



Kindergarten Curriculum Handbook

Lien Elementary School
Amery, Wisconsin
2023-2024

Dear Families,


Welcome to Kindergarten! We are looking forward to working with your child this year. This handbook will help you to better understand what your child will learn and experience each day at school.

Building a positive attitude about school and learning is one of the most valuable gifts a parent can give his/her child. Kindergarten is all about learning to love school!

We encourage you to contact us throughout the school year with any questions and concerns. We like to work as a team with children's families to create the best learning environment for each child!

Sincerely,
Amy Eastep
Jena Kaiser
Taylor Kreft
Christine Sjogren





Our Daily Schedule

- Drop off
- Recess (in winter months, please bring your child to school in all outdoor gear!)
- Breakfast
- Morning meeting
- Language Arts
- Snack
- Specials: Art, Library, Phy. Ed., Music, or Warrior Time
- Math
- Lunch
- Recess
- Writing
- Read, write, or rest
- Social Play
- Dismissal

We try to keep our schedule as consistent as possible to create firm routines in our classrooms. However, schedules are subject to change, as events/activities occur throughout the school year.

Is Your Child Ready for Kindergarten?

Lien Elementary teachers suggest the following list of readiness skills for success at the beginning of kindergarten. Children entering kindergarten need to be five years old by September 1st.

Reading Skills:

- ◇ Name the letters in their name, and be familiar with other letters
- ◇ Recognize that letters make sounds
- ◇ Be able to hear and say words that rhyme (i.e., bat and cat)
- ◇ Given a word, come up with a word that starts with the same sound (i.e., bear and ball)
- ◇ Be able to name objects or pictures of objects
- ◇ Be able to listen while a story is read

Fine Motor:

- ◇ Hold a pencil correctly
- ◇ Use scissors to cut, using correct grip
- ◇ Trace lines and shapes

Math Skills:

- ◇ Know 10 basic colors: (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, black, brown, white, pink)
- ◇ Know 4 basic shapes (circle, square, triangle, rectangle)
- ◇ Match pictures
- ◇ Count objects to ten
- ◇ Sort objects into similar groups such as by color, shape, or size

Writing:

- ◇ Have experience using crayons, markers, and pencils with correct grip
- ◇ Practice writing letters from the TOP down
- ◇ Draw simple pictures
- ◇ Be able to write their name starting with a capital letter

Social Skills:

- ◇ Take turns and wait for others
- ◇ Follow simple directions
- ◇ Independently use the bathroom
- ◇ Independently put on outdoor clothing
- ◇ Sit and listen to someone read a story for 5-10 minutes
- ◇ Use kind words and actions
- ◇ Manage emotions with support
- ◇ Complete short tasks independently
- ◇ Express needs & ask for help when necessary





How to encourage learning at home:

I. LEARNING IS MOTIVATED BY SUCCESS

You cannot **force** learning.

Scolding and anxiety only turn off the desire to learn.

Praise and encouragement promote the desire to learn more.

Children learn best when tasks are presented in a game-like situation.

Give the child tasks at which he/she can succeed about 75% of the time.

Give the child challenging tasks about 25% of the time

II. LEARNING OCCURS AT DIFFERENT RATES

Each child must learn at his/her own pace.

Give your child all the time he/she needs to master each step.

Everyone is different. Avoid comparisons with other children.

Learning rates vary in the same child. Your child may move quickly through some learning tasks -- get stuck with other learning tasks. He/she will perform differently at different times.

Everyone continues to learn throughout his/her entire lifetime.

How far anyone goes depends largely on the success he/she met in the past.

Success leads to self-confidence. Self-confidence enables one to continue to learn.

III. LEARNING IS CUMULATIVE

Learning is based on what is already known.

Introduce each new step slowly.

Do not move on to more difficult levels until he/she succeeded at the preceding tasks.

If a task is too hard, break it down into small, easy steps. Give help when needed, praise the child as he/she develops independence and self-reliance.

Be **very patient**.

IV. LEARNING REQUIRES PRACTICE

Frequent, short practice periods are more effective than long sessions once or twice a week.

Make use of all the opportunities in everyday living to provide continuous practice in skills your child is mastering.

Talk to your child constantly and listen to him/her attentively as you go about your daily tasks.

Kindergarten Reading and Writing Curriculums

Lien Elementary School has adopted the HMH Into Reading curriculum. We will go through 8 different modules, using a mix of read alouds, discussion questions, and other activities to dig deeper into each topic. We also focus on phonemic and phonological awareness daily using our reading curriculum and Heggerty. These practices allow students to begin reading 'decodable books.'

HMH Reading Modules:

- Module 1: Curious about Kindergarten
- Module 2: There's Only One Me
- Module 3: My Community Heroes
- Module 4: Happy Healthy Me
- Module 5: I Can Do It
- Module 6: Home of the Free and the Brave
- Module 7: Zoom In
- Module 8: From Plant to Plate
- Module 9: Animal Habitats

Kindergarteners are also placed in targeted small groups to focus on reading skills at their level. They work collaboratively with other students and teachers to master essential reading skills.

Amery Kindergarteners will learn how to write using the Tara West Writing Curriculum. Before students begin writing, students will learn how to draw pictures using details and labels. We will slowly begin adding words and sentences to our pictures, using phonemic spelling and high frequency words. Students will write a narrative, an informational piece, and an opinion piece.

