



Friends School Haverford Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum

Language Arts

In Pre-Kindergarten, we are committed to helping young learners develop pre-reading, pre-writing, listening, and speaking skills. We engage our students in meaningful hands-on experiences and expose them to a print and literature-rich environment. By experiencing language arts in an age-appropriate and valuable way, we believe that our students are motivated to see reading, writing, listening, and speaking as life-tools to unlock learning. We also provide small group lessons to work on alphabet skills, phonemic awareness, sound/letter correspondence, and fine motor skills. Pre-Kindergarten marks the first year of participation in the school-wide handwriting program, Handwriting Without Tears, with specific emphasis on the formation of uppercase alphabet letters.

Math

The Pre-Kindergarten math program provides hands-on, multi-sensory experiences for students to use mathematics as a tool to understand their surrounding world. We strive to make understanding the main goal rather than computation and memorization in order to help children gain a real and lasting understanding of numbers and their relationship to the world. To achieve this goal, we provide time for concrete exploration and experimentation through play as well as intentional experiences with math concepts (patterning, sorting, spatial relations, geometry, measurement, etc.). In addition, the weekly math question gives us an opportunity to meaningfully discuss numbers and their relationships to one another in a small group setting, allowing Pre-Kindergartners to further deepen their number sense.

Quaker Values

In the Pre-Kindergarten classroom, the Quaker values are exemplified in respect and attention to community, individuality, and peaceful understanding of one another and nature. We foster these ideas through the books we read, projects we complete, and the lessons we learn through interactive play. When conflicts arise, compromise is reached through communication and understanding of the other side, and teachers help lay down the framework to practice peaceful problem solving. The Pre-Kindergartners are introduced to "Meeting for Sharing," which is our classroom interpretation of Meeting for Worship, and they attend school Meeting on Grandfriends' Day as well as Holiday Meeting for Worship.

Social Studies

In Pre-Kindergarten, the subject of social studies unfolds around the Pre-Kindergartner's developing sense of self, family, and community. The school-wide essential question of "What is the imprint of our lives in the world?" becomes tangible to Pre-Kindergartners as they explore their relationships with classmates and consider their roles as caretakers of the Earth.

Art

During cooperative play, students independently explore a variety of art materials. Children are encouraged to explore, create, and try something new. Process is always valued over product. Pre-Kindergartners are working with crayons (rather than markers) in order to strengthen their hand muscles and foster the development of proper grip.

Library

Pre-Kindergartners visit the school library periodically throughout the year. Library time includes teacher read-alouds as well as independent time to look at books. A goal of the school's library program is for Pre-Kindergarten children to begin developing a sense of fiction versus nonfiction, question versus comment, and on-topic questions or comments (relating essentially to the story) versus off-topic.

Gross Motor Skills

Pre-Kindergartners have both indoor and outdoor opportunities to develop and strengthen their gross motor skills. Pre-Kindergarten students have P.E. class once a week led by a P.E. teacher. Students warm up, play various cooperative and organized games, and are usually given choice time at the end of class. Outside on the playground, students climb, run, move across the monkey bars, ride tricycles, pump on the swings, and dig in the sandbox. In addition, the Pre-Kindergarten class walks to Haverford College Campus once a week (weather permitting) to climb and run on "The Climbing Tree". This long walk experience each week helps to build stamina, and climbing on the low tree limbs offers opportunities to develop coordination and body strength.

Music

The Pre-Kindergarten music program exposes children to a variety of musical experiences. Children develop music competency skills (the ability to sing in tune and move independently to the beat of music), and build a repertoire of music and musical sounds.

Science

Exploration of the natural world and discovery are key elements to the Pre-Kindergarten science experience. Inquiry-based science guides Pre-Kindergartners work as they learn to care for the classroom pet, cultivate a classroom garden, explore physical properties, and observe various life cycles. Pre-Kindergartners are informally exposed to the scientific method: observing, hypothesizing, experimenting, collecting data, and discussing results.

Spanish

Spanish is seamlessly integrated into the Pre-Kindergarten classroom experience in meaningful ways. The students will learn vocabulary surrounding snack as well as a variety of other words, phrases, and songs.

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