

# Junior Kindergarten



**The bridge between preschool and kindergarten  
for the young five-year-old**

# Tonight's Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Logistics
- What is Junior Kindergarten (JK)?
- How do I know if JK is right for my child?
- Meet the Teacher
- Questions
- Central Enrollment


# Goals for a JK student

(child turns 5 between June and Dec 1)

- Play collaboratively
- Build attention span & stamina
- Increase fine motor
- Promote independence
- Develop social & emotional skills & conflict resolution



# The Purpose of Junior Kindergarten

- **Prepare** – To **prepare** young students for kindergarten.
- **Pace** - To **pace** a curriculum that progressively reinforces and expands early academic skills.
- **Provide** - To **provide** age appropriate instruction that supports their development in the areas of social/emotional development and independence.
- **Promote** – To **promote, empower, and inspire** confident learners and leaders with a **love of school.** 

# Junior Kindergarten

## Questions we have been asked.....

1. What makes JK unique?
2. How is JK different from 4 year old preschool and kindergarten?
3. What does the daily schedule/classroom instruction look like?



# What makes Junior Kindergarten unique?

- JK allows for another year prior to kindergarten for children to develop pre-learner and social skills
- JK has a specifically designed curriculum to promote success and achievement in kindergarten
- JK nurtures both students with preschool experience and those with no prior preschool experience
- JK encourages the integration of students from neighboring districts that may not provide a young 5's program



# How is JK different from 4 year old preschool and kindergarten?

- JK is specifically designed to promote social growth, encourage personal independence and to teach skills that are developmentally appropriate.
- JK teachers provide direct instruction in early academic skills that are required for success in kindergarten.
- Instruction is paced appropriately to ensure that children have a chance to develop automaticity of essential concepts and skills

# How is JK different from 4 year old preschool and kindergarten?

- JK provides young 5's with the opportunity to interact socially throughout the day. This is done through facilitated play, small and large group instruction and social/behavioral instruction.
- JK directly teaches *pre-learner* skills and gives children the time to practice and develop the behaviors of listening, sitting, waiting, accepting disappointment, taking turns and transitioning.





# What does the daily schedule/classroom instruction look like?



# First Semester

## JK reinforces *Pre-Learning skills*

- Waiting turn/self regulation
- Attending to and participating in activities
- Transitioning within and outside of the classroom
- Following multi-step directions
- Being responsible for own belongings
- Building stamina
- Follows school and classroom rules and routines



# Components of a Daily Routine

## Semester 1

### Each Day will include...

- **Breakfast** (optional)
- **Greeting Time** (morning meeting)
- **Small Group** (math, science, fine motor/writing and literacy hands-on activities)
- **Book Look**
- **Choice Time** (facilitated play activities that *develop* pre-learning skills for students who have had no school experience and *reinforce* pre-learning skills for students with some preschool experience)
- **Large Group Instruction**
- **Lunch/Recess**
- **Rest Time** (35 mins)
- **Read Aloud**
- **Large Group** (Phonemic awareness, Oral language)
- **Outdoor/Physical Activity**
- **Snack**
- **Specials:** 2 music, art, physical education, library, computers
- **Recall** (Review of the day and a peek at tomorrow)

# Second Semester

**JK reinforces Pre-Learning and Academic skills to expand on kindergarten readiness**

- Staying on a task through completion
- Expanding attention span
- Listening and responding appropriately to peers during discussions
- Learning the basics of the workshop model
- Literacy, letters and numbers, early math skills

# Components of a Daily Routine

## Semester 2

### Each Day will include...

- **Breakfast**
- **Greeting time**
- **Small group** (extended time)
- **Book Look** (intro to reader's workshop)
- **Choice time** (develop play skills and enhance social skills)
- **Large group** (extended time)
- **Lunch/Recess**
- **Rest Time** (if needed)
- **Read aloud**
- **Large group** (intro to writer's workshop, math instruction)
- **Outdoor/Physical Activity**
- **Snack**
- **Specials:** 2 music, art, physical education, library, computers
- **Recall** (Review the days events, a peek at tomorrow)

# Social Emotional Learning

- Recognize and use words to describe ones own emotions
- Manage emotions and behaviors
- Show understanding and empathy for others
- Make ethical choices about personal social behavior
- Form positive relationships and deal effectively with conflict



# *The social skills that have been identified as essential for academic success include:*

- ❖ Getting along with others
- ❖ Following directions
- ❖ Identifying and regulating
- ❖ Thinking of solutions to conflict
- ❖ Stamina and perseverance
- ❖ Engaging in cooperative play
- ❖ Correctly interpreting other's emotions/behavior



# Application/Enrollment Process

Application to Central Enrollment with other necessary information...

- Be in touch with placement later in the Spring
- Follow up conversations as necessary
- Meet and Greet in August



