

# Curriculum Overview

Curriculum in all of the kindergarten classrooms follows the Deer Valley Curriculum Guides & Common Core State Standards. Each classroom will travel different although intertwining paths to reach these goals. While our kindergarten team enjoys working and planning together, naturally, each teacher will do what reflects the individual needs and personalities of the students in the class. We will have a great year conquering new challenges together.

## **\*Procedures for the first day of school- Very Important-**

On the first day, please bring your child to the Flagpole Area- we will begin the year with a “Special Flagpole Ceremony” to welcome everyone back to school! After Flagpole you will say goodbye to your children and you can help us escort them to the Kinder Area. After the first day you will drop off your child at the Kinder Gate at 8:30 a.m. & they will recess with the other children until the teachers call the kids to line up outside their classroom. Please be aware- Teachers are not on duty until 8:30 a.m. - students can never be dropped off or on our playground until 8:30 a.m.. You may see them to the gate, please do not enter the playground, parents that are not volunteering that day are not allowed on our playground, this is for the safety of all children.

Children should place their backpack on the wall near the classroom that they will be entering at 8:45 a.m. then they should go and play on the playground until we call them all to line up at 8:45 a.m. We will say, very

loudly, “Everybody Line Up, Let’s Go”. If you would like to watch them play you need to exit the campus, back through the gate or office and walk around to the Kinder Area. Please do not linger by your child, we want them to know that Legend Springs is a lovely, safe place and they are going to have a wonderful day & your actions will help support your child. If you look scared, confused, concerned, worried, terrified, bewildered or Freaked Out! they will know and they will act accordingly. So, smile, give a hug and a kiss and tell them you’ll see them shortly and to have a great day! Your help is greatly appreciated by all of the Kinder Staff. We promise to treat your child like the special little guy or gal that we know they are and we will call you or e-mail you if there are any problems. Everyone on the Kinder Staff has had children that have been in Kindergarten and began school for the first time, we know how you are feeling and we will do our best to reassure you and your children that each day is going to be GREAT! Between the 3 teachers we have more than 50 years of experience so trust us when we say; Your children really are in good hands, we all love our jobs and can’t wait to see how much the children grow and learn this year!

\*Please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions document on the web site- this will also help to answer many of your questions.

## **Reading**

Children read when they are ready to read whether it be when they are 4,5 or 6. All of these ages are in the

norm. Your child will be involved in a variety of reading experiences, including whole-group, small group, shared and guided reading. In kindergarten we will teach letter recognition, letter sounds and letter formation using a phonemic approach. Our goal in kindergarten will be to get your student ready to read, not necessarily reading, although most will be reading by the end of the year. However, please remember that reading is a developmental skill and that each child develops that skill at their own pace. We will be sure to challenge each child at their level of reading development. We would really like to encourage you to read to and with your child each and every night. This is essential for your child's progress in reading.

\*\* Each year it becomes more and more clear to us how important reading each day is to every child. **To us, as teachers, it is painfully obvious which children do not get read to on a daily basis.**

We will be using the Scott Foresman Reading Street Materials for our Reading Program in Deer Valley.

## **Writing**

The children will have many opportunities to write in kindergarten. Writing activities help children to understand that the purpose of written language is to communicate meaning. One of the many writing experiences we will have in kindergarten is journal writing.

## **Handwriting**

Handwriting will be taught in conjunction with letter recognition and sounds. In order to give your child a

head start please teach them to write their name in both upper and lower case letters, i.e. Sue Smith During writing your child will be shown how to hold a pencil and how to use scissors correctly, please practice this at home too. If your child does not have a conventional pencil grip your child's teacher(s) may meet with you to encourage even more practice at home, the quicker we can get all children to hold the pencil correctly the more they will experience success this year.

