

JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM

Our Junior Kindergarten program is a play-based, developmentally appropriate exploration of the world around us, rooted in a rich, engaging, and nurturing environment.

The focus on discovery, high-level thinking, creative problem solving and observation begins in the Junior Kindergarten year. Students build an academic foundation through small group instruction in early literacy, handwriting, and mathematics, and through intentionally designed opportunities for exploration, play, and the seizing of “teachable moments.”

Our Responsive Classroom begins in the Junior Kindergarten year, providing children the opportunity to build community with their peers through daily meetings and a shared language focusing on the Rossman Rules of Respect, Responsibility, Honesty and Kindness.

These concepts will be a focus throughout their Rossman journey. A highlight of the JK year is the spring Art Show during which students showcase their “inspired by” pieces created in the style of famous artists.

Early Literacy

Develop phonemic awareness as students recognize and manipulate words, syllables, and individual sounds | Identify and create rhymes | Recognize and name all uppercase letters and some lowercase letters | Build and solidify letter and letter-sound recognition | Identify the beginning and ending sounds in words | Participate in small literacy groups to practice a variety of early literacy skills | Build print awareness to identify familiar words | Explore a variety of literature in the Library Corner | Build concepts of print and identify the parts of a book | Make personal connections to literature | Identify story elements, recall major events, and make predictions about stories read aloud | Participate in Handwriting instruction in a small group format | Engage in writing opportunities at the classroom Writing Center | Develop an efficient pencil grip | Dictate, copy, or write words to tell a story or to go with a drawing | Apply phonemic awareness to begin spelling simple words

Resources: Learning Without Tears

Mathematics

Identify and create patterns | Sort and classify objects into groups | Build one-to-one correspondence | Identify colors and shapes | Solidify number recognition | Practice proper number formation | Recognize relative place value | Practice sequencing and associated language for ordinal numbers | Practice skip counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s | Build fluency to recognize, write and manipulate numbers within 10 | Introduce “reading” of number sentences | Compare and contrast objects by size, color, and shape | Collect data through tallies and graphs | Use manipulatives to add and subtract | Explore manipulatives that build spatial awareness and engineering | Engage in a variety of math-related games during small groups, centers and independent play

Resources: Learning Without Tears

Science

Engage in conversations about the world around us | Make scientific predictions | Explore natural objects found around campus | Visit the Pollnow Nature Trail to make seasonal observations | Observe the Butterfly Life Cycle

Social Studies

Explore maps and globes, locating places connected to literature or travel | Name months of the year, days of the week, and seasons | Discuss and celebrate holidays of various cultures | Compare and contrast ourselves with peers through the "Mystery Person" activity | Understand the importance of norms and rules in our school community | Understand the importance of helping others and extending kindness through community service

Art

Explore various art mediums | Study the history and features of famous artists (Vincent Van Gogh, Piet Mondrian, Henri Matisse, Wassily Kandinsky, Grandma Moses) | Create pieces "inspired by" the artists studied and display at the spring JK Art Show

Music

Participate in call and response singing opportunities | Use a singing voice to ask and answer questions with puppets | Compare the tempos of different songs | Identify differences in high and low pitches | Practice moving to a beat | Begin building a repertoire of songs and games used in the Rossman music program | Building confidence performing in front of classmates | Learning and performing in whole school concerts and performances

Library

Understand proper care of library books and materials | Recognize familiar authors, illustrators, and literature | Begin to recognize basic library terms and concepts | Begin to follow basic check-out procedures | Locate the E (Everybody/Picture Book) section of the library | Develop an appreciation for books and reading

Spanish

Practice simple greetings through songs and chants | Build vocabulary related to greetings, colors, families, transportation, farm animals, and numbers 1-10 | Study the culture of Spanish-speaking countries through tooth traditions | Sing traditional songs from around the Spanish-speaking world | Engage in treasure hunts, parades, and simple games | Celebrate with fiestas and relax with siestas!

Resources include: Mundo de Pepita Spanish mini-books | Rockalingua | Pocoyó en Español | Bilingual picture books