

Metropolitan School District of Pike Township

Kindergarten



Dr. Flora J. Reichanadter
Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Parents,

Kindergarten occupies its own unique position in a child's school experience as the cornerstone on which their educational foundation stands. For many youngsters, it is their first opportunity for consistent and constructive exploration outside of the home. It's their chance to develop habits of creative expression, social cooperation and academic application. The Pike Township Schools Kindergarten Program is no exception.

Whether you choose the traditional or balanced school calendar, Pike's kindergarten program fosters development of the whole child (physical, social and emotional, cognitive, and language). Kindergarten is a time of change, challenge, and opportunity. Kindergarteners will find an endless assortment of activities that engage their interests and stimulate their minds. Most importantly, at the heart of every project and activity, a skilled Pike teacher is responsive to the developmental, individual, and cultural variations of the students they serve. Together students engage in a social world of intentional interactions, and instruction using age-appropriate curriculum.

The Pike Township Schools' Kindergarten Program uses a curriculum aligned to the Indiana Academic Standards and responsive instruction that builds on each child's previous learning. Projects and/or thematic units integrate several content areas with experiences that foster and enhance academic skill, concepts, self-esteem, and social interaction.

Additionally, Pike kindergarten students receive a well-balanced mix of whole group, small group and individual instruction, and have the opportunity to participate in active learning with a variety of resources, materials and other children. We are certain that students who successfully complete our kindergarten program will enter the first grade with confidence. We welcome you and your family to our schools!

*Respectfully,
Flora J. Reichanadter, Ph. D.
Superintendent of Schools*

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VISION FOR KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten readers and writers in Pike Township will:

- Develop and continue to grow a passion for reading, writing and learning
- See themselves as capable readers and writers
- Know, understand and celebrate their peers as readers and writers
- Feel empowered as learners
- Be inquisitive learners who ask questions, make connections and seek answers
- Use creativity, imagination, play, reading, writing, etc. as avenues for making meaning in their lives
- Understand multiple perspectives in order to be open to new learning
- Develop confidence in their abilities as learners
- Build their independence and take responsibility for their own learning
- Take risks in their learning
- Communicate their thoughts and opinions to others
- Listen and respond to others in their conversations
- Develop, build, and apply foundational reading skills
- Build stamina for reading and writing
- Know various purposes for reading and writing
- Use various strategies when reading and writing in order to problem-solve
- Know different ways to read a book
- Know how to choose a just right book
- Understand what makes a story (beginning, middle, end)
- Interact with text by making connections, asking questions and responding to others' questions
- Have a knowledge base of various reading and writing genres
- Make multiple books on their own and share them with a variety of audiences
- Study text and illustrations deeply in order to inquire into the way authors write
- Set goals for their reading and writing

Kindergarten mathematicians in Pike Township will:

- Become engaged in math work and know math is fun!
- Have a desire to pursue math concepts—are excited and enthusiastic about math
- Be ready to tackle experiences with hands-on activities
- Know problems can be solved with real materials as well as on paper
- Verbalize and write about the process used to approach and solve math problems
- Apply math skills, strategies and processes to real world situations
- Know math can be represented concretely (with objects), pictorially and abstractly
- Understand and use consistent math language and vocabulary
- Know there are a variety of ways to solve problems and recognize multiple perspectives
- Have the confidence to tackle and solve different types of problems (story and situational)
- Value the process and the thinking behind math work
- Be willing to take learning risks
- Be familiar with math tools and use manipulatives or other tools to solve problems
- Be able to write numbers and write about numbers
- Efficiently add and subtract small numbers
- Interact and collaborate with peers to solve math problems
- Know about shapes and use them to solve problems
- Be able to count and understand 1:1 correspondence
- Be able to create and describe simple and complex patterns
- Understand and uses positional words
- Makes sense of things
- Be proficient in the Indiana Academic Math Standards
- Play math games and find the math behind the game