## **Math**

We use the Scott Foresman-Addison Wesley enVisionMATH (©2009) Daily lessons provide a Visual Learning Bridge that teaches math concepts step-bystep with purposeful, sequential illustrations while connecting Interactive Learning with skill and problem solving practice. We use many manipulatives in our classrooms- pattern blocks, unifix cubes, geo boards, scales, dominoes, counters of various shapes and sizes, magnetic letters & numbers, linking cubes, dice etc. We will work on counting, comparing, addition, subtraction, composing & decomposing numbers, sorting, classifying, identifying numbers and reading number words, geometry and number concepts throughout the year.

## **Science**

We will be using the district adopted FOSS Science program. This program focuses on animals, trees, wood and paper. The program is a very hands on approach to teaching science. Due to the hands-on nature of this program, we will occasionally need volunteers to assist

with experiments and discovery.

\*A great portion of the Science Instruction will take place in the “blended” part of the Kindergarten day.

## **Social Studies**

In social studies we will explore and discuss the people and events honored in various national holidays. We will also emphasize placing familiar events in order of occurrence; like the days of the week, months of the year, birthdays, holidays and school events. We will also introduce some of the various national symbols; the national flag, the bald eagle, statue of liberty, the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem. We will also discuss the variety of work that people do in our community, important information about Arizona and the concept of making money and how this is used to purchase goods and services. These are all outcomes in the district curriculum guide for kindergarten. If you or your family have a special custom, tradition or celebrate a particular holiday that you would like to share with our classes please contact your child’s teacher.

\*Many of the Social Studies concepts will be taught during the “blended” or extended portion of the day.

## **Technology**

The children will be using technology on a regular basis. We will be teaching the children to use the computers both in the classroom and in the lab. We will be using the internet to enhance our instruction by exploring web sites that support our curriculum. We will also send information home to parents via e-mail and would like to

encourage parents to communicate with us through email also. The children will be learning to use a variety of software programs and apps. We will also be using iPads in the classrooms. The children will be using the iPads and we will keep you posted on what apps we are using so that you can use them at home also. If you'd like to volunteer to help us teach the children using the iPads just e-mail us- we'd love the extra hands and expertise. Also if you'd like to join us so that you can learn to use them alongside the children that would be great too!

### **Discipline Policy**

Classroom rules will be formed within each individual class during the first week of school. There will also be a school wide discipline policy that will be coming home with your child the first week of school.

We will continually review the classroom, playground and school rules. Please support your child in making good choices. If a student chooses to break a rule he/she will be encouraged to think about how to positively change their behavior and the following steps may be taken:

1. Redirection from the teacher
2. Verbal Warning- and possibly a "time out" to think about the behavior and then a chance to rejoin the activities -- If your child gets to this point your child's teacher will be speaking with you- in person if possible, when you arrive to pick up your child or we will e-mail you about the situation.
3. If a child can not behave in the classroom, even after the teacher has tried to help them behave in an appropriate manner, they may be taken to the office or

the principal may remove them from the classroom. If this were to occur you would be notified and asked to pick up your child and meet with the classroom teacher and or the principal before your child is permitted back into the kindergarten classroom.

### **Homework**

Homework in kindergarten will consist of reading with your child each and every day for a minimum of 15 minutes. Please set aside at least this much time each day to enjoy books with your child. Please read every day with your child, weekends too!

We will also begin sight word lists in Jan. and the directions will be sent home with your child in Jan. There will be a certificate and FREE book awarded to children that are able to complete all of the sight word lists this year.

**Readers Theater/ Plays-** We will also be doing some plays this year. When your child receives his/her script they will have a part to practice and they will need to read the script with you each night so that they are ready to perform when the time arrives. An e-mail will be sent home when the scripts are handed out.

### **Volunteers**

As parents you are always welcome to stop by and see what we are doing. We welcome help in our rooms and help with tasks like making books or xeroxing. If you would like to volunteer please let your teacher know what day is good for you. We will also need a homeroom parent to coordinate our class parties. We love to have

volunteers and we will be sending home a volunteer schedule each month to let you know your scheduled day. Keep in mind siblings are not permitted in the classrooms and the teachers really count on you to assist when you are scheduled.

