

ABOUT ST. MARYS CITY SCHOOLS KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

The Kindergarten Staff would like to welcome you and your child to St. Marys East Primary School. Our goal is to make kindergarten enjoyable while preparing young learners for first grade. We look forward to working and sharing with you in this exciting experience.

The following information is intended to give you a brief overview of the St. Marys East Primary School Kindergarten Program and provide you with information about the first few experiences you will have when you enter your child in kindergarten.



Our Kindergarten Program

We believe kindergarten is probably the single most important year in any child's life. The kindergarten experience should develop a love for learning, inquisitiveness about the environment, a sense of fair play, and an "I Can" attitude. How a child feels about himself and the learning process in kindergarten stays with him for a lifetime and affects his feelings about future learning.

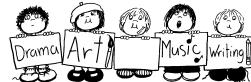
In St. Marys, kindergarten is designed to meet the needs of all children. The different levels of ability, development, and experiences of entering kindergartners are expected and accepted.

Reading Readiness activities provide children opportunities to listen to stories, talk about stories, dictate stories, or write about stories. Children experiment with writing by drawing, copying, or inventing spellings to write their own words and tell their own stories. These reading, writing, listening, and speaking activities develop language skills and make the study of letters and sounds meaningful. We also introduce basic sight words.

Math Concepts are introduced and taught using objects that can be touched and moved. Children experiment with blocks, patterns, sizes, and shapes. They graph the weather, determine the number of children absent, find number patterns on the calendar, compare numbers of boys and girls, and estimate the size of objects. Relating our math readiness activities to life experiences makes math meaningful and easier to understand.

Health, Science and Social Studies activities are woven into the language arts program. If children are reading a story about a farm, activities might include the study of farm animals, weather, crops, or a comparison of country and city life.

All of these curricular areas are complemented through participation in creative projects, art and music.



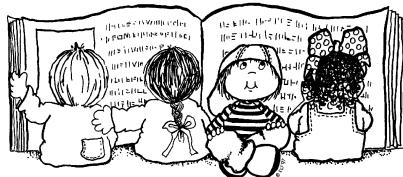
Social development is encouraged through play in classroom learning centers. Children learn to cooperate, share, help each other, play fair, solve misunderstandings, and put things away. These daily activities and social interactions develop children's self-esteem, enhance positive feelings about learning, and provide experiences in all the developmental areas.

Parent/Teacher Relationship

Teachers work cooperatively and in partnership with parents. We are convinced that it is not what a school staff can do in school, nor what parents can do during out-of school hours, but what we can do **together** that will provide a strong foundation for future learning.

Progress Reports

Teachers closely observe children to determine what they understand. Progress reports are sent home to communicate to parents whether students already know the concept, do not fully understand the concept but are still working on it, or do not understand the concept well enough to remember it yet. Parents can also access their child's progress through our online progress reporting system, ProgressBook.



Read to Your Child Everyday!!! Reading experts agree - reading to children is the most effective way to turn them into lifelong readers. A child who loves books will want to learn to read.