



**Move to Learn
Global School**

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Pre K – K 1 – K2 CURRICULUM

Overview

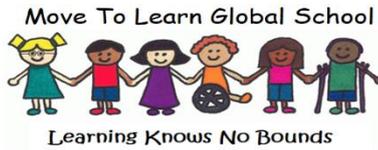
DEVELOPING THE WHOLE CHILD AS AN INQUIRER

Our kindergarten classrooms balance inquiry based, student directed time, individually and in small and large groups, with teacher directed experiences. Using our varied curriculum as a guide, students learn to become independent thinkers, communicators, and risk--takers. Six Units of Inquiry allow students and teachers to explore academic based themes in depth.

Daily activities include Morning Meeting, small group work, discussion, problem solving, open exploration, P.E., and outside play in a nearby Park. Math, English Language Arts (ELA), science, and social studies are woven seamlessly into the daily schedule, providing students with an authentic learning experience. We also include music, library, and studio (art and science) in addition to language study in English and Japanese.

Units of Inquiry

Kindergarten completes six inquiry--based units that allow for the children's own curiosity to guide their learning. These units incorporate aspects of the science and social studies elements into the curriculum as well as areas of physical, social, and personal growth and development. Our units include inquiries into: senses, products we use, the city around us, celebrations, simple machines, and forests. Through questioning, hands--on experiments, play, reading, writing, and other research, students come to construct meaning and understand large themes within each unit and take action to demonstrate their learning. As the year progresses, students will develop communication, self--management, research, and social skills through whole group projects and individual activities both inside and outside of the classroom environment.



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Reading

Our goal in kindergarten is to accept all children where they are in their literacy development. We help our student's progress by providing them with daily reading and writing opportunities that inspire them to become lifelong learners.

Kindergarten reading instruction is based on the reading workshop curriculum model. Kindergarteners are engaged in the following reading opportunities throughout the week: read-aloud, shared reading, guided reading, paired reading, and independent reading. Reading aloud to children exposes them to different genres of literature and new knowledge, vocabulary, and patterns of speech. Shared reading, or reading as a whole class, allows students to learn and practice decoding skills and reading strategies. We also use this time to develop comprehension skills to help students understand the meaning of printed text. Guided reading occurs in small groups or one-on-one with a teacher. These sessions are highly focused and allow children to work on specific skills that need development. Paired reading invites students to interactively share the reading process with their classmates. Students also participate in independent, self-selected reading activities. Independent reading provides students with an opportunity to practice reading on their own level, develop fluency, and pursue personal reading interests.

Spelling and Phonics

Spelling and phonics instruction are structured around the kindergarten word wall and individualized word study lessons. Sound and letter recognition are important stepping-stones on the path toward reading. In order for students to master each phonemic sound, we embed daily phonics activities in reading. We extrapolate key word sounds from reading experiences and often use familiar and accessible words, such as student names, to demonstrate letter sounds. These keywords, as well as high-frequency words, are added to the word wall for student reference. High-frequency words are grade level words that commonly appear in printed text. We expect students to fluently read and correctly spell high frequency words in their writing. We also teach children to decode and spell words through small group word study lessons based on individual student needs.

Writing

Writing Workshop is a key component of kindergarten language arts instruction. Students are given many opportunities throughout the day to write about a topic of their choice. While writing, students apply phonemic understanding, practice penmanship, learn about grammar, and gain knowledge about the writing process. It is important that our students feel like successful writers who have a valuable and unique voice to share. In kindergarten, we encourage students to use invented spelling so they are not hindered by researching the correct spelling of all words. Invented spelling pushes students to contemplate letter--sound relationships and keeps them actively engaged in the creative process.

Math

Our math program is designed to help children explore a wide variety of mathematical concepts. We study patterns, numbers, geometry, sorting and classifying, graphing, counting, addition, subtraction, measurement, time, money, and problem solving. To aid our mathematical exploration, we use many materials such as counters, cubes, tiles, links, rods, dominos, buttons, marbles, and pattern blocks.

Kindergartners will begin to view math as a part of everyday life rather than just a subject in school. We want children to recognize math at home, school, play, and in the community. Parents can encourage student mathematical thinking by demonstrating that math is a necessary skill used by all people in and out of school.

World Languages

English

The Kindergarten program is founded in an immersive exposure to the English language. Students whose main language of communication is English are expected to use their previously learned language skills and we help them to improve and raise their language ability and level. Students whose main language of communication is not English are taught to create and understand simple commands and short sentences, which prepares them for the next step in language acquisition. All students are also taught in a culturally rich and exciting way with various original English songs, games, workbooks and storybooks.

Japanese

In kindergarten, we continue fostering students' interest in Japanese acquisition. Students not only practice responding appropriately to simple commands and instructions in Japanese, but also have fun and learn the language at the same time. They acquire Japanese through kinesthetic learning activities, fun games, art projects, Japanese songs, story books, and video clips. We also integrate technology into the classroom to help students master the vocabulary of each unit. Students are trained to communicate and express simple greetings, words, and phrases. They further their study of Japanese character writing via tracing and copying isolated words. Students learn more about Japanese customs and culture: the teacher introduces important Japanese stories, legends and myths in the classroom, and students experience Japanese calligraphy, brush painting, paper cutting, and festival celebrations.

Music

Kindergarteners' focus in music is on understanding dynamics (short/long and high/low, loud/soft, etc.), demonstrating steady beat, responding to music through movement, and beginning sound identification. Students are also very involved in instrument exploration and improvisation. They often play and compose during class, and sing songs in a variety of styles. Kindergarten students are also encouraged to take up and learn how to play a musical instrument such as a drum or piano.

Physical Education

Kindergarten students in physical education classes will review and utilize the basic skills learned in previous physical activity settings and apply them in different settings and situations. Locomotor movements become more challenging by adjusting speed, level, pathway, or direction while maintaining control and body awareness. Students are introduced to the Move to Learn (Australia) movement sequences which helps to stimulate both the mind and body and synchronize the functions and coordination of a child's left and right brain. The movement consist of a small number of step by step movements in a pattern that develops their awareness of the position of objects and/or people in relation to oneself and helps to remove any primitive reflexes of a child that still linger on after infancy (first year of birth) that act as a barrier and prevent a young child from developing and moving forward both physically and mentally. Kindergartners begin to demonstrate simple and modified techniques found in sports (striking, kicking, volleying, etc.) and use small group activities

and games to promote teamwork and cooperation. Greater emphasis is placed on well-being and healthy lifestyles and students are introduced to the importance of rest, well-balanced nutrition, and exercises to form connections between health and physical activity and that a healthy body and healthy mind go together.

Art

In kindergarten, students conduct an in-depth study of three of the basic elements of art: colour, line and patterns. They identify different types of lines and patterns, and are introduced to working with and making the appropriate selection of media: colour pencils, water paints, crayons, and clay. Students are given their first sketchbooks, in which they put their ideas, make preliminary sketches, or free-draw. Students also learn the important concept of using art materials and tools in a safe and responsible manner.

Library

In kindergarten, students get to access the school library often to enjoy various story books. Books selected often support the PYP Units of Inquiry and students are encouraged to participate in the stories and make connections to the unit. Students can borrow books from the MTLGS library and begin to recognize the importance of the library and its resources as part of their classroom work.

Science and Technology

In kindergarten, technology is integrated with learning in the classroom and is directed by the classroom teachers. Students get to know how to use computers and iPads in the classroom so that they are prepared for regularly scheduled technology classes when they enter higher grade levels of primary school.