VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

KINDERGARTEN
PARENT/STUDENT COURSE INFORMATION

DEPARTMENT OF TEACHING AND LEARNING
Dear Parents:

The purpose of this guide is to provide you with insight into the instructional program and learning expectations for your child. The guide contains the emphasis of instruction for each subject area. The instructional program focuses on the Virginia Beach objectives which include the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL). Please take time to become acquainted with the helpful information in this guide.

Your interest and involvement in your child’s education promotes positive attitudes toward learning and enhanced academic achievement. We are excited about the opportunity to join you in providing the best possible education for your child.

Thank you for your careful review of this guide. If you have any questions, please contact your child’s teacher.

Sincerely,
Department of Teaching and Learning

Using the Guide

The contents of this guide provide information about the elementary instructional program. The following are recommendations for using the Parent/Student Course Information.

- Become familiar with the introduction and the objectives for each subject area, as well as the overview provided for additional resources
- Refer to the guide as you prepare for conferences with your child’s teacher
- Use the guide to promote conversation about your child’s classroom learning and homework assignments

Invite Success

It is important that the following practices, critical for school success, be established and reinforced at home. Parents should encourage the following behaviors in their children.

- Attend school regularly
- Eat well, exercise regularly and get enough sleep
- Put forth his/her best effort
- Listen attentively
- Select an appropriate study place and develop a consistent study routine
- Have necessary supplies
- Be prepared and organized
- Plan ahead
- Read for fun and information

General Information

Elementary Guidance Program

Each elementary school offers a comprehensive and developmental counseling program that is an integral part of the total educational program designed to promote the academic, social and career development of all students. As an essential part of the instructional program, school counseling helps to build a foundation for student learning and academic success. Certified school counselors provide a variety of services, including classroom guidance; crisis intervention; individual and group services; support for parents, teachers and administrators; and coordination of services with outside agencies.

Parent/Student Handbook

Each school’s parent/student handbook is sent home at the beginning of the school year. It contains general information about the school’s program, the school division calendar, availability of school services and materials, regulations and general guidelines.

Report Cards

The Report Card formally advises parents of their child’s proficiency. It is issued four times a year. Other informal progress reports are sent home at regular intervals. In addition, parents who register for the online Parent Portal can monitor their children’s progress throughout the year.
Language Arts
The kindergarten language arts program focuses on the broad areas of oral language, reading and writing. Students will be introduced to a wide variety of fiction and nonfiction literature which will serve as a basis for instruction and practice in reading.

Responding to Literature
- Demonstrate understanding how print is organized and read
- Demonstrate an understanding that print conveys meaning
- Develop an understanding of basic phonetic principles
- Expand vocabulary through a variety of reading experiences
- Demonstrate comprehension of fictional and nonfiction texts

Written Communication
- Write to communicate ideas for a variety of purposes
- Demonstrate early concepts of print

Oral Language
- Demonstrate growth in oral communication skills across a variety of situations
- Identify, say, segment and blend various units of speech sounds

Mathematics
The kindergarten mathematics program has an emphasis on the development of number sense. Throughout the year, students will discover the various meanings, uses and representations of numbers. As students develop an understanding of numbers, they will begin to explore their application in geometry, measurement and data collection. The foundations for computational fluency are established as students use numbers to represent the composition and decomposition of quantities. Students will begin to recognize and identify repeating patterns.

Numeration and Computation
- Understand numbers, the ways of representing whole numbers and rational numbers and the relationships that exist among these numbers and number systems
- Understand the meanings of addition and subtraction and compute using whole numbers

Geometry and Measurement
- Understand and apply knowledge of time, money and measurement tools
- Analyze characteristics and properties of plane (two-dimensional) and solid (three-dimensional) geometric shapes
- Specify locations and describe spatial relationships

Probability and Statistics
- Create questions and construct answers by collecting, organizing and displaying data

Patterns, Functions and Algebra
- Understand a variety of patterns

Science
Science skills and processes are developed within each unit of study. Students will use their five senses to explore the world through active discovery. As students learn more about the world around them, emphasis will be on recognizing patterns and change. Investigations are planned to help children learn science concepts.

Magnets
- Classify objects as being attracted or not attracted to magnets
- Identify everyday items that contain a magnet or magnets

Natural Resources
- Describe properties of water
- Describe the difference between recycling and reusing
- Identify the ways water and energy can be conserved
Plants and Animals
- Recognize basic needs and life cycles of animals and plants
- Differentiate between living and nonliving things

Patterns in Nature
- Describe how shadows occur
- Describe daily weather conditions

Social Studies
In kindergarten, students learn social studies concepts that build a foundation for learning independently and cooperatively with others. The focus in kindergarten social studies is developing a concept of self.

