

Niles Adventist School

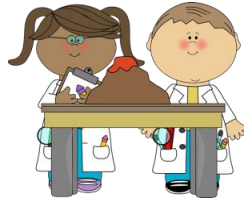
KINDERGARTEN



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, lots of songs 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 and subtraction, story problems, months of year, days of week, counting by 2's, 5's and 10's, graphing, estimating, money, time, fractions

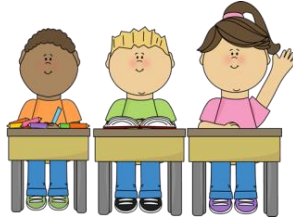
CENTERS: There are six main center areas where students may choose to play. Within each center, students will find numerous options, with new materials added throughout the year. Our six center areas are:

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, sharing, 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 smiles and words of affirmation. Students who are making inappropriate choices are guided to make better decisions through nonverbal reminders such as proximity, 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:

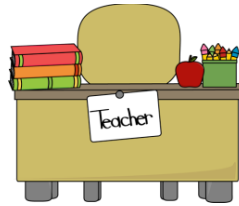
We will be using a child-friendly social/emotional learning curriculum to help students learn and practice common social skills. We will focus on helping students develop positive relationships with their peers, understand and process emotions, problem-solve when conflicts arise, regulate their behavior,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

Our Kindergarten Day



Time	Activity	We Are Learning
8:00–8:20	Morning Bins	Students practice fine motor skills and review math and language arts skills with hands-on activities with classmates. This is a time for greeting each other and settling in for the day.
8:20–8:45	Worship/Bible	We sing songs, listen to Bible stories, engage in interactive activities to reinforce the Bible story, memorize Bible verses, and pray.
8:45–9:05	AM Routine	Students learn phonics, sight words, and math concepts through songs, poems, games, and activities.
9:05–9:30	Language Arts/Math	Students continue learning phonics and math concepts through a more in-depth lesson and time for individual, hands-on practice.
9:30–9:50	Recess	Students are given an opportunity for outdoor or indoor interactive, unstructured free-choice supervised play.
9:50–10:10	Theme Story	We enjoy stories and activities related to our theme. Science, social studies, comprehension, and vocabulary concepts are taught in the context of our theme.
10:10–10:45	Writers' Workshop	The teacher will provide writing lessons that will guide the students as they make meaning in their drawing and writing.
10:45–11:15	Choice Time/ Reading Groups	Students practice social skills as they interact with classmates in free-choice play in a variety of classroom centers. This also allows time for the teacher to provide reading instruction to small groups.
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.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

We are pleased to offer an After School Care program this year. Care is available until 4:30 p.m. each day. From 11:30-3:00 students will be supervised in the Kindergarten classroom with their classmates and from 3:00-4:30 they will be in the gym or outdoors with the rest of the students. After School Care is charged at \$3.00 an hour and billed in half-hour increments.

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, indicate if they are going home at 11:30 or staying for After School Care. If they are staying for After School Care, they will indicate their lunch choice by putting their "apple" in the correct place, 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.

BAKE SALES

The 8th graders hold bake sales to raise funds for their class trip approximately every other Friday—sale dates are posted in the school newsletter. Items are usually priced at 50 cents. When you pick up your child at 11:30 you are welcome to take your child to visit the bake sale and make purchases. Students who stay for After School Care will be given an opportunity to purchase items.

BIRTHDAYS

We love to celebrate birthdays in our room! Students are welcome to bring in a 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. We have ten students in our class. 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 immediately so *if you have an urgent matter please call the school office at 269-683-5444.*

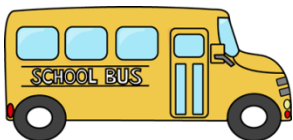
DISMISSAL/PICK-UP

Please be prompt in picking up your child. Dismissal time is 11:30 a.m. Students who are not picked up by 11:40 p.m. will enter After School Care which costs \$3 per hour and is billed in half hour increments. On days when NAS has half-days and dismisses at noon, we will also dismiss at noon. No After School Care is provided on half days.

When picking up your child, you can pull up to the front of the school and your child will walk to your vehicle or you may park and pick your child up inside, but please wait to take your child until the students are lined up by the front door. Students are to let a teacher or staff member know when they leave.

Students who attend After School Care until 3:00 p.m. will be waiting outside directly in front of the school with the other students. Parents can drive up and your child will walk to your car. If you are picking up your child between 12:00-3:00 p.m. or after 3:10 p.m. you will need to park and come into the school to sign out your child.

FIELD TRIPS



A variety of field trips will be taking place throughout the year. For field trips involving the whole school (such as our annual winter tubing trip), we generally use the school bus. For field trips involving our class, we rely on parents to drive. Your willingness to chaperone during them will be appreciated. The office will need a copy of your auto insurance for you to drive and certain insurance coverage limits are required. Please note that if we are traveling by personal vehicles your child will need a car seat. When we travel on the bus, car seats are not needed.

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. Each week I introduce 1-2 words that show up frequently in written material that students are expected to learn. Many 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 on the Kindergarten page of 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 on tape, 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.

LUNCH COUNT

Each morning students who are staying for After School Care will be asked whether they are purchasing hot lunch from the school or eating a cold lunch packed by you. Please make sure your child knows whether they are getting hot lunch or cold lunch. If they are getting hot lunch, they will need to have the money to hand to me (\$3.00) or a lunch card already purchased through the office. If your child frequently gets hot lunch, you will probably find it more convenient to purchase a lunch card. A card costs \$24 and provides 8 meals.

Please note that our hot lunch program runs Monday through Thursday. On Fridays, students should plan on bringing their own lunch. Mrs. Kidder will sell snack items, such as chips and drinks, from her classroom on Friday, but there will not be a complete meal offered so you will want to send a lunch for your child. Please note that we do have a microwave in our classroom so food items can be reheated.

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. Students are asked to wear black and white dress clothes for music performances, unless otherwise notified by our music teacher. There is typically a Christmas concert and Spring concert. Additionally, each class performs special music for one of the church services at some point during the year. Our class typically performs in the fall.

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 there are a number of things that can be done at home if it doesn't work for you to help in the classroom. I always happily welcome extra hands for cutting things out and helping prepare special projects! I also welcome any photos you take throughout the school year of our class events. I'd love for you to e-mail them to me so I can use them in our end-of-the-year slide show.

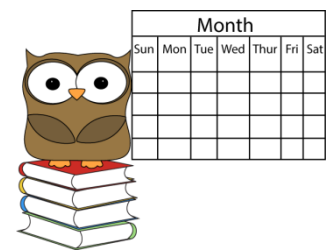
PRAYER

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 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 or check their locker. 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 welcome to bring a water bottle to school. Water bottles should be labeled with your child's name and will be kept on the sink counter. I will send them home periodically to be 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 outside of our classroom door as well as on Amazon, <http://a.co/02gHGR6>. Please don't ever feel obligated to use these lists, but they are there for those who might wish to pick up 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: _____

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.
- If scheduled in advance I'd love to come in and read to the class.
- I'm interested in chaperoning on field trips.
- I'm interested in helping plan a 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.
- I'd like to do a bulletin board in the hallway.
- Other: _____

Name: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

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