Critical content of the curriculum

Reading

- Phonemic awareness and phonics: introduction to letter sounds, beginning and ending sounds, syllable recognition, rhyming words. We begin our reading with the Read Well Program. The Read Well program has a non alphabetic order of letter study. By using this order of studying letters, students are able to create and read words more quickly. Read Well homework reinforces what is learned in reading group; please listen to your student read his or her homework, initial the homework, and have your student return the homework to school in the mail folder. Initialed reading homework earns a sticker on a student’s homework chart. A full homework chart earns a trip to the prize basket.
- Print awareness: upper and lower case letter recognition, name, kindergarten need to know words. Look for these need to know words in my weekly email.

Communication

- Listening and speaking to gain understanding
- Interact and work effectively with others
- Be able to present ideas in different situations

Writing

- Handwriting – introduction to letters (upper and lower case) and numerals, directionality (left to right and top to bottom)
- Sentence structure – upper and lower case letters, introduction to punctuation (ending sentences with a period)
- Content – ability to stay on topic, provide additional details with pictures or words.
- Applied Spelling – demonstration of phonemic awareness in ability to integrate sounds heard to write a word, inclusion of beginning and ending sounds.

Math

The Lake Washington School district has adopted a new math curriculum, enVision Math, by Pearson. The curriculum for kindergarten covers five math strands and has a problem solving component. The kindergarten math strands are: number and operations, algebra, geometry, measurement, and data analysis and probability. Each lesson begins with a video and recap of the previous lesson. As the lesson progresses, students are able to work with math manipulatives to increase their understanding of the lesson objective. We follow up with questions to check for understanding. Homework is differentiated for each student based upon their understanding of the lesson. Math homework earns stickers on homework charts also.

Science

We use the FOSS science kits Trees, Animals 2 x 2, and Wood and Paper while learning the following:

Physical Science - Materials: Natural to Man Made
- Wood is a resource that comes from a variety of trees.
- Wood has many observable properties (color, texture, weight, and odor) that may be used to describe and sort.
- People use wood for many everyday things.
- Paper is a product of wood that has observable properties.

Life Science - The Living World
- Animals have unique structures and behaviors.
All animals have similar basic needs.
Animal behavior is influenced by environmental conditions.
Trees are composed of identifiable structures that serve different functions. Trees are living organisms that have basic needs (water, nutrients, light, air).
Trees can be identified by properties that can be observed and compared.
Trees are a useful resource to people and animals.

Social Studies critical content focuses on individual development and identity.