



## Middle Country Central School District

### Parents Guide to Elementary Curriculum

### Kindergarten

By the end of their Kindergarten year, students should acquire the following knowledge and skills. Expectations here reflect current New York State standards in each subject area:

#### **Language Arts:**

The kindergarten language arts program is fully aligned with the NYS Next Generation ELA Standards and the HMH Into Reading Program.

Kindergarten teachers provide ELA instruction through integrated modules, collaborative and individual work, and student-centered learning in order to make children active, independent learners and highly literate members of society. Professional development and literacy blocks support teachers and students

In reading, kindergarteners learn to make connections and identify key details, elements, and unknown words in various types of text. In writing, students learn to inform, narrate, and express their opinion. They also collaborate, explore a variety of digital tools to publish their writing, and they participate in basic research projects in which they answer questions and form opinions.

The following are some of this year's kindergarten modules:

Curious About Kindergarten

Home of the Free and the Brave

There's Only One Me!

Zoom In!

My Community Heroes

From Plant to Plate

Happy Healthy Me

Animal Habitats

I Can Do It!

The Foundational Skills of the NYS Next Generation ELA Standards are addressed through HMH Into Reading and the research-based Wilson Foundations Program. Through the use of these resources, teachers provide students with a strong foundation in the key areas of beginning reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, word study, spelling, and fluency.

### **Mathematics:**

The goal of the mathematics curriculum is for students to understand the concepts of and to become proficient with the skills of mathematics. Students will communicate and reason mathematically. They will become problem solvers by using appropriate tools and strategies through the study of number sense and operations, algebra, geometry, measurement, and data. This will be accomplished through the implementation of the Middle Country Central School District Content and Process Strands, which are aligned with the New York State Next Generation Standards for math.

#### Students will:

##### Number Sense and Operations

- Count to 100 by 1's and 10's
- Write numbers from 0 to 20
- Use concrete materials to model numbers and number relationships
- Order whole numbers

##### Algebra

- Use concrete objects to develop an awareness of adding and subtracting whole numbers
- Recognize, describe, and create a variety of patterns
- Discover patterns in nature, art, music, and literature

##### Geometry

- Recognize characteristics and relationships of geometric shapes
- Sort different objects by different characteristics
- Move shapes around to explore symmetry
- Understand and express ideas using positional words such as over, under, above, below, on, beside, next to, and between
- Compose and decompose shapes

##### Measurement and Data

- Name, discuss and compare attributes of length
- Begin to use non-standard measurement tools in measurement activities
- Relate specific times such as morning, noon, afternoon, and evening to activities and absence or presence of light
- Classify objects into given categories

**Social Studies:**

The ultimate goal of the social studies curriculum is for students to assume their role as responsible citizens and as active contributors to a society that is increasingly diverse, and interdependent with other nations of the world. The Middle Country social studies program is fully aligned with the standards and practices in the NYS K-12 Social Studies Framework.

In kindergarten, students study “Self and Others.” Learning is organized around five themes— Individual Development and Cultural Identity; Civic Ideals and Practices; Geography, Humans and the Environment; Time, Continuity, and Change; and Economic Systems. Each unit of study helps students study themselves in the context of their immediate surroundings. Students will learn about similarities and differences between children, families, communities and holidays, symbols and traditions that unite us as Americans. They will also learn about respect for others, and rights and responsibilities of individuals.

**Topics to be explored include:**

- Myself and others
- My family and other families
- My school and community
- Respecting differences
- Symbols and traditions of the United States
- My rights and responsibilities
- Need for rules and laws
- Using maps and globes
- Impact of climate and weather
- Describing events using time (past, present, future)
- Sharing events from the past
- Needs and wants
- Goods and services

**Science:**

In accordance with New York State Science Standards, the Middle Country Central School District emphasizes a hands-on and minds-on approach to learning. Students actively engage in the discovery process, utilizing science and engineering practices to explore scientific concepts. Experiences provide students with opportunities to interact with the natural environment in order to construct explanations about their world. This approach allows students to practice problem-solving skills, develop positive science attitudes, learn new science content, and explore how to think like scientists and engineers.

**Kindergarten units include the following :**

- Scientific Inquiry: The Nature of Science
- Weather & Climate
- Water Exploration

- Forces: Push & Pull
- Living Things: Plants & Animals

**Special Areas:**

Art, Music, and Technology are important parts of your child's educational experience. By incorporating these elements into the kindergarten program, children are introduced to the fundamentals of each discipline and then involved in learning situations in which the knowledge can be applied. In all of them, active experiences are provided and children are encouraged to express themselves and to communicate through various subject area media.

**Physical Education:**

The curriculum stresses personal living skills. Training in the importance of cardiovascular wellness and fitness is begun and movement skills which deal with safety and creativity are part of the class experience. Social emotional learning is also addressed as part of the curriculum.

**ART:**

Through their art activities, students are taught to understand that anyone who makes art is an artist. They learn to apply the concept of being an artist to themselves as they develop their own works of art and come to understand there are many subjects which provide inspiration for production of artwork.

**MUSIC:**

Through singing, listening and movement children learn to enjoy expressing themselves. They are offered a varied repertoire of songs representing genres and styles from many cultures while learning to perform in groups and improvise independently.

**TECHNOLOGY:**

Our technology program is designed to support classroom academic instruction with 1:1 devices. All students are issued their own ChromeBook allowing students access anywhere they have internet access. District subscribed, web-based supplemental products support instruction across all subject areas.

**MISSION:**

The mission of the Middle Country Central School District is to empower and inspire all students to apply the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to be creative problem-solvers, to achieve personal success, and to contribute responsibly in a diverse and dynamic world.