

Niles Adventist School

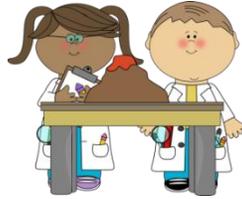
KINDERGARTEN



Handbook

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Curriculum Highlights



The Kindergarten curriculum is called Stepping Stones. This curriculum was developed by Adventist early education teachers and is unique to our beliefs and philosophy for the young learner. It covers all the subject areas in thematic units which include: Off We Go!, Let's Be Friends, Who's My Neighbor?, Deep in the Forest, Giving Gifts, We Are Family, Brrr! It's Cold, Wonderfully Made, Moving On, and I'm on a Mission.

KEY AREAS OF ACADEMIC FOCUS

BIBLE: Monthly themes, Bible stories, weekly memory verses, crafts, listening to music including classic hymns and praise songs

LANGUAGE ARTS: Handwriting, phonemic awareness activities, letter sounds, weekly sight words, word families, writing, speaking, listening, read-alouds, shared reading, comprehension skills, vocabulary, rhyming words, color words, opposites, beginning sounds, ending sounds, sounding out short words, reading

MATH: Sorting, classifying, patterning, sequencing, subitizing, shapes, measurement, writing numbers 1-20, counting to 100, ten frames, place value, addition, subtraction, story problems, months of year, days of week, counting by 2's, 5's and 10's, graphing, estimating, money, time, fractions

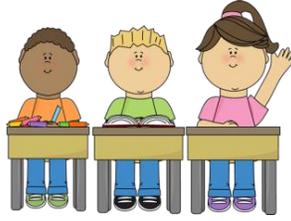
CENTERS: There are six main center areas where students may choose to play. Within each center, students will find numerous options, with new materials added throughout the year. Our six center areas are:

Building Center	Construction blocks, Duplos, waffle blocks
Art Table	Art materials, coloring pages, stickers
Library	Books, literacy games, listening station
Dramatic Play	Loft, dollhouse, kitchen
Theme Area	Games, puzzles, and activities related to our monthly theme
Math & Technology	Math manipulatives, iPads

BASIC SKILLS: Treating others with kindness, following directions, listening, cutting, pasting, coloring, tidiness, cleaning up

PLUS WEEKLY ART AND MUSIC!

Classroom Management



Our classroom rules are centered on respect for God, each other, and ourselves. Rules are stated in a positive way so that students know what behaviors are expected of them. We discuss each rule and its importance. Students know what each rule “looks like” and have practiced following them.

OUR CLASSROOM RULES:

1. We follow directions quickly.
2. We respect people and their things.
3. We keep hands, feet, and things to ourselves.
4. We listen when someone is speaking.
5. We work and play quietly.
6. We raise our hand and wait to be called on.

MANAGEMENT PLAN:

I use a proactive approach to classroom management that builds its base on clear expectations and an active, student-centered environment. When students know what is expected and are engaged in learning, they are less likely to act out. Kindergarteners are encouraged to make appropriate behavior choices through positive reinforcement such as “thumbs up” and words of affirmation. Students who are making inappropriate choices are guided to make better decisions through nonverbal reminders such as eye contact, verbal reminders, and redirection.

DISCIPLINE PLAN:

I will talk with students who continue to make poor choices and we will develop a plan for improvement, including logical consequences and practice of the desired behavior. Parents will be notified and involved if inappropriate behavior continues. Should the problem continue or in serious cases, the principal will be notified and involved.

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL LEARNING:

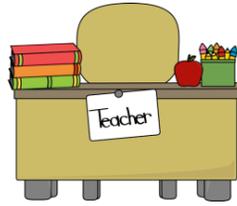
We will be using a child-friendly social/emotional learning curriculum to help students learn and practice common social skills. We will focus on helping students develop positive relationships with their peers, understand and process emotions, problem-solve when conflicts arise, regulate their behavior, persist in difficult challenges, and practice responsibility.

