Nishuane School
‘What to expect when your child enters KINDERGARTEN’

Nishuane School
August 2022
Welcome to Kindergarten!

Introduction

• We are a diverse and dedicated group of educators that have committed to the social and academic development of the students under our tutelage.

• Nishuane School’s youngest population is embraced with a positive, nurturing environment with a strong emphasis on a school/family partnership.

• Children benefit from an alliance between school and home. Parents are encouraged to join the PTA (Parent-Teacher Association) and attend Back to school night to learn about the friends and atmosphere in your child’s classroom.
The students have an extremely busy day. They are completing a variety of activities in the classroom as well as going to related arts classes throughout the school.

The curriculum as listed below is the foundation of learning in the kindergarten classroom.

- Responsive Classroom
- Language Arts
- Math
- Related Arts (S.N.A.P.)
- Nishuane Magnet Aesthetics/Production
- Science and Social Studies
Morning Meeting

• Responsive Classroom is a research- and evidence-based approach to elementary education that is associated with greater teacher effectiveness, higher student achievement, and improved school atmosphere (www.responsiveclassroom.org).

• We use aspects of the Responsive Classroom ideology to ensure social growth and build self-efficacy among our kindergarteners.

• Those areas include: cooperation; sharing; helping others, independent self help, school/class participation, rule following, and problem solving.
Language Arts
READING

• **FUNdations** - provides children of varying learning abilities with a foundation for reading and spelling. It provides teachers with the skills and tools needed to present structured, sequential, and cumulative phonics/spelling lessons using multisensory teaching techniques. ([www.fundations.com](http://www.fundations.com))

• **Balanced Literacy** includes:
  - independent reading and writing (choice of topic/book)
  - shared reading and writing
  - guided reading and writing
  - modeled reading and writing
  - reading to someone, with someone and being read to
  - oral language
  - word study

We will be using the **The Center for Collaborative Classroom** program to implement all the elements of balanced literacy.
• Kindergarten is still the year children first learn about writing, which includes honing listening, speaking, and thinking skills, in addition to physical writing.

• The writing focus begins with printing upper and lowercase letters. Because kindergartners’ motor skills are still developing, many tactile techniques are used; writing in the air with a finger or tracing letters are a few examples.

• They will learn how to hold a pencil correctly and practice forming letters by writing their names and writing from left to right.

• Kindergartners will learn three kinds of writing: opinion, informative, and narrative.

• They are also encouraged to spell words the way they sound, which is known as phonetic or “invented” spelling.
• Using **GoMath**, Math program- Students are exposed to daily problem-based interactive math learning. It uses visual learning strategies to deepen conceptual understanding by making meaningful connections for students and delivering strong, sequential visual/verbal connections.

• Although it is the primary source for our lessons, all concepts are strictly aligned with Common Core Standards (CCS.)
The district will be using FOSS kits to implement the Next Generation Science Standards this school year. These kits will allow the K team to have access to more resources for your child to explore the world of science.

We will continue to use trade books to introduce different Social Study topics with your child this school year along with follow up activities.
The students participate in a plethora of activities outside of the classroom!

Art
Drama
Mandarin
Music
Physical Education
Technology
How to help your child prepare for the first day... the first year!

- One of the most important skills for your child to learn this year is to be autonomous. We will be guiding your child each day to make decisions for themselves and to complete simple tasks on their own.

- Here is a **sneak peek** to the beginning and end of their school day: Each child will have his/her own locker or cubby to put away their backpack, lunch and coat. At the end of the day, they will be responsible for packing up their backpack with their **homework folder** and any clothing they’ve worn/bought to school.

- **Homework folder**: It will contain homework, notices and individual communication (if needed) to/from the teacher. They are responsible for bringing it to school each day.

- Your child will have the same morning routine in their classroom (each will vary slightly due to individual teaching styles and schedules).

- Please begin to share the common language (**homework folder, locker/cubby, Nishuane broadcast, morning meeting, etc.**)

- Their day will begin with the **Nishuane Broadcast** followed by **Morning Meeting** and then proceed with the day’s schedule.
Students will open their own lunch and be guided to eat the main ‘course’ first. You should share that any snack items should be eaten last. This helps your child to have energy for the rest of their day. They will be having a snack in the morning or later on in the day depending on their lunch time. It helps to have a discussion that it will be their ‘snack’ for later.

If you have a ‘picky eater,’ have your child help pack their lunch and make lunch decisions together. The option of receiving school lunch is also nutritious. Again review the menu with your child so they know what the lunch choice will be for the day.
Self Help

Throughout the day kindergarteners will use the bathroom (as a teacher will monitor in hallway), blow their own nose, zip and button their own clothes. These skills should be encouraged and practiced at home. Help and guidance will always be given as needed but the plan is to have your child be able to complete these self help skills more independently by the time they leave kindergarten.
The role of ‘PLAY’ in Kindergarten

One of the main elements of their kindergarten experience is having multiple opportunities to ‘play’ during their day. Some of the play is free play (recess, extra outdoor time) or more structured play (learning centers, indoor class games, free centers).

• Play allows children to self select activities; sparking interests as well as enabling the ability to practice problem solving and leadership within a structured learning environment.

• This aspect is an EXTREMELY important component to their learning development.
Make Quality Time for Your Child

We understand that parents' schedules are full! The good news is that there are easy ways to enjoy time with your child that supports their learning.

Parents can be available during play dates, snuggle on the sofa while reading a good book, take a nature walk, cook something yummy together, or just hang out and talk. All these things continue to assure your child that you know and care about them and have high hopes and dreams for their future.
Questions?

We welcome you to our Nishuane School community.

We are all looking forward to a fantastic school year!