KINDERGARTEN BENCHMARKS

LIFE SKILLS ~ Treat people right and do the right thing

- Listens Attentively
- Accepts consequences of actions
- Follows classroom and school procedures
- Practices self-control
- Gives personal best
- Requests help from teachers as needed

FINE MOTOR SKILLS

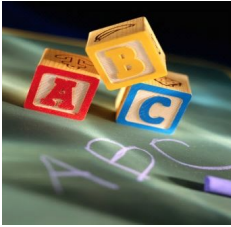
- Holds pencils and scissors correctly
- Cuts on lines
- Uses pencils, markers, or crayons while holding paper

GROSS MOTOR SKILLS

- Runs, stops, changes direction
- Hops on one foot (left and right)
- Hops on both feet together
- Marches, gallops and skips

SELF-CARE SKILLS ~ Demonstrates prior to entering kindergarten

- Recites address (city, state and zip code) and telephone number from memory
- Recites birth date from memory
- Demonstrates the ability to put on and fasten outer clothing
- Ties shoes



MORE DETAILS ABOUT PIKE’S KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

ATTENDANCE

Achievement is directly related to academic learning time – even at the kindergarten level.

Children are expected to be at school and on time **every day**.

Student absences should be reported to the school office within 30 minutes of the start of the school day. For more information on attendance guidelines, contact your home school.

BEFORE- AND AFTER- SCHOOL CARE

The Metropolitan School District of Pike Township offers convenient before- and after-school care in a familiar, nurturing environment. The program, known as Loving Care, is available Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at all district elementary schools. Full Day Kindergarten students may attend Loving Care before and/or after school at any location. For enrollment information, call the Loving Care office at (317) 388-7836.

CALENDAR OPTIONS

The Metropolitan School District of Pike Township offers two calendar options – traditional and balanced – for elementary and middle school students. While school officials are confident in the quality education available in all district schools, similarities and differences do exist between the calendars. Balanced calendar schools include three, two-week breaks throughout the school year, inclusive of spring and fall recess. Both calendars include 180 instructional days per school year and offer the same academic curriculum. An application-based lottery process

determines admission into balanced calendar schools. Applications are available at your home school, on the web at www.pike.k12.in.us and at the district's Administrative Service Center.

CONFERENCES

Parent, Teacher, Student Conferences are an extension of the report card and are held twice a year. Parents and teacher may also request a conference as needed at any time during the school year.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Students enter kindergarten with a variety of educational backgrounds, such as preschool, day care and home. Some have the ability to read and write simple words, while others have yet to learn the alphabet. The Metropolitan School District of Pike Township does not conduct academic placement testing or deny students based on their achievement level. Instead, our kindergarten teachers differentiate classroom instruction to provide the appropriate learning situation for each individual child. For more information on differentiated instruction, contact your home school principal.

ENROLLMENT AND REGISTRATION

Parents are asked to enroll and register their child online at www.pike.k12.in.us. During Kindergarten Round-Up, an annual event typically held in early spring, parents can enroll their child, finalize paperwork, meet school staff, and learn school-specific information. To find out your home school, please call the Administrative Service Center



or go online at www.pike.k12.in.us , click on the Parent link and then the School Finder and Bus Stop Lookup link. **Any child who is 5 (five) years of age on or before August 1 of the current school year may be registered for kindergarten.** Students that do not meet this age requirement are not eligible for enrollment in Pike Township. Parents must provide a valid birth certificate and proof of residency to their home school to complete the enrollment process.

FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN

Pike Township provides a Full Day Kindergarten program for all students of legal settlement. The Kindergarten experience provides curriculum through units of study guided by the Indiana Academic Standards in reading, writing and mathematics. Science and social studies are integrated using inquiry and real world experiences. Each component of the day is connected and allows for our young learners to develop and grow a passion for learning. Based on the Indiana Academic Standards, Pike Kindergarten teachers have created a common vision for students as learners. This vision includes children seeing themselves as capable and competent learners that use an inquisitive stance to ask questions, make connections and seek answers as well as using creativity, imagination, play, reading, writing, and so forth as avenues for making meaning in their lives. Additionally, Kindergarten teachers guide students to develop independence and responsibility for their own learning. They assist in building confidence in students so that they are willing to take risks in their learning and communicate their thoughts and opinions to others through a variety of ways. The kindergarten experience is meant to be well rounded as it builds foundational skills for your child's future success.

