



BERKLEY SCHOOLS

KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

This well balanced core curriculum is extended by including weekly experiences in art, music and physical education. Students regularly use the library media center and have opportunities to enhance their learning using technology.

LITERACY PROGRAM

The Berkley School District provides literacy instruction that includes all of the components necessary to support literacy acquisition.

Curriculum Components

Reading and Writing Workshops

Instruction in reading and writing is provided through the predictable structure of Reading and Writing Workshop. During workshop time, the teacher provides explicit teaching through a whole class mini-lesson followed by an opportunity for students to practice.

Interactive Read Aloud

Students listen to texts read aloud and engage in discussion with one another about the text.

Explicit Instruction in Phonics and Phonemic Awareness

Students learn about the relationships between letters and sounds. They develop an understanding of the structure of words and apply that understanding to their own reading and writing.

Shared Reading and Writing

Students participate in reading or writing as a whole class, a small group or with a partner and practice some aspect of a recent lesson.

Reading Workshop: Units of Study in Reading

Unit 1: We Are Readers

- Learning about the world of books
- Repeated reading of favorite stories

Unit 2: Super Powers:

Reading with Print Strategies and Sight Words

- Using strategies to look, point and read
- Reading bigger words
- Bringing books to life

Unit 3: Bigger Books, Bigger Reading Muscles

- Reading more challenging books
- Zooming in on letters and sounds

Unit 4: Becoming Avid Readers

- Reading with a partner
- Reading nonfiction and poetry

Writing Workshop: Units of Study in Writing

Unit One: Launching the Writing Workshop

- Becoming an author through approximation
- Exploring writing through all-about books and personal stories
- Using pictures and labels to convey meaning

Unit Two: Show and Tell Writing:

From Labels to Pattern Books

- Using inventive spelling to label and write sentences
- Learning from mentor pattern books
- Writing lots of sentences using high-frequency words

LITERACY PROGRAM, CONTINUED

Unit Three: Writing for Readers

- Writing true stories from their lives
- Beginning to write in more conventional ways with sentences
- Focusing on revision and editing

Unit Four: How-to Books: Writing to Teach Others

- Planning and rehearsing writing to teach others
- Giving directions step-by-step
- Revising to help readers understand

Unit Five: Persuasive Writing of All Kinds:

Using Words to Make a Change

- Crafting petitions, persuasive letters, and signs
- Writing to share opinions

MATHEMATICS

The kindergarten math curriculum utilizes frequent practice of mathematical reasoning, ongoing program routines and related games. We provide a realistic approach to problem solving in everyday situations and applications through **six main academic strands** from the Common Core State Standards:

Counting and Cardinality

- Know number names and the count sequence
- Count to tell the number of objects
- Compare numbers

Operations and Algebraic Thinking

- Understand addition as putting together and adding to, and understand subtraction as taking apart and taking from
- Number and Operations in Base Ten
- Work with numbers 11-19 to gain foundations for place value

Measurement and Data

- Describe and compare measurable attributes
- Classify objects and count the number of objects in each category

Geometry

- Identify and describe shapes
- Analyze, compare, create, and compose shapes

Mathematical Practices

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others
- Model with mathematics
- Use appropriate tools strategically
- Attend to precision
- Look for and make use of structure
- Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning

SOCIAL STUDIES

Students learn about themselves and how they exist in the world around them. The primary units are woven into daily instruction and routines.

Unit 1: Navigating School

This unit helps students develop a strong foundation from which to understand their own role in school and how they can make choices that will make school a great place for themselves and those around them.

Unit 2: My Team and Self

This unit explores the essential elements of identity (physical, family and cultural, interests, passions, special qualities, strengths and challenges) and helps students

recognize how they can contribute to the strength and growth of their class team, as well as how their team can contribute to their personal growth.

Unit 3: Past, Present and Future

This unit explores the elements of time and memory, prompting students to discover and share the unique stories that have made them who they are.

SCIENCE

The world of a kindergarten student involves interacting with the physical world through observation, readings, exploration and hands-on problem solving.

Unit 1: Creating a Sense of Wonder

- Generate questions about the world around them
- Develop an awareness and enjoyment of the beauty and wonder of the natural world
- Become aware of the concepts of cycles, diversity, and interconnectedness in nature
- Develop a sense of appreciation and respect for the integrity of the natural world
- Explore characteristics and basic needs of living things
- Discover and describe naturally occurring patterns
- Ask questions, make observations, and gather information

Unit 2: Physical Science - Force and Motion

- Describe the direction of a moving object
- Demonstrate pushes and pulls on objects that can move
- Observe how shape and mass of an object can affect motion
- Plan and conduct investigations to compare the effects of different strengths or different directions of pushes and pulls on the motion of objects
- Analyze data to determine if a design solution works as intended to change the speed or directions of an object with a push or pull

Unit 3: Weather & Climate

- Observe the effect that sunlight has on Earth's surface
- Describe weather conditions and climate
- Describe seasonal changes in weather
- Use observations of weather conditions to describe patterns over time
- Understand the purpose of weather forecasting to prepare for severe weather
- Explain appropriate safety precautions during severe weather
- Design and build a structure that will reduce the warming effect of sunlight on an area

Unit 4: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems

- Identify that living things have basic needs
- Find evidence that plants and animals can change the environment to meet their needs
- Represent the relationship between the needs of different plants and animals and the places they live
- Find solutions to reduce the impact of humans on the land, water, air and/or living things in the local environment
- Observe the stages of the life cycle of living things