

Kindergarten- Bridgeport Elementary School



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ENTERING KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten is an extremely exciting, yet fragile time of your child's life. We only get one chance at a great initial school experience with your child. Together, we will ensure that your child develops a passion for life and learning. State standards continue to evolve. It is our job to keep you informed of the expectations established by the state of Nebraska and Bridgeport Public Schools.

Legally, a child may be enrolled in Kindergarten, if they have reached the age of five, or if they will be five years old on or before July 31, 2016.

Kindergarten children will attend school from 8:00 a.m.-3:25 p.m. If a child is absent or late, the parents should send a note of explanation to the teacher or call the office 308-262-1574. It is crucial that each family keep updated contact information in case of emergency. Each family should provide three to four phone numbers for the school secretary to utilize when a child is ill or an emergent situation presents itself.

Please take note of the school calendar and school website. We do have early dismissals and holiday breaks that will impact your families schedule.

PREPARATIONS FOR KINDERGARTEN

To receive maximum benefit from any experience, children need to be prepared for the things they will do and the people they will see when they go to school. As parents, there are several things you can do before your child enters school.

Talk about the activities at school, but be realistic; the children shouldn't expect to do everything the first day. Find the safest and shortest route to the bus stop, and walk it several times with your child so he knows it well. Your child should know his/her name, address, and telephone number; parents' names and the name of the school.

Health, vision and dental check-ups should be completed before entering school and the child's birth certificate will be needed to verify his/her age.

Inform the teacher and the school nurse of any condition, allergy or health problem that might affect his progress at school.

Give your child simple responsibilities around the house. Teach him/her to put things away when finished with them. Help your child develop the habit of listening the first time something is said. They should be able to dress themselves, zip and button their coat, tie their shoes, and put on their own boots. They should have good bathroom habits and know the correct terminology.

A KINDERGARTEN DAY

The kindergarten day is varied and quite flexible. Sometimes the activities are quiet and thoughtful; sometimes they require more movement and conversation. Some projects are for group participation and some stress individual endeavor. Some activities are for the development of logical thinking and others for less tangible skills.

Learning opportunities include but are not limited to: Morning Meeting, Reading/Language, PE/Music, Lunch/Recess, Math, Handwriting, Library/Tech./Guidance, Science/Social Studies, and Literacy Centers.

There is no one as eager as a kindergarten child when they get to school each day. They are bursting with things to tell their school friends and their teacher, and they can hardly wait to find out what this day has in store for them. To utilize this freshness and eagerness, group activities and individual experiences are selected from the Kindergarten curriculum and may include literature and language activities, social studies, math readiness, music rhythms, and P.E.

SCHOOL BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROGRAMS

Breakfast is served each morning from 7:30 to 8:00 in the cafeteria. Hot lunches will be available for kindergarten students. You must pay in advance for your child's meals. Your child may bring a sack lunch from home if they prefer. A carton of milk or juice may be purchased to drink with their sack lunch. Kindergarten students will also receive a snack each day without charge.

THE KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM



LANGUAGE AND READING READINESS ACTIVITIES

Almost everything a kindergarten child does helps in their ability to use language. Their association with new people in a new environment increases their vocabulary. They hear new stories and are exposed to good literature, including verse. They act out stories. They learn how to listen and to concentrate.

Kindergarten children are encouraged to recognize and write their own name in manuscript, (not cursive) to become familiar with the sounds and symbols of the alphabet in reading readiness.

THINGS PARENTS CAN DO TO HELP

- Encourage your child's interest in books; take your child to visit the library. Start a collection of books for your child at home. Read to them frequently. Ask questions about what you have read. Paperback books are made available at a reasonable price through school book clubs during the year.
- Converse with your child; encourage them to use complete sentences and avoid baby talk. Listen to them when they have something to tell. Be willing to answer their questions.

MATH READINESS

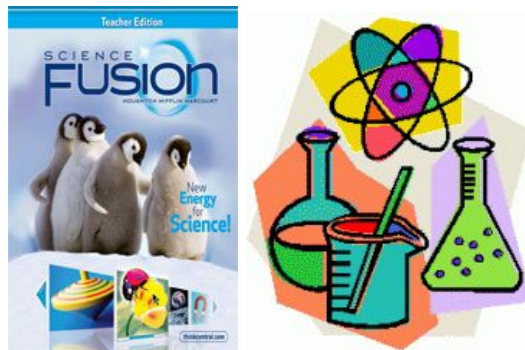


The kindergarten program utilizes manipulative activities to help the development of logical thinking and reasoning ability. Because the children can see and feel these materials, they are able to visualize patterns and relationships, as well as recognize geometric shapes and sizes. Numbers from one to twenty are the primary objective.