\*Be sure you have filled out and turned in your volunteer form as soon as possible so that we may schedule volunteers and send home the first volunteer calendar the second week of school.

### **Toys**

Please help your child remember to leave toys at home by checking his/her backpack from time to time. This includes key chains, trinkets, stuffed animals, lip gloss, anti-bacterial gel and toys from McDonald's etc. When children bring toys from home the toys can become distracting and interfere with their learning & the children around them. **Toys are not allowed for the Share Bag.**

### **Clothing**

Please dress your child in appropriate clothing for school. Bare midriffs and spaghetti straps are not allowed. Closed toe shoes are best for our playground and flip flops are not allowed. Keep in mind that kindergarten children do lots of exploring and experimenting. For instance, the paint does not often come out of clothing! \*please do not send children to school in clothes that you would not want them to "PLAY" in. On picture day we will not paint or have any extended recess time. Please refer to the district web site for further discussion about appropriate dress for school.

## **Bathroom Issues**

Keep in mind that we are not able to redress your child after they use the restroom. Every child needs to be wearing clothes that they can put back on themselves after using the classroom restroom. Please speak with your child about using the restroom with the door closed and locked- it isn't nice for the entire class to watch your child in the bathroom. Some families often leave the bathroom door open but we can't do that at school so perhaps this is something you could practice at home so that they are more comfortable with this issue at school. The teachers will go over bathroom hygiene extensively the first couple of weeks at school but this would be a great thing for you to reinforce at home. We will go over putting the seat up first- for boys, flushing when you are done, washing your hands with soap and water and drying them off with a paper towel, All of this should be done with the door closed. We will also ask the boys to put the seat down when they are finished. \*It is important for the children to be neat and tidy in the bathroom as they are only cleaned at the end of the day.

## **Birthdays**

Birthdays are a special time and we would love to help your child celebrate their birthday. It would be appropriate for you to bring in small birthday treats, nothing homemade. Please do not bring in drinks and weather permitting we will enjoy the birthday snack outside in order to keep the room looking nice & bug free. Possible suggestions for treats: cookies, rice

crispy treats, fruit roll ups, brownies or doughnuts. Be sure whatever you bring in is all the same- ie all sprinkle doughnuts not a variety pack.

\*The store bought cupcakes with 2 inches of icing go to waste- they look great but the children do not eat them!

\*\*\*Peanuts- & other nuts- Please do not bring to school anything with NUTS- many children are highly allergic and can have a life threatening reaction even if they smell them or come into contact with someone who has just eaten something containing nuts. If you give your children peanut butter for breakfast please be sure they wash their hands and faces before coming to school so we can protect the children that may have allergies. We are concerned about all children; please try not to pack anything containing “nuts” in your child’s lunch also.

\*\*Note regarding party invites- if you are inviting everyone in the class you may pass them out in the cubbies- if not you will need to mail them so that no feelings are hurt and the teacher is not placed in a difficult position. You will get a class directory at the beginning of the year to make things easier. \* If you would like to volunteer to make the directory please e-mail your child’s teacher.

**\*\*Just to reiterate- unless you are inviting the entire class you will need to mail or e-mail party invites, they may not be handed out during the school day.**

Summer Birthdays will be recognized all together in May. If your child has a birthday between the end of school and the beginning of school you may send in treats on the “Summer Birthday Day” in May. (see important dates sheet)

## **Water Bottles**

Although we have drinking fountains in the classroom the children are free to bring in a water bottle with water only. Please have your child's name on the bottle as they will all be placed on the counter, by the sink, upon entering the classroom. Water bottles will not be allowed in the backpacks or cubbies as they will ruin any books or papers stored inside.

Please do not freeze your child's water bottle. One water bottle only please, a parent or teacher will re-fill their water bottle from the water coolers in the classrooms if they run out of water.