MEDIA CENTER



A goal of the elementary media center is to have books in the hands of all children and to make the children life-long readers. Kindergarten students are encouraged to use the school media center, where they may participate in independent activities, class literature sharing and book checkout.

REPORT CARDS

Kindergarten teachers conduct ongoing assessments of student skills and learning activities. Kindergarten students receive assessment reports to keep parents informed of their child's progress.

TRANSPORTATION

The Metropolitan School District of Pike Township provides transportation both to and from school for full day kindergarten students.

10 THINGS PARENTS CAN DO TO HELP CHILDREN SUCCEED

- 1. *BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER.*** Find out what each teacher expects of your child and how you can help your child prepare to meet those expectations.
- 2. *READ.*** Reading is the foundation for all learning. Read to your young child, encourage your older child to read to you, or

spend time together as a family reading. All this helps your child develop strong reading habits and skills from the beginning and reinforces these habits and skills as your child grows.



3. *PRACTICE WRITING AT HOME.*

Letters, journal entries, e-mail messages, and grocery lists are all writing opportunities. Show that writing is an effective form of communication and that you write for a variety of purposes.

4. *MAKE MATH PART OF EVERYDAY LIFE.*

Cooking, gardening, paying bills, and even shopping are all good ways to help your child understand and use mathematic skills. Show that there may be many ways to get the right answer and encourage your child to explain his or her method. This activity strengthens problem solving and critical thinking skills.

5. *ASK YOUR CHILD TO EXPLAIN HIS OR HER THINKING.*

Ask lots of “why” questions. Children should be able to explain their reasoning, how they came up with the right answer, and why they chose one answer over another.

6. *EXPECT THAT HOMEWORK WILL BE DONE.*

Keep track of your child’s homework assignments and regularly look at his or her completed work. Some teachers now give parents a number to call for a recorded message of that day’s



homework or send home a monthly calendar detailing all assignments. If your school doesn't offer these features, talk to the teacher about how you can get this important information. Even if there aren't specific assignments find out how you can stay informed about what your child is working on so that you can help at home.

7. *USE THE COMMUNITY AS A CLASSROOM.*

Feed your child's curiosity about the world 365 days a year. Use the library to learn more about the history of your town. A visit to a farmer's market can help your child picture your state's rich agricultural tradition. Take your young child to the zoos and parks and your older child to museums and workplaces to show how learning connects to the real world.

8. *ENCOURAGE GROUP STUDY.*

Limit the amount of time your child spends watching television and playing video or computer games. Open your home to your child's friends for informal study sessions. Promote outside formal study groups through church, school organizations or other groups. Study groups will be especially important as your child becomes older and more independent. The study habits your child learns now will carry over into high school, college and beyond.

9. *HELP OTHER PARENTS UNDERSTAND ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS.*

Use your school and employee newsletters, athletic associations, booster clubs, a PTA or PTO meeting, or just a casual conversation to help other parents understand what academic standards mean for them, their children, and their school and how they can help their children learn at home.

10. SPEND TIME AT SCHOOL.

The best way to know what goes on in your child's school is to spend time there. If you're a working parent, this isn't easy, and you may not be able to do it very often. But "once in a while" is better than "never."

