

KINDERGARTEN
CURRICULUM GUIDE



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
MENOMONEE FALLS

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2013-2014

PURPOSE of the Curriculum Guide:

The School District of Menomonee Falls is committed to developing a partnership between school and family. This curriculum guide has been developed to provide valuable information for parents related to end of year goals and resources for kindergarten students to ensure academic growth for all.

Reading/Language Arts:

By the end of the year, students in kindergarten will be able to...

- Talk and listen to others in partnership and group
- Share thinking so that other people hear and understand me
- Read and talk about kindergarten books
- Make a new word by adding a sound to the beginning of a word
- Make a new word by changing the first sound
- Print many lower case letters within my writing.
- Capitalize the first word in a sentence and the pronoun I.
- Recognize and name end punctuation (period, question mark, etc)
- Spell words phonetically writing beginning, middle & ending sound.
- Draw and/or write to express my opinion about a book I read.
- Draw and/or write to share information about a non-fiction text.
- Write about an event using a beginning, middle and end.
- Use feeling words to react to what happened in my story.
- Spell selected kindergarten words.

To help students be independent readers and writers, the District uses a “workshop” model for instruction. This instructional model uses a combination of focused mini-lessons, read alouds, independent reading, writing & conferring, guided reading and writing, and reflection to build strategies for reading, writing, and comprehension, and to foster a love of reading and writing.

Math:

By the end of the year, students in kindergarten will be able to...

Count to 100 starting at any given number.
Identify shapes as 2D or 3D.
Show a teen number using tens and ones.
Use my fingers or objects to represent subtraction problems.
Explain my strategy for representing addition and subtraction problems.
Use drawings to represent subtraction problems.
Use drawings to represent subtraction story problems.
Represent a number within 10 using different number sentences.
Name number partners to 10.
Add to 5 quickly in my head.
Subtract within 5 quickly in my head.
Make a larger shape by joining two or more smaller shapes.

The District uses *Everyday Mathematics* developed by the Center for Elementary Mathematics and Science Education from the University of Chicago. *Everyday Mathematics* provides a curriculum that is rigorous and balanced and that emphasizes conceptual understanding while building a mastery of basic skills. It also explores a broad mathematics spectrum, not just basic arithmetic. *Everyday Mathematics* builds understanding over a period of time from informal exposure to more formal and direct instruction. The curriculum also helps students make connections and build upon their existing knowledge base.

Science and Social Studies:

By the end of the year, students in kindergarten will be able to...

Science

Ask and answer questions about the world I live in.

Use my five senses to describe things in nature.

Ask what if questions and investigate the answers.

Observe and describe seasonal weather changes.

Talk about and sort objects by one or more characteristics.

Investigate differences among trees.

Understand that plants and animals have life cycles.

The science curriculum is guided by the Full Option Science System (FOSS) program developed at the University of California, Berkeley. Students engage in inquiry based scientific and engineering practices to help answer the essential questions, “What’s in this world?” and “How does it work?” Students engage in multi-sensory, hands on learning activities, simulations, models and reading. Through these developmental activities, students construct understanding of science concepts. Putting ideas and experiences into words, helps students develop an in-depth understanding of science.

Social Studies

Show my understanding of knowledge and concepts.

Show my understanding of vocabulary.

In Social Studies, the kindergarten students understand the importance of a classroom as a social organization. Readings and activities focus on roles, expectations, and relationships in a classroom.

Resources for Families:

To extend learning at home, families can utilize the following sites.

District Electronic Libraries

<https://sdmf.follettdestiny.com>

Provides links to learning games, non-fiction books, research tools, news sources, encyclopedias, and more.

Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening Wisconsin Resource Center

<http://www.palswisconsin.info/index.html>

Provides parents with information related to the state literacy assessments that schools are required to give in kindergarten.

Tumblebook

<http://www.tumblebooks.com>

TumbleBook Library is an online collection of animated talking picture books, which teach young children the joys of reading in a format they'll love.

Other Reading, Writing, and Math Resources

<http://www.readwritethink.org>

<http://pbskids.org>

<http://www.abcya.com>

<http://www.hwtears.com/hwt/parents>

<http://www.starfall.com>

<http://www.literactive.com>

Compass Learning

<http://compass.sdmf.k12.wi.us/clologin.aspx>

Compass Learning is an online academic learning tool that provides reading and math activities matching individual student scores on their most recent Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment. Each student has a unique login and password. At the beginning of the school year parents will receive information regarding Compass Learning.

Saving for College (529 Accounts)

<https://www.edvest.com/>

As the cost of college rises, families find it important to start early with college savings programs, or 529 accounts. The state of Wisconsin works with Edvest to encourage and support this savings. The money in these accounts can be used for higher education costs including technical and four-year colleges.