## **Transportation**

The notes below are mainly for children that are at Legend Springs until the end of the school day, 3:30 p.m. If your child is in A.M. Kinder only you may pick them up at the kinder gate at 11:30 a.m. each day. You must park in the parking lot or on one of the surrounding streets, you may not park in the bus lane near the curb as this area is for busses and daycare vans. Please help us keep your children safe by following the rules.

Below is for parents with children that get out of school at 3:30 p.m. Please read carefully.

\*For the first week of school - please pick up your child directly outside the kindergarten classroom.

If they go to the after school program at 3:25 or they ride the school bus/day care van we will have a Legend Springs Staff Member take them to their destination.

\*Children in kindergarten may not walk home or ride

their bike by themselves. If your child will be picked up by an older sibling at dismissal please have the sibling pick them up at the kindergarten classroom for the first week of school- they will not be able to do this after the first week though as Kinder heads to the parent pick-up area at 3:25 and the older children are not dismissed until 3:30. So, if after the first week, you want your older child to pick up your kindergarten student they will need to get them from the teachers at the parent pickup area near the basketball courts.

\*After the first week- Please notify me in writing of any changes in your child's transportation arrangement, e-mail is preferred. (be sure to e-mail the day before so that I have time to find out about your change in plans) You may still pick up your child from the Kinder Classroom if you arrive before 3:25. Just wait outside the Kinder Gate, near Mrs. Barbee's classroom and we will give your child to you before we head to the parent pick-up area. If you plan to have your child picked up instead of riding the bus, send a note to school with your child or e-mail the teacher ahead of time. If someone is picking up your child who normally does not pick up your child, please send a note or e-mail. No child will be allowed to change their mode of transportation without a note from you, an e-mail to me the day before or a call to our office. This is for your child's safety.

\*Remember sometimes teachers have substitutes- this is why if you e-mail a change you need to do it the day before- just in case we are not at school on the day your plans change. - Substitute teachers do not have access to our e-mail.

**\*\* Pick up Procedures after the first week- Please be sure anybody that is picking up your child has read all the information below. When a grandparent or other family member comes to the classroom after 3:23 and tries to pick up your child and realizes they are not there it causes a lot of anxiety/anger and frustration so please be sure you have relayed and gone over all of this information with them so we don't have any issues at dismissal.**

You may still pick up your child at the classroom, however, if you do not arrive before 3:23 or so we will be heading over to the "Parent Pick-up" area and you will need to meet your child there. We can not leave children in the classroom or on the playground to wait for you by themselves so please arrive on time if you'd like to pick them up before we go to the pickup area. \*If you arrive and we are already gone you will need to pick up your child at the parent pick-up area near the basketball courts.

If you decide you would like to pick up your child in the "Parent Pick-up" area please refer to the web site for directions & be sure to send in a note indicating the change.

\*If you arrive while we are walking to the parent pickup area please do not just take your child out of the line without making sure the child's teacher (or the teachers walking with the children) knows you are doing so. If we get to the "parent pick-up" area and we don't know that you took your child we will think they are lost and begin a search so you really need to let us know if you are taking your child after we have already left the kindergarten area.

A teacher will walk the child to the pick up area and stay with your child until you arrive. If you do not arrive by

3:40 and/or it's raining or very hot, we will take your child to the front office to wait for your arrival. When it's raining you will need to park and come into the office to get your child. We can not wait in the pick-up area with a large group of children in bad weather.

Likewise if it's really hot and the children are becoming over heated we will take them to the office to wait for you.

We realize this is a lot of information and we will try to cover it all during the Curriculum Night, however, please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns that you were unable to ask that night. Thanks again for your support. We are looking forward to a great year.

Legends Springs- 623-376-4500

or you can e-mail us at the following web addresses

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If you e-mail us we will get back with you as soon as possible, e-mail is the best way to contact us, please do not call the classroom or office and leave a message this is not effective. The only exception is transportation changes that come about at the spur of the moment- for this you will need to call the office and tell them you have to speak with us or tell them the change and let them know that we need the information immediately.