Our Kindergarten Day



Time	Activity	We Are Learning
8:00–8:20	Morning Bins	Students greet each other and practice fine motor, language arts, and math skills through hands-on activities.
8:20–8:45	Worship/Bible	We listen to Bible stories, engage in interactive activities to reinforce the Bible story, memorize Bible verses, and pray.
8:45–8:55	AM Routine	Students learn phonics, sight words, and math concepts through poems, games, and activities.
8:55–9:25	Math	Students learn math concepts through a more in-depth lesson and time for individual, hands-on practice.
9:25–9:55	Recess	Students are given an opportunity for unstructured free-choice supervised play which will typically occur outdoors.
10:00–10:15	Theme Time	We enjoy stories and activities related to our theme. Science, social studies, comprehension, and vocabulary concepts are taught in the context of our theme.
10:15–10:45	Language Arts	Students learn pre-reading and reading skills through a systematic phonics approach and hands-on practice.
10:45–11:15	Choice Time	Students practice social skills as they carefully interact with classmates in free-choice play in a variety of classroom centers.
11:15–11:30	Clean-up/ Closing Circle	Students learn to work cooperatively to clean up and take responsibility for their classroom. We end the day by focusing on social/emotional learning and with prayer.

Policies and Procedures



ABSENCES

Please text/email me or let the school office know when your child is sick. Note that when your child is absent I will put the work they missed in their Thursday folder so that you can complete it at home. You do not need to return this work to school, unless noted.

ATTENDANCE

Please help your child arrive at school on time. Getting to school 5-10 minutes before the official start time of 8:15 a.m. is ideal as it gives your child time to put their jacket away and enter the classroom and get settled. When your child arrives, they will greet the teacher and begin their assigned task. Arriving early also gives your child an opportunity to use the restroom and get a drink before our school day begins.

BIRTHDAYS

We love to celebrate birthdays in our room! Students are welcome to bring a pre-packaged store-bought treat to share with their classmates on their special day. Please let me know when you would like to celebrate your child's birthday in the classroom. Those with summer birthdays may pick an "un-birthday" or "half birthday" date during the year to celebrate their birthday in the classroom. If your child has a food allergy, please let me know and we can make arrangements to keep safe options available for them. Please note that if you plan to send party invitations via the school, please be sure to include all classmates.



BOOK ORDERS

From time to time, book order forms will be sent home. To order books, register at www.scholastic.com with our class activation code of L4NRF and pay on-line with a credit card. If you prefer, you may write a personal check to me and I will place your order. Books will be delivered to the school and I will send them home with your child, unless you want me to give them directly to you. Please use your discretion when selecting books to order as not all books are supportive of Christian values.

COMMUNICATION

Close communication between parents and the teacher is essential. I realize that it is not always possible to get together or talk during the school day. If anything comes up, please don't hesitate to write a note, e-mail, text, or call me.

During the school day, I am not always able to respond to texts and emails immediately so if you have an urgent matter please call the school office at 269-683-5444.

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

Please familiarize yourself with the school's COVID-19 Preparedness Plan. We are asking all families to monitor their child's temperature each morning. Please keep your child at home if they are sick or experiencing any COVID symptoms. We will be paying extra attention to hygiene and disinfection of surfaces and materials in our classroom. While masks are not required in the classroom, we are encouraging them.

DISMISSAL/PICK-UP

Please be prompt in picking up your child. Dismissal time is 11:30 a.m. On days when NAS has half-days and dismisses at noon, we will also dismiss at noon.

When picking up your child, you may pull up to the front of the school and your child will walk to your vehicle.

FOOD ALLERGIES

Please let me know if your child has a food allergy. You are welcome to send in a stash of safe snacks for your child for times when we may have an occasional treat or activity in the classroom that involves food.

HIGH-FREQUENCY WORDS

The more words students can recognize the easier reading will be for them. After the first month of school, each week I introduce 1-2 words that show up frequently in written material that students are expected to learn. Some of these students will be able to sound out while others do not follow conventional spelling rules and will need to be memorized. There are ideas of fun ways to study them posted on the Kindergarten page on the school website.

HOMEWORK

Family time is important and I want your child to have time to play, so I do not assign homework. It is beneficial if you plan on spending some time each week practicing high-frequency words and letter recognition.

I also highly recommend that each child spend time (a minimum of fifteen minutes five days a week is suggested) reading or being read to at home. This could be in the form of a "read-aloud" book that you read with your child, a special book the child has selected, a book with cd, a children's magazine such as "Ranger Rick Jr.", or any other printed material. Research shows that children who are read to become better readers and achieve more in school.



