

The Top Things You Need to Know About Kindergarten



Is kindergarten a full or half day program?

Kindergarten is a full day program in St. Johns County.

What time does school start and end?

Our school day begins at 8:00am (when the tardy bell rings). On Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, school releases at 2:20 pm and on Wednesday at 1:20 pm.

How many students are in a kindergarten class?

Kindergarten classes have 18 students to meet the class size amendment. Pending student enrollment and when additional kindergarten students enroll, a certified teacher may be added to an existing kindergarten class. This will allow the class to grow up to 28 students.

How many teachers will there be in kindergarten?

The number of teachers is determined by the number of students enrolled in kindergarten.

Where are the kindergarten classrooms located?

All Kindergarten classes are located on the same hallway at Pine Island Academy.

How is discipline addressed in the Kindergarten classroom?

Pine Island sets high expectations for behavior. All Kindergarten classroom behavior plans revolve around the PIA WAVE and the six pillars of character. WAVE - We are Respectful, Responsible and Safe, we Value ourselves and each other, EVERYONE ACHIEVES and the six pillars are: Caring, Trustworthiness, Fairness, Respect, Responsibility, and Citizenship. All classrooms recognize students for respecting values and beliefs at PIA!

What is the homework policy in Kindergarten?

Our philosophy in Kindergarten is to provide meaningful learning experiences for your child. Homework practices are established by the individual teachers, however, our team works collaboratively to ensure our Kindergarten students have equal access to learning opportunities! Teachers provide weekly communication to parents to ensure the success of each child.

How will I know how my child is doing academically?

Each nine weeks a report card will be sent home informing you of how your child performed during that nine week grading period. In addition, teachers will schedule parent/teacher conferences regarding your student's academic progress. The teachers use many different assessments to determine where your child is academically. Students are monitored throughout our benchmark periods (September, December, March, May) to ensure students are progressing, although Kindergarten teachers monitor students on specific learning goals more frequently throughout the year to determine immediate steps in instruction to meet student needs.

How will the teacher communicate with me?

- *Home-School Folder
- *Classroom Newsletters
- *School Newsletters
- *Emails/Phone Calls

What resources does my child receive while at school?

- *Art *Music *PE *Media, *Computer Lab *Stem * Spanish



What are the core academics in Kindergarten?

Each subject area below gives a brief description of just a few of the skills that will be covered this year. All Kindergarten children are expected to reach these skills by the end of the year. We do realize that students come to school at varying levels, both socially and academically and we will work hard to meet all students' needs where they are.

***Reading**

The students will listen to conversation and stories for meaning; know the sequence of events, characters and setting of a story; be able to retell a story (beginning, middle, end); know rhymes, rhythms, and patterned structures in children's text; know the names of upper and lowercase letters, as well as their sounds; know the alphabetical order of the letters; understand basic phonetic principals; identify frequently used words; and select material to read for pleasure. Each teacher will be working with students in small guided reading groups, selecting materials and/or literature which are on the child's reading level.

***Writing**

The students will be involved in both shared and independent writing activities throughout the year. Students will be able to write in response to a given prompt, using at least initial consonant sounds. We would like to see the children striving to use beginning, medial, and ending sounds while putting spaces between their words. We would also like to see the students identify and attempt to use correct punctuation and write a complete sentence by the end of his/her kindergarten school year.

***Math**

The teachers will use a hands-on approach to help the students achieve many mathematical skills. The students will use manipulatives to gain a solid foundation of the numbers 0-20. Students will also extend and construct patterns (both pictorial and numerical); understand and apply basic addition and subtraction; collect, display data and make generalizations; interpret and create graphs; and explore various measuring tools for measuring length, weight, and capacity. The children will also be introduced to math vocabulary words that correspond with each math concept.

***Social Studies**

The students will understand why rules are necessary; respect individual differences; vote on classroom issues to express a preference; distinguish between the past, present, and future; identify patriotic holidays; compare the lives of students and families in another

country with their own; know that the globe is a model of the earth; and locate the state of Florida on a map or globe. Social studies also encompasses Character Counts! We teach the six pillars of character: Respect, Responsibility, Caring, Citizenship, Trustworthiness, and Fairness. Students will know and be able to demonstrate behavior associated with these pillars.

***Science**

Science, like math, will also be taught using a hands-on approach, but through experiments done in the classroom. The students will demonstrate curiosity about scientific concepts; observe characteristics and behaviors of living and non-living things; know ways living things change and grow over time; be able to identify the five senses and understand how the senses work together to find out things about the world; know that matter exists in different states; know that objects have many different observable properties; know that the motion of an object can be changed by a push or pull; and understand that different things move at different speeds.

Will my Kindergartener be going on field trips?

Yes, they will be having in house field trips as well as off campus field trips. All field trips will be connected to our curriculum.

What can I do to help my child build his/her independence?

Independence and responsibility go hand and hand. Encourage your child to try things on his or her own (packing up backpack, tying their shoes, self-help skills). Realize that your child will make mistakes, but will grow in the process.

What additional activities will my child participate in during the school day?

*Recess

Can parents volunteer in the classroom?

Yes! During Kindergarten Orientation your child's assigned classroom teacher will have a volunteer sign up list for parents to complete. All parents MUST complete a volunteer form and be approved PRIOR to volunteering in the classroom, attending any field trips, or eating lunch with your child.

Will my child have rest time?

No. Although we understand our new friends are sometimes accustomed to taking naps, our Kindergarten day is packed with learning opportunities so rest time is limited in our day. However, we do understand that sometimes this is an adjustment for our Kindergarten students and flexibility is key at the beginning of the year.

Can my child have a rolling backpack?

We prefer our students NOT have backpacks with rolling wheels and appreciate your attention to this matter. Our cubbies are small and these backpacks do not fit. Thank you.

What is the security like at Pine Island Academy?

Security and safety is the #1 priority at Pine Island Academy. After all students have arrived, all doors remained locked throughout the building. The only way into the building is through the front office. There is fencing around our entire school campus and our grounds are monitored by our custodians and teachers throughout the day. All teachers wear name tags and all visitors or volunteers sign in at front desk and receive a name badge to wear.

Is there a curriculum for Kindergarten?

Yes. You can visit https://www.cpalms.org/Standards/BEST_Standards.aspx to view the kindergarten standards.

How can I make my child's Kindergarten year a success?

- *Support your child's teacher
- *Stay involved
- *Be positive, positive, positive.

