacy is in their lives.

SPECIALS

Young learners enjoy the creative process in the Fine Arts classes such as the Visual Arts and Music. In Art, students begin learning basic art vocabulary and produce art with different subjects and themes. In Music, they perform and demonstrate a basic understanding of pitch and rhythm. In Physical Education, students explore movement, learn to share and take turns. Health class prepares them to be safe; students learn how to compare and contrast accident prevention strategies.



Cobb County School District Parent's Guide to ASSESSING in Kindergarten



ASSESSING

Your child will have a variety of classroom assessments that will aid his or her teacher in knowing how to provide the best possible instruction for your child. These assessments will also help you know how well your child is learning and what extra support may be needed. In addition, your child will participate in some standardized assessments that are used to gauge how well your child is doing in his or her grade level.

In Kindergarten, teachers assess student progress using the Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (GKIDS). Teachers record progress on the GKIDS at three points in the year: October, January and May. The GKIDS helps teachers identify strengths and needs of your child; and teachers adjust their instruction so learning is personalized to each student.

All students in grades K-9 participate in the universal screening process for reading and math using a digital math inventory and a digital reading inventory. In Kindergarten, the reading inventory measures foundational reading skills, such as letter/word identification, work attack skills, and phonemic awareness.

TESTING IN KINDERGARTEN

MARK THE CALENDAR: GKIDS: October, January & May
Student Learning Objectives (SLOs): August & May

QUESTION TYPES: Kindergarten assessments include observations, analysis of student work, and direct assessment of skills. Students respond to teacher prompts and multiple-choice questions, called selected-response. Questions are often read aloud so young learners have a better chance of successfully completing all questions. Questions relate to subject areas such as Language Arts and Math and encourage students to apply a broad range of thinking skills.

PARENT TIPS: Assessment

Parents can support students in easing any concern or anxiety about assessment:

- Talk with your child about any tests or assessments.
- Explain that assessment is a natural and important part of any learning. Tests help students understand their thinking better and make improvements for better performance in the future.
- Remind your child to pay attention to the directions and to listen carefully as they are read. Encourage your child to take time to understand the questions before selecting an answer.
- A good night's rest is the best way to arrive focused on test day!

Remember that assessment is an important and helpful part of learning for students of all ages. Your support and involvement in your child's education is critical to success in school and in life. Research shows when parents play a key role in their child's learning, their child's achievement excels.