Source – Indiana Department of Education

SAMPLE KINDERGARTEN SCHEDULE

Full Day Kindergarten

- Arrival: Greet Students, Table Tasks
- Morning Announcements, Review Daily Agenda
- Circle Time/Calendar/Getting To Know You/Read Aloud
- Morning Message (Writing)
- Recess/Morning Activity
- Reading Block
 - Reading Workshop
 - Word/Vocabulary Study
 - Shared Reading
- Writing Block
 - Writing Workshop
 - Interactive or Shared Writing
- Lunch
- Quiet Time/Reading Books **
- Mathematics
- Specials: Physical Education/Art/Music
- Inquiry/Exploration/Extension Activities/Centers
- Reflection Time (Discuss day, sequence of events, community circle)
- Announcements/Prepare for dismissal

****PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NO NAP TIME IN KINDERGARTEN****



PIKE'S ACADEMIC SUCCESS INDICATORS

Here are the skills students will work on throughout Kindergarten and be expected to know by the end of the school year.

LANGUAGE ARTS



- Uses picture cues and illustrations to aid in comprehension
- Uses picture cues and context to make predictions about story content
- Identifies characters in a story
- Identifies setting of a story
- Identifies important events in a story
- Recognizes and names all capital and lowercase letters of the alphabet and consonant sounds (moved from above)
- Writes using pictures, letters and words
- Writes for specific purposes and audiences
- Draws pictures to express ideas
- Correctly shapes capital and lower case letters of the alphabet
- Spaces letters correctly
- Shares information and ideas
- Speaks in complete, coherent sentences
- Identifies the front cover of a book
- Identifies the back cover of a book
- Identifies the title of a reading selection
- Follows words from left to right on a printed page
- Follows words from top to bottom on a printed page
- Reads own name



In addition, kindergarten readers and writers will:

- Develop/continue to grow a passion for reading, writing and learning

- Be inquisitive learners who ask questions, make connections, and seek answers
- Use creativity, imagination, play, reading, writing, etc. as avenues for making meaning in their lives
- Develop confidence in their abilities as learners
- Build their independence and take responsibility for their own learning
- Take risks in their learning
- Communicate their thoughts and opinions to others
- Listen and respond to others in their conversations
- Build stamina for reading and writing
- Use various strategies when reading and writing in order to problem solve
- Interact with text by making connections, asking questions and responding to others questions
- Set goals for their reading and writing

MATHEMATICS

- Count to 100 by ones and by tens.
- Write numbers from 0 to 20.
- Represent a number of objects with a written numeral 0-20
- Compares sets of up to ten objects and determines if they are equivalent
- Solves simple story problems
- Compares sets of up to ten objects and identifies which is more than or less than the other
- Identifies the set described with the larger number as the set with more objects
- Recognizes, represents, and names a number of objects up to 10
- Uses the concepts of more and less
- Uses the concepts of all, some, and none
- Uses the concepts of most and least
- Models addition situations by joining sets of objects (for any two sets with fewer than 10 objects when joined)

- Models subtraction by removing objects from sets from numbers less than 10
- Sorts and classifies objects and shapes
- Identifies objects that do not belong in a particular group
- Copies and makes simple patterns with numbers and shapes
- Creates simple patterns
- Identify and describe shapes (**squares, circles, triangles, rectangles, hexagons, cubes, cones, cylinders, and spheres**)
- Analyze, compare, create and compose shapes
- Uses inside and outside to describe position
- Uses above (over), below (under), and between to describe position
- Makes direct comparisons of length
- Recognizes which object is shorter/longer/taller

In addition, kindergarten mathematicians will practice:

- Making sense of problems and persevere in solving them
- Using precision
- Reasoning and explaining
- Modeling and using tools
- Seeing structure and generalizing



GET INVOLVED IN EDUCATION

Parental involvement is the key to any child's education. Anything you do in or outside of a Pike classroom will greatly benefit the children. Consider the following options:

- Assisting in the classroom
- Working with small groups or individual students
- Speaking to classes about your area of expertise
- Chaperoning field trips
- Performing clerical tasks
- Preparing teaching aids/classroom materials
- Reading to students
- Sponsoring/chairing extra-curricular activities
- Helping with special projects
- Acting as interpreter for non-English speaking students and their families
- Donating materials
- Serving on a school or district committee
- Checking teacher voicemail for updates or information
- Reading newsletters



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

K-1 Sample Texts

This list of books is designed to provide a wide range of texts that illustrate the level of complexity of the suggested reading materials for students in Grades K-1. This list is not required reading nor is it meant to be all-inclusive. Teachers and parents are encouraged to review the selections to ensure suitability for the individual student and to select readings from a wide variety of genres including on-line texts, magazines, newspapers, and other media sources.