Civics
- Describe the role of individuals in communities
- Recognize the significance of symbols that unify Americans (American flag, Pledge of Allegiance)

Economics
- Explain why people make economic choices
- Describe how different jobs serve the community

Geography
- Describe relative location by using positional words (near, far; above, below)
- Recognize basic map and globe elements
- Explain the purpose of maps

History
- Recognize that everyday life today is different from everyday life long ago
- Describe choices made by people from the past brought about change (Helen Keller, Jackie Robinson)

Physical Education
The kindergarten physical education objectives reflect the National Health Education Standards and the Virginia Standards of Learning.

Motor Skill Development
The student will demonstrate progress toward the mature form of selected locomotor, non-locomotor and manipulative skills to understand the various ways the body can move.
- Differentiate between walking, running, hopping, galloping and jumping
- Demonstrate bending, pushing, pulling, turning and balancing on one foot
- Demonstrate stationary manipulative skills for tossing and throwing underhand to targets, bounce and catch, toss and catch, kicking stationary ball to target, striking stationary object with paddle, dribbling, rolling ball underhand to target, trapping and volleying with hand
- Demonstrate moving to a beat and to rhythmic patterns using basic locomotor and non-locomotor rhythmic patterns
- Demonstrate moving: different directions and levels, different patterns and speeds
- Demonstrate jumping over a stationary rope and a self-turn single jump

Anatomical Basis of Movement
The student will identify basic structures of the body and basic spatial awareness concepts.
- Explain that the body has muscles and bones that help the body move
- Identify that the heart as a special muscle that helps the body move
- Explain that moving faster makes the heart beat faster
- Demonstrate the concept of personal space

Fitness Planning
The student will identify basic fitness concepts.
- Explain that physical activity helps the body grow
- Identify activities that can be done at home to keep the body healthy
- Identify physical activities that are done with family and with friends for fun
Social Development
The student will use appropriate behaviors and safe practices in physical activity settings.
- Demonstrate cooperative and safe play
- Demonstrate general and personal space
- Identify three classroom (procedural) rules

Energy Balance
The student will identify basic concepts of energy balance.
- Explain that food provides energy for movement
- Identify one fruit and one vegetable
- Explain that fruits and vegetables help the body keep moving

Technology
The kindergarten technology proficiencies offer children a variety of instructional technology experiences. All technology experiences are to be integrated into curricular activities, emphasizing the use of technology as a tool for learning.

Creativity and Innovation
- Create a picture to illustrate a concept or idea using a simple drawing/art program with various tools
- Create a simple graphic organizer, flow chart, character map, word web, story web, or cause and effect chart
- Interact with, create or contribute to developmentally appropriate multimedia products
- Interact with simulations to explore age-appropriate concepts

Communication and Collaboration
- Demonstrate the use of digital tools for communication (e.g., word processing, graphics software, etc.)
- Contribute to the creation of a collaborative, digital product

Research and Information Fluency
- Demonstrate an awareness of online resources as a source of information

Critical Thinking, Problem Solving and Decision Making
- Use electronic probes to gather data
- Use electronic tools to collect, organize and analyze data; solve problems; draw conclusions; and/or report results
- Utilize and access interactive digital games and simulations for construction of knowledge
- Utilize digital tools to plan, organize, manage and visually represent information and ideas

Digital Citizenship
- Comply with the school division’s Acceptable Use Policy by demonstrating the responsible and ethical use of technology systems and software
- Demonstrate an awareness of internet safety principles (i.e., do not share passwords; do not share your name, age or location while online; ask an adult before using the computer; tell an adult when you feel threatened or scared; be respectful when you are online; use the internet responsibly)
- Demonstrate the cooperative use of technology

Essential Information Literacy Skills (EILS)
The kindergarten Essential Information Literacy Skills (EILS) enhance student experiences for developing skills in information literacy, independent learning and social responsibilities.

These skills are achieved through the collaboration of the classroom teacher and the library media specialist (LMS).

Inquire, think critically and gain knowledge
- Recognize that the Library Media Center (LMC) has a variety of technology and print resources available
- Distinguish between fiction and nonfiction texts
- Understand that books are arranged in a special order with fiction arranged in alphabetical order by author’s last name and nonfiction arranged in numerical order by subject
- Identify and locate the parts of the book such as the title page, spine, call number, table of contents, glossary and index
- Collaborate with others to broaden and deepen understandings
Draw conclusions, make informed decisions, apply knowledge to new situations and create knowledge

- Use technology and other tools to create products demonstrating knowledge
- Collaborate with others to exchange ideas, develop new understandings, make decisions and solve problems

Share knowledge and participate ethically and productively as members of our democratic society

- Show social responsibility by working collaboratively with others
- Use writing and speaking skills to share knowledge with others
- Use technology and other tools to share knowledge with others
- Reflect on and evaluate the quality of the learning product
- Use the internet appropriately and safely as a means of personal and academic learning and the respectful exchange of ideas and products
- Comply with the school division’s Acceptable Use Policy

Pursue personal and aesthetic growth

- Read, listen and respond to a variety of literature
- Select and use appropriate books and other sources of information for personal growth and pleasure
- Demonstrate appropriate library behavior and etiquette

Music

The standards for Kindergarten General Music serve as the foundation for music instruction. Students are introduced to basic musical concepts through singing, playing instruments, listening and moving. Emphasis is placed on beginning musical knowledge, skills and understanding as performers, composers and listeners. Students investigate personal feelings and preferences evoked by musical experiences. Students participate in a music class each week that is taught by a music specialist.

