



**CASCADES
ACADEMY**
OF CENTRAL OREGON

Cascades Academy of Central Oregon

Lower School - Kindergarten

K

The all-day kindergarten class focuses on developing young readers, writers and critical thinkers. The classroom environment is a safe and nurturing setting in which learning is continuous. The main goal for kindergarteners is to learn to be productive collaborators in the classroom. As much time is set aside for social development as is for academic development. Opportunities for one-on-one interaction with the teacher occur regularly through the day due to small class size. Interactions with the other students within the lower school occur during storyline and reading or technology times.

Language Arts

The kindergarten program lays the foundation for students' reading and writing. Children are immersed daily in a wide variety of literary experiences to help nurture a love of language and an enthusiasm for reading. Through various approaches such as phonics, phonemic awareness and whole language, kindergarten students become ready to enter first grade as independent readers and writers. Instructional techniques include Handwriting without Tears, hands-on activities, games and one-on-one teaching.

Mathematics

The kindergarten math program focuses on building a sound foundation of skills. Students explore number sense, pattern, geometry, measurement and collecting and sorting data through the Investigations program. The math curriculum encourages discovery through the use of manipulatives and hands on activities which provide visual, auditory and kinesthetic reinforcement.

Social Studies

Kindergarteners explore communities through their storyline investigations. These topics may range from history, geography and civic responsibility. Field trips, guest speakers and cross curricular coordination facilitate the students' learning throughout the year.

Science

Kindergarten students are introduced to a wide range of concepts as they explore the world around them. Discoveries are made in the areas of physical, life and earth sciences and are dependent on the storyline topic. Instruction focuses on elements of the scientific process and students receive modeling and practice in asking meaningful questions.

Technology

Students in kindergarten begin the process of publishing their own stories. They begin to identify the different parts of the computer and how to properly use the mouse through the use of academic and art based software.

Storyline

The Scottish Storyline teaching method is used throughout the lower school. This method provides an opportunity to integrate all aspects of the curriculum into the classroom and across multiage groups. The chosen storyline will have the students develop settings and characters in order to explore incidents or problems that develop throughout the story. The characters are using their prior knowledge and continuously explore new understandings through their experiences of answering key questions. A culmination of their knowledge is shared with various forms of exhibitions. Previous storylines have been a medieval castle, a rainforest, an art museum, caves, a hospital, a Mexican Tour Bus and an explorer ship traveling around the world.

Spanish

Students will be introduced to vocabulary including colors, numbers to 100, days of the week, months of the year and body parts. Students will learn greetings and basic conversations through songs, books, activities, games and native speaker videos. Students will develop an understanding of Hispanic culture through crafts, foods and celebrations.

Art

The youngest students learn basic elements of art - including line, shape, and color and they experiment with concepts of balance and pattern in a variety of media. Students also learn to critique their own work and appreciate the work of others.

Music

Perform steady beat and quarter eighth rhythms; develop singing voice in appropriate range; "read" so-mi hand signs. Play percussion & barred instruments with simple patterns.

Physical Education

Students develop positive self-concept and body management skills through organized playground games, Creative Movement and the seasonal activities including skiing/snowboarding, swimming, martial arts and tumbling

Assessment

Assessments at the kindergarten level are made through direct observation and child teacher conferencing. Topic folders for each storyline are used to share student information with parents and showcase the student's work.



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A Survey of Skills Taught at the Kindergarten Level

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The skills introduced at the kindergarten level form the building blocks for education across the disciplines. The language arts curriculum guides young students in learning to read and write. The kindergarten math program introduces number sense and abstract math. The science and social studies programs help the students to explore the world around them through critical thinking and investigation. All skills are taught through hands-on activities, games and direct instruction. Text books used at the kindergarten level include Investigations, Math Their Way, Handwriting Without Tears and a variety of children's fiction and nonfiction literature to complement all subject areas.

Language Arts		Social Studies	
<p>Reading Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Produce sounds for all letters and some letter combinations ◆ Read three and four letter short vowel words ◆ Read some three and four letter long vowel words ◆ Recognize high frequency sight words ◆ Begin to decode unknown words using strategies such as picture cues, context cues and phonics skills ◆ Read aloud independently ◆ Identify some elements of literature ◆ Develop phonemic awareness ◆ Identify alliterations and rhymes ◆ Respond to literature ◆ Look at books or read for pleasure 	<p>Writing Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Use illustrations to tell a story ◆ Forms most letters and numbers correctly ◆ Speak and/or write in complete sentences ◆ Writes with teacher assistance or independently. ◆ Has an awareness of writing conventions ◆ Represent words with beginning and ending sound or most sounds ◆ Spell high frequency sight words ◆ Write narrative and/or non-fiction compositions <p>Listening and Speaking Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Follow oral instructions ◆ Speak in complete sentences ◆ Speak clearly and audibly 	<p>Historical comprehension and Analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Identify the basic needs of human beings: shelter, food and water ◆ Appreciate the connection between basic needs and a community ◆ Develop a concept and appreciation of other cultures ◆ Understand the rights and individual responsibilities of members of a community ◆ Understand the need to respect the rights and opinions of others and the rules by which we live, including the meaning of the "Golden Rule". <p>Chronological Thinking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Distinguishes past, present and future 	<p>Investigative Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Share knowledge gained through projects and presentations ◆ Research using books, interviews and technology <p>Map Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Understand that maps can represent actual places ◆ Identify symbols of rivers, mountains, bodies of water and cities on a map ◆ Identify water and land on map and globe ◆ Locate Oregon on a map of North America ◆ Locate North America on a map of the world
Mathematics Skills		Science	
<p>Number Sense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Count, read and write numbers to 20 ◆ Understand the sequential relationship among whole numbers ◆ Understand the concept of number (recognize "how many" in a set) ◆ Count by 10's, 5's and 2's ◆ Demonstrate accurate one to one correspondence to 20 ◆ Compute addition and subtraction equations with manipulatives and or pictures ◆ Understand concepts of addition and subtraction ◆ Represent mathematical equations with pictures and models <p>Patterns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Identify and extend linear patterns ◆ Label patterns with ABC's ◆ Produce growing patterns 	<p>Geometry and Measurement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Identify and name basic shapes ◆ Understand and apply procedures to measure with non-standard units ◆ Use comparative vocabulary of properties to describe objects ◆ Draw and compare a variety of two and three dimensional shapes ◆ Represents and computes mathematical equations with numbers <p>Statistics, Data Analysis and Probability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Sort data based on attributes ◆ Use physical objects or pictures to build bar graphs ◆ Interpret graphs 	<p>Scientific Concepts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Investigate the characteristics of organisms including structures, behaviors, and basic needs ◆ Explore properties of objects and materials ◆ Investigate solids, liquids, gases and the effects of mixing them ◆ Explore habitats and communities ◆ Investigate daily weather changes <p>Science and Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Explore technological design ◆ Distinguish between natural and man made objects 	<p>Investigations and Experimentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Conduct a guided scientific inquiry ◆ Conduct simple investigations ◆ Use simple equipment and tools to gather data ◆ Use data to construct reasonable explanation ◆ Explain process and results ◆ Observes using senses and gather information about objects and events ◆ Use the knowledge of observable properties to classify and sort objects

