



Kindergarten

Classroom Program

Gig Harbor Academy offers a very academically challenging kindergarten program, which values each child's unique strengths, varied prior language learning experiences, and preferred learning styles. It is a five-day a week program from (8:45-3:30). Our instruction differentiates enough to support and challenge all the students in order to help them develop positive attitudes about learning. We change our theme each week, using an integrated, cross-curricular program, with lots of multi-sensory activities. We look for ways to personalize learning and engage our students' imaginations. Students' immersion into new topics each week builds strong background knowledge, engaging their natural curiosity about the world. In a very nurturing, loving, and caring environment, students feel safe enough to make mistakes and persevere through all activities. We foster an environment to help our students thrive on discovery and create solutions that encourage self-motivation, self-reliance, and self-confidence.

Social-Emotional Development

One of the most important areas of the kindergarten program is concentrated on the students' social-emotional development. It focuses on strengthening the students' self-esteem and self-confidence, building their problem solving skills, encouraging risk taking and building positive character traits, all an essential core of a child's development.

Language Arts

Reading The kindergarten reading curriculum consists of interactive Read-Aloud and literature discussions and a variety of phonics, phonemic awareness, spelling, & word study activities. It concentrates on building reading comprehension strategies, works with story elements, genre identification, grammar and vocabulary expansion.

Writing The students work in their journals almost every day. They are introduced to different writing genres and to the craft, conventions and the process of writing.

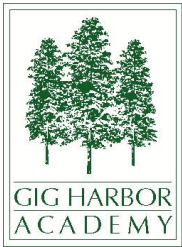
Speaking The students share each week, trying to become 'master' speakers, using eye contact, voice projection, and a 'practiced', informative share. A fall and spring story elements presentation about their favorite book is also part of our curriculum.

Math

The kindergarten math curriculum consists of number recognition and sequencing from 1 to 100 and introduces skip counting to 100. Calendar skills include recognizing the months of year, days of the week, weather & temperature, tallying, estimating, money, time, and working with odd and even numbers. The students gather data by estimating, sorting, counting, and graphing. They work with simple addition and subtraction facts. The kindergartners practice telling time to the hour and are introduced to the half- & quarter hours. The program uses standard, metric, and non-standard measurement. Students work really hard on their patterning skills; learn about place value, money, basic geometry, visual-spatial awareness, and symmetry. The students also develop strong problem solving strategies.

Science

The program concentrates on animals & their habitats, life cycles, the human body, nutrition, the solar system, plants and plant growth, seasons, weather, the water cycle, the environment, magnetism, motion, matter, and an introduction to the scientific process.



Kindergarten

Social Studies

The social studies curriculum builds from my family, my neighborhood, my town, my state, my country, to my world. There are units on community workers, transportation, Native Americans, holiday celebrations, children & cultures around the world, US presidents, our neighbors Mexico & Canada, continents & oceans. Students are also introduced to map study.

Field Trips

The kindergarten tries to go on a field trip each month. In September, the students go to *Build-A-Bear* to make Bearemy. Throughout the year, this journaling bear goes home each afternoon with a different child. In October, we go to *QFC* as part of our food pyramid study. In November, there is a trip to the Kimball fire station. In December, a community service trip is organized so the students can sing & bring holiday cheer to the residents of GH Merrill Gardens retirement center. We work on perseverance in January with an ice skating trip. In March, we have had a great time at Bryant's farm. In April, we make a trek on the Snake Lake trail at the Tacoma Nature Center. In May, we visit Pt. Defiance Zoo and Aquarium and in June, we have a fun day at the beach!

Specialists

On a weekly basis, with the individual specialists' teachers, students attend 3 half-hour sessions of Spanish, 3 half-hour sessions of P.E., 2 half-hour sessions of Music (vocal & instrumental), 1 forty-minute session of art, and a half-hour of technology.