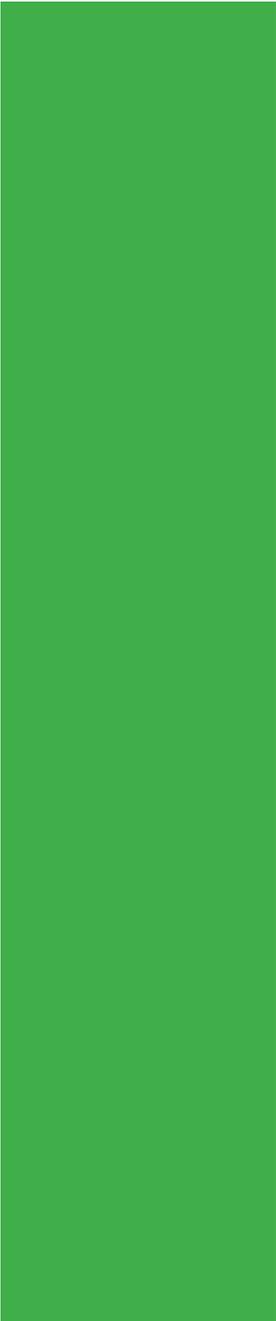


wesley
memorial school

NURSERY • PRESCHOOL • KINDERGARTEN



Kindergarten



2017 - 2018 Handbook

WESLEY MEMORIAL

A UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION

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wesley memorial school **School Year 2017-2018**

NURSERY • PRESCHOOL • KINDERGARTEN

Tuