



## Carden West School Junior Kindergarten

The Junior Kindergarten program provides a warm and nurturing classroom environment within the elementary school where teachers capitalize on children's curiosity, creativity, and imagination. Our Junior Kindergarten program facilitates children's social, emotional, physical and intellectual development with an emphasis placed on building confidence and self-esteem. The pace of the Junior Kindergarten program is such that individual attention will help the students fulfill their potential as they move on to kindergarten. Both thematic units as well as an interactive curriculum help foster the children's thinking skills while they learn about the importance of being part of a classroom community. This full-day program includes the choice of 2 foreign languages, Music, Art, Computers, Physical Education, and Library time. As the students independence increases, development of gross and fine motor skills, an ability to listen, share, and interact with one another are skills that will be nurtured. Teachers respect and celebrate children's unique learning styles and provide a teaching approach that best fits each child's individual needs. Each child grows and absorbs new information at a very individual rate. The end result is that our students come away with a rich classroom experience, new friends, and an understanding that learning is an exciting process.

### **READING/LITERATURE**

Phonics will serve as the basis for initial reading instruction. Students will learn to associate sounds to consonants and to recognize and name letters to represent consonant sounds. Students will learn the short sound of each vowel. Students will learn to recognize words written in upper and lower case letters and to recognize the words from the Ross list of basic words. While reading orally, students will be guided to use the correct pronunciation, phrasing and voice intonation. Students will listen to stories read aloud for enjoyment and to practice recalling facts and information. They will anticipate events and draw conclusions from the given facts.

### **ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS:**

Some writing will be expected every day. They will learn to form letters from top to bottom and write from left to right, leaving space between words. They will dictate meaningful ideas and copy their dictation. Vocabulary words used in reading, new spelling words, and special words will be used for individual sentence construction. As the year progresses students will write stories, keep journals and write letters. They will learn to compose stories that are interesting and make sense to the reader.

### **MATHEMATICS**

Students will develop the basic understanding of the relationship between numbers and



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quantities. Emphasis will be placed on the operations of addition and subtraction. The concepts of time and money will be explored. They will understand that objects have properties, such as length, weight and capacity, and that comparisons may be made by referring to these properties. Students will identify the geometric features of common objects. Students will make decisions about how to set up a problem and will solve problems in reasonable ways. Word problems will be used to insure understanding. A great deal of concentration will be placed on insuring confidence and joy in learning and using mathematics as a tool.

### **SCIENCE**

The Junior Kindergarten students will concentrate on those science concepts that make up the basis for health and safety. News articles and other current events involving the environment will serve as a means to introduce ideas and vocabulary. Students' interests in pets, plants, space, dinosaurs and other "exciting" topics will be used to engender enthusiasm and study.

### **SOCIAL SCIENCE**

The concepts of family, school and community will serve as the foundation for social studies. Activities including small group work, writing, art and music will be used to help students learn and express their increasing understanding of these concepts. Emphasis will be placed upon respect of self, of others, cooperation, and participation in class activities.

### **OTHER**

The Elementary School staff includes specialty teachers in the following subjects Music, Art, Technology Resource, Spanish, French, Mandarin, and Physical Education. Formal instruction in SPANISH and your choice of FRENCH or MANDARIN will be provided weekly. PHYSICAL EDUCATION instruction will be taught five days a week. MUSIC and ART instruction will occur once a week. FIELD TRIPS will be scheduled throughout the year and are always tied to core curricula. The Junior Kindergarten students will visit the COMPUTER LAB once per week, primarily for a variety of educational games designed to help students learn to be comfortable with computers and their keyboards.