The elementary music program incorporates the Virginia Standards of Learning for Music and the National Coalition for Core Arts Standards and reinforces instruction in specific core Standards of Learning.

Gifted

The school-based program for gifted education is grounded in the content of the regular curriculum but is differentiated, modified and expanded to provide appropriate learning challenges. Gifted resource teachers collaborate with and support kindergarten teachers in differentiation of curriculum and instruction for students. Opportunities are provided for students through whole group and small group instruction by the school’s gifted resource teacher to enhance creative, critical and logical thinking skills; to use problem solving strategies; to strengthen communication skills; and to enhance positive attitudes toward themselves and others. For further information, contact the Office of Programs for Exceptional Children at 263-1405.
Academic Support

Academic support programs are designed to strengthen and improve the achievement of students who would benefit from additional academic assistance. These programs are available to students in grades kindergarten through twelve. Academic support goals are established for eligible students, and student progress is monitored. For further information, call the principal of your child’s school.

Special Education

Special education is specially designed instruction, at no cost to the parent, to meet the needs of a student with a disability as described in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA) and the Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia. Through a process of identification, evaluation and eligibility determination, students determined to require special education and related services are provided instruction as delineated in the individualized education program (IEP).

The IEP is developed through a collaborative process between parents, teachers, administrators, other service providers and students, when appropriate. An IEP is implemented according to the agreed upon services once written parental consent is obtained. For further information about special education, the process and/or delivery of services, please contact the Parent Support and Information Center at 263-2066.

English as a Second Language

The kindergarten English as a second language (ESL) program supports grade-level language arts Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL).

The goal of the ESL program is to teach English to English learners so that they may acquire the language communication skills and the academic language necessary to participate successfully in the mainstream classroom. Instruction is designed to meet the needs of students at various levels of English proficiency. Language and culture taught in the ESL program reinforce skills and concepts taught in all areas of the standard curriculum. For further information concerning ESL, contact the Title III coordinator for English learners, Department of Teaching and Learning, at 263-1461.
MISSION STATEMENT

The Virginia Beach City Public Schools, in partnership with the entire community, will empower every student to become a life-long learner who is a responsible, productive and engaged citizen within the global community.

Aaron C. Spence, Ed.D., Superintendent

DEPARTMENT OF TEACHING AND LEARNING
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Notice of Non-Discrimination Policy

Virginia Beach City Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation/gender identity, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, disability, marital status, age, genetic information or veteran status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. School Board policies and regulations (including, but not limited to, Policies 2-33, 4-4, 4-6, 4-43, 5-7, 5-19, 5-20, 5-44, 6-7, 7-48, 7-49, 7-57 and Regulations 4-4.1, 4-4.2, 4-6.1, 4-43.1, 5-44.1, 7-11.1, 7-17.1 and 7-57.1) provide equal access to courses, programs, counseling services, physical education and athletic, vocational education, instructional materials and extracurricular activities.

To seek resolution of grievances resulting from alleged discrimination or to report violations of these policies, please contact the Title VI/Title IX Coordinator/Director of Student Leadership at (757) 263-2020, 1413 Laskin Road, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23451 (for student complaints) or the Section 504/ADA Coordinator/Chief Human Resources Officer at (757) 263-1133, 2512 George Mason Drive, Municipal Center, Building 6, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23456 (for employees or other citizens). Concerns about the application of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act should be addressed to the Section 504 Coordinator/Executive Director of Student Support Services at (757) 263-1980, 2512 George Mason Drive, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23456 or the Section 504 Coordinator at the student's school. For students who are eligible or suspected of being eligible for special education or related services under IDEA, please contact the Office of Programs for Exceptional Children at (757) 263-2400, Laskin Road Annex, 1413 Laskin Road, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23451.

Alternative formats of this publication which may include taped, Braille, or large print materials are available upon request for individuals with disabilities. Call or write the Department of Teaching and Learning, Virginia Beach City Public Schools, 2512 George Mason Drive, P.O. Box 6038, Virginia Beach, VA 23456-0038. Telephone 263-1070 (voice); fax 263-1424; 263-1240 (TDD).

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