FICTION: Classic and Contemporary

Caps for Sale – Slobodkina, Esphyr
Corduroy – Freeman, Don (Read Aloud)
Goodnight Moon – Brown, Margaret Wise
If You Give a Mouse a Cookie (series) – Numeroff, Laura
Little Bear by Minarik, Else Holmelund
The Little Engine That Could – Piper, Watty
Make Way for Ducklings – McCloskey, Robert
The Mitten – Brett, Jan (Read Aloud)
The Snowy Day by Keats, Ezra Jack
The Very Hungry Caterpillar – Carle, Eric



POETRY

Chicken Soup with Rice – Sendak, Maurice
I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly – Rounds, Glen
Owl Moon – Yolen, Jan (Read Aloud)
You Read to Me, I'll Read to You – Ciardi, John (Read Aloud)

FOLKLORE/FAIRY TALES

Goldilocks and the Three Bears by Brett, Jan
Lon Po Po: A Red Riding Hood Story from China by Young, Ed
Paul Bunyan by Kellogg, Steven
Pecos Bill by Kellogg, Steven
The Story of Johnny Appleseed by Alikei

BIOGRAPHY/AUTOBIOGRAPHY

George Washington's Teeth by Chandra, Deborah, and Comora, Madeleine
Honest Abe by Kunhardt, Edith

If a Bus Could Talk: The Story of Rosa Parks by Ringgold, Faith
If Only I had a Horn: Young Louis Armstrong by Jenkins, Leonard

NONFICTION

Anno's Math Games by Anno, Mitsumasa

A Child's Book of Art: Discover Great Paintings by Micklethwait, Lucy

Corn is Maize: The Gift of the Indians by Aliko

Digging Up Dinosaurs by Aliko

My Five Senses by Aliko

Sharks by Gibbons, Gail

What Comes in 2's, 3's, and 4's? by Aker, Suzanne

For more reading titles or grade level standards visit the Indiana Department of Education website at:

<http://www.doe.in.gov/idoe/information-parents-and-students>



MSD OF PIKE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Central Elementary School 7011 Zionsville Road, 46268 317-298-2778	Guion Creek Middle School 4401 W. 52 nd Street, 46254 317-293-4549
College Park Elementary School 2811 Barnard Street, 46268 317-347-7400	Lincoln Middle School 5353 W. 71 st Street, 46268 317-291-9499
Deer Run Elementary School 5401 N. High School Road, 46254 317-299-1266	New Augusta Public Academy North 6450 Rodebaugh Road, 46268 317-387-4328
Eagle Creek Elementary School 6905 W. 46 th Street, 46254 317-291-1311	Pike Freshman Center 6801 Zionsville Road, 46268 317-347-8600
Eastbrook Elementary School 7625 New Augusta Road, 46268 317-298-2784	Pike High School 5401 W. 71 st Street, 46268 317-291-5250
Fishback Creek Public Academy 8301 W. 86 th Street, 46278 317-347-8470	DISTRICT OFFICES
Guion Creek Elementary School 4301 West 52 nd Street, 46254 317-298-2780	Administration Service Center 6901 Zionsville Road, 46268 317-293-0393
New Augusta Public Academy South 6250 Rodebaugh Road, 46268 317-387-4325	Pike Transportation/Facilities Center 3950 W. 56 th Street, 46254 317-280-2450 / 317-280-2400
Snacks Crossing Elementary School 5455 W. 56 th Street, 46254 317-295-7200	

NOTES



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