KINDERGARTEN/KINDERGARTEN +

Each child develops at their own rate. Some children will benefit from an extra year in Kindergarten before the rigors of first grade. Giving your child the gift of time will help them experience success! Remember, childhood is a journey, not a race. We are very blessed to have a two-year Kindergarten option for families. Kindergarten + reviews and builds on skills learned in Kindergarten and gives students an extra year before entering first grade. Thematic focuses change from year-to-year to give variety for students who are in the classroom for two years.

MEMORY VERSES

We have a weekly memory verse that we learn and practice in class. Students are not tested on these verses formally, but I include the memory verse in our weekly newsletter so that you can know what we are learning.

MUSIC PERFORMANCES

Students are given opportunities to perform throughout the school year. This year we are unsure of how or if this can occur. If it does, students are asked to wear black and white dress clothes for music performances, unless otherwise notified by our music teacher.

ONE HUNDRED DAY COLLECTION



Celebrating the 100th day of school is a BIG deal in Kindergarten. As part of our celebration, each student will bring a collection of 100 items. This can be as simple or as elaborate as you wish, but I wanted to let you know early so you can plan for this. The 100th day of school usually falls sometime in February.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

We'd love for you to consider sharing your time and talents with our class. A form with volunteer opportunities will be given to you. Please note that these are things that can be done at home. I always happily welcome extra hands for cutting things and helping prepare special projects

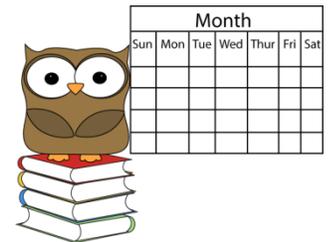
PRAYER

Thank you for keeping our class in your prayers! God loves each one of these children so much more than we do and we want to give Him permission to work in their hearts and lives.

READING CALENDARS

Each month a reading log will come home with your child. Your child can color an object for each book read (or for a certain length of time spent reading) and return it. Reading with your child is one of the best ways you can help ensure their academic success!

During the months of October through March, we will participate in the Pizza Hut Book-It program which rewards students who meet their monthly reading goals with a certificate for a personal pan pizza. I will provide an alternative reward for students who are gluten or dairy sensitive. During the months of September and April there will be a different award. Because of the busyness of May, we will not have a reading calendar for that month. *Please note that students at this level will mostly likely be read to, rather than doing the reading on their own.*



THURSDAY FOLDERS

Each week, on Thursday, a folder will come home with important information from the classroom as well as the office. If your child does not come home with a folder, please ask for it. I will always let you know if for some reason a folder is not sent home on a Thursday.

Please take a few moments each week to review the folder. It will contain completed school work which you may keep, the weekly school newsletter (News Around School), our classroom newsletter, and other pertinent information. Please return the empty folder on Friday or Monday morning.

TOYS

Thank you for keeping toys and personal items at home. We want to encourage an academic environment and prevent toys from getting lost or being broken. Toys will not be allowed in the classroom or during recess/free choice time.

WATER BOTTLES

Your child is asked to bring a water bottle to school. Water bottles should be labeled with your child's name. I will send them home to be filled and cleaned.

WEBSITE

Our school's website is: www.nilesadventistschool.org. There is a Kindergarten/Kindergarten+ page on it. I always keep a list of our high-frequency words and ways to study them on the page. Additional helpful material can be found on our page as well.

WISH LIST

I keep a class wish list on Amazon, <http://a.co/02gHGR6>. Please don't ever feel obligated to use these lists, but they are there as I have had families wish to purchase something for our class.

*Thanks for sharing your wonderful children with me! It is truly
my honor and privilege to teach them!*



STUDENT INFORMATION

Please help me get to know your child better.

Child's Name: _____ Nickname (if any): _____

Family members at home: _____

Favorite things to do as a family: _____

My child likes to: _____

My child is good at: _____

Allergies I should know about: _____

Does your child read on his/her own? _____ How high can your child count? _____

Favorite type of books: _____

Academically or socially, I would like to see my child work on: _____

Is there anything else I should know about your child? _____



I'D LOVE TO HELP!

Many hands make light work! Please check any activities that you would be interested in helping with. Thank you so much!

- Send home work for me to do. I can color, cut, glue, staple, and organize work for the class.
- I'm interested in helping plan a virtual field trip.
- I'm able to help give the classroom a thorough cleaning once a quarter.
- I'd like to send in a treat for seasonal parties.
- I'd like to plan a craft for seasonal parties.
- Other: _____

Name: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Preferred method of contact: _____ Home Phone _____ Text _____ Cell _____ E-mail