

September 2020

Dear Pre-Kindergarten Families:

Welcome to Prekindergarten! This will be an important and exciting year for you and your child. Your child will be involved in a wide variety of engaging learning experiences that will nurture academic and social development. In Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS), Differentiated Instruction is an initiative at all grade levels. Our classrooms are highly diverse, and teachers plan strategically in order to meet the needs of ALL learners. Due to the nature of instructional delivery at this time, we have compacted Curriculum to best meet student needs. Your child's instructional program will include the following elements:

**Language Arts – Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking:** The Prekindergarten Language Arts program is based on the Maryland College and Career Readiness Curriculum for reading, writing, listening and speaking. Objectives related to reading skills such as phonemic awareness, phonics, and reading comprehension are taught each day. Prekindergarten writing instruction focuses on the conventions of writing as well as writing to communicate ideas related to personal experiences and stories. Each day, children are involved in listening to stories, songs and poems that expand oral language and in retelling and discussing what they have learned and comprehended. The progress of students toward language arts objectives are evaluated routinely through teacher observation and periodic assessments.

**Mathematics:** The Prekindergarten Mathematics Program is based on Maryland College and Career Readiness Standards for Mathematics and focuses on establishing and extending basic understanding related to number, quantity, geometry, and measurement. Students will participate in instruction that will help them acquire and extend their understanding of mathematical concepts and improve their ability to apply their new understandings to real life situations. Additionally, there is an emphasis on the development of proficiency for all students related to the Standards for Mathematical Practice. The Standards for Mathematical Practice promote student efficacy in math while helping teachers to ensure that students see mathematics as sensible, useful, and worthwhile. Teachers will routinely assess student progress and differentiate instruction based on extending skills that have been learned and improving skills that are not yet mastered.

**Science:** The AACPS Prekindergarten Science program is based on the Maryland Early Learning Standards for Science. It is organized into the following units: weather, plants, animals, and the observable properties of objects. Students engage in large and small group lessons that focus on learning important science concepts, applying new science understandings to hands-on activities, and bringing science to life.

**Social Studies:** AACPS Prekindergarten Social Studies program is based on the Maryland Early Learning Standards for Social Studies and is organized into units around the themes of rules, symbols of the United States, families, friends, maps and globes, and workers in our community. The Develop, Inspire, Grow (DIG) Pre-kindergarten Social Studies Curriculum also incorporates social/emotional literacy to support instruction in empathy, problem solving, and conflict resolution.

**Environmental Literacy:** Students learn The Trouble with Trash! They explore that trash causes trouble by filling up landfills and by littering land and water. Students learn to recycle at school and at home. They learn not to litter and to clean up litter (with adult help). Students take action to help the environment by hosting a recycling picnic at school for family members to share what they have learned.

**Visual Arts:** The Prekindergarten general Visual Arts program provides students with a variety of experiences including drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculpture. Skills, concepts, and experiences are presented within a differentiated visual arts framework that exposes children to a variety of tools, techniques and master exemplars. Visual Arts classroom experiences tap heavily into brain-based learning strategies and 21st century skills. In addition, Maryland College and Career Ready Standards and Practices, Arts Integration, and STEM practices are embedded in instruction. All factors combine to offer students in all grades a balanced, complete program in a visual arts education.

**Additionally,** Health, Music, Physical Education, Library Media and Technology activities are incorporated in the prekindergarten day.

We are looking forward to a year of learning for your child. If you desire additional information, please contact your child's teacher.

Sincerely,

WRL/pmw