THINGS PARENTS CAN DO TO HELP

- Play games with your child, which will develop logical thinking.
- Give them the opportunity to count, and use numbers.
- Point out to your child the likeness and differences in shapes, sizes and quantities.

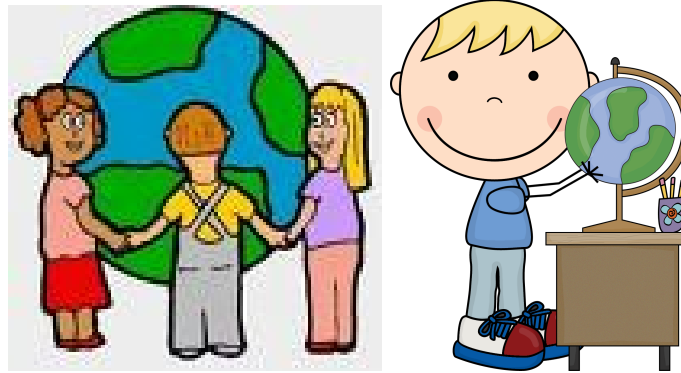
SCIENCE ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS



Kindergarten science activities are planned around the process of observing and then describing those observations. Any item of interest that students can contribute for observation in science is encouraged. The Science Fusion Curriculum provides multimedia presentations to further develop the child's vocabulary and background knowledge.

THINGS PARENTS CAN DO TO HELP

- Take your child to museums and zoos. Take them for drives and walks in the country or park, so that they see plants and animals in their native habitat.
- Give them a pet, which they will take care of and/or encourage them to plant and care for a small garden.
- Instill in them an appreciation for living and growing things

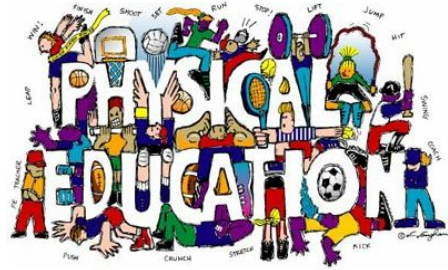


SOCIAL STUDIES ACTIVITIES

Children should develop an understanding of themselves in relation to their expanding environment. In Kindergarten, they will learn about school, the people who work in the school, and the values of rules and policies. In learning about themselves, children come to understand the function of the five senses, the importance of learning to think and the role of emotions as they relate to themselves and others. Multi-media presentations are utilized to enrich the child's background knowledge and vocabulary development.

THINGS PARENTS CAN DO TO HELP

- Provide opportunity for your child to learn to meet and play with many different kinds of children, representing all walks of life.
- Teach them to share their belongings with others and to respect other's property.
- Develop moral values by thoroughly explaining why they should not do certain things.
- Teach them to respect authority and to follow rules.



MUSIC, PE, ART, AND CRAFTS

Children enjoy aesthetic experiences even at five and six years of age. They like to sing, dance, and listen to music; they respond easily to rhythm they hear. This response, in turn, aids a child's physical coordination and his ability to move gracefully. The elementary music teacher will have a music class for each group.

The joy of creating something from the raw materials to a finished product and the feeling of success that follows is most important to a Kindergarten child. They need to be pleased with themselves and know that others are pleased with their work; they gain this kind of self-confidence from their creative activities. Art activities and songs are geared to their developmental level.

Students will also participate in Physical Education. Physical Education is a wonderful opportunity for students to develop physically, socially, and emotionally. Our school embraces the Spark PE Curriculum while also supplementing unique learning opportunities to meet the needs and interests of all students.

THINGS PARENTS CAN DO TO HELP

- Make arrangements for your child to hear good music either on radio or other sources. Encourage them to sing.
- Let them use creative tools such as crayons, scissors, paste, paper, etc.
- Show an interest in what they make at school and display their work where the family may see it.
- Ask your child what they did in PE today and ask them why that activity is good for their development.
- Encourage your child to exercise and make healthy choices.

SCHOOL – HOME – COMMUNICATIONS



Because the child's maximum growth and development will be achieved only if the school's staff and members of the family work together, several channels of communication between the school and the home have been organized. Please visit the elementary school website on a weekly basis.

Parent/Teacher conferences give you and the teacher an opportunity to sit down together and discuss your child and the progress they are making in all areas of development. The office schedules these conferences, and you will be notified concerning the procedure. Report cards are sent home at the end of each quarter. Purple "Bulldog" folders are sent home with students each Friday. Please become familiar with our fabulous school website for current events within Bridgeport Elementary School: <http://www.bridgeportschools.org/>

We feel that all students can and will learn at Bridgeport Public Schools. A positive educational experience is dependent upon the relationship between the school and home. We look forward to working with you and accomplishing common goals. It is a blessing and a privilege to play a significant role in the life of your child. Never hesitate to call our office when questions surface for your family.

***Mr. Malone
Principal
308-262-1574***