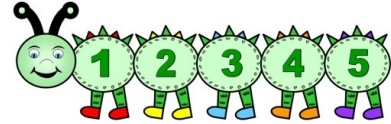


Kindergarten Math Curriculum

Lien Elementary School's uses the Math Expressions by HMH. This curriculum is composed of five units which are aligned with the Common Core Standards. Below is a brief summary of those units.

Unit 1 -

- Children learn to write numbers 1-10, and make drawings to represent numbers.
- Children identify and draw circles, squares and rectangles and sort by attributes.
- Addition and subtraction within 5 is introduced and numbers through 10 are compared.



Unit 2 -

- Children build on their knowledge of numbers 1-10 and understand the numbers 6-10 as composed of a 5 group and some ones.
- Children learn about attributes of triangles and hexagons.

Unit 3 -

- Children deepen their understanding of addition and subtraction by telling and solving story problems and show expressions to represent a problem.
- Children develop counting and cardinal skills for numbers 11-20 and show teen numbers as a ten group and some ones.

Unit 4 -

- Children continue to develop skills with addition and subtraction, telling story problems and representing them with drawings, expressions and equations.
- Children decompose numbers within 10 to find partners.
- Children identify, describe and name 3 dimensional shapes including cones, cubes, cylinders and spheres.

Unit 5 -

- Children deepen understanding of addition and subtraction to 10 by solving story problems.
- Children will compare groups and numerals.
- Children will print numerals to 100.
- Children are introduced to measurable attributes of length, height, weight, and capacity.

Kindergarten Technology

As a part of the kindergarten curriculum, your child will be exposed to a variety of technology including Chromebooks, interactive whiteboards, etc. We use apps such as Dreambox, Waggle, Lexia, and Teach Your Monster to Read to enhance student learning. A variety of software is integrated into the technology providing opportunities for the learner to advance their skills in all curricular areas.



Kindergarten Science Curriculum

Beginning in Kindergarten, your child will learn about the world of science, primarily through activities and personal experience. Key areas are developed within our classroom themes. We also use Mystery Doug to dig deeper into science topics and to guide our discussions. You might want to try these activities at home:

- Encourage your child to make "collections".
- Visit museums and zoos. Explain their importance.
- Make science a part of your vacation: look for fossils, visit caves, collect shells.
- Build a bird feeder and hang it in your backyard.
- Provide your child with a small garden to plant and tend vegetables and/or flowers.

Kindergarten Social Studies Curriculum

Kindergarten social studies revolves around a child's sense of identity and everyday experiences. Through daily conversations, students will discuss themselves and their families, learn about their communities, transportation, farms, communication, weather and seasons. Here's what you can do at home now:

- Talk about names. Why was your child's name chosen? Help your child learn his/her full name.
- Cut out magazine pictures of children doing things or expressing feelings. Talk about them.
- Look through your child's baby book or help your child make a scrapbook about himself/herself. Observe the changes since he/she was a baby.
- Take a barefoot walk around the house and talk about the different "foot feelings".
- Help your child listen to the different sounds you can hear around the house.
- Discuss the weather forecast from the newspaper or television or draw a picture of the weather each day on a calendar.
- Visit the fire department, police station, post office, and library. Explain their importance.



Specials

Lien Elementary Schoolers are exposed to a variety of other subject areas, as they go to a specialist class daily.

Music

Students will go to music twice a week to enjoy singing and learning rhythms. Students will also perform in a kindergarten concert. At home you can:

- Ask your child to teach songs to the family.
- Listen to and talk about different kinds of music and musical instruments.
- Choose objects for your child to tap, so he/she can hear different sounds and rhythms.

Art

Students will participate in art class once a week. In school as well as at home, art activities allow your child to be creative, express ideas and learn to control small muscles.

- Provide materials for your child to color, paste and cut with a scissors.
- Show your child how to draw basic shapes and then turn them into objects. For instance: A triangle on a square looks like a house.
- Allow for exploration -- not always a finished product.
- Display your child's work.

Library Checkout

Students will go to the library once a week to explore through a wide variety of books and to learn how to look for books in a library. Students will also have the opportunity to checkout books to bring home to read! Please return promptly each week so students have the opportunity to do it again!

Physical Education

Students will go to gym two times a week to participate in simple exercises, play organized games, and discover different ways the body can move. Good health habits will be emphasized. At home you can:

- Run, hop, skip, jump, throw and catch with your child.
- Give your child opportunities to play with groups of children. Encourage your child to share toys and games.
- Help your child learn good health habits, such as washing hands and brushing teeth.

Warrior Time

Students will attend Warrior Time once a week. During selected Warrior Time classes, a guidance lesson will be given. The school counselors will emphasize the prevention of problems by providing students with age appropriate skills and information. Lessons will be taught using a variety of evidence based curriculum and other resources. Individual counseling is offered at the parent's request or when needed. Student support groups may include social skills, family change, emotion management, and anti-bullying. Parents may also ask for help in making connections with community resources.

Library Skills

Students will go to library skills once a week. They will learn about a variety of fun topics. They will dive into author studies, they will learn how to code, play with manipulatives, and explore in an engaging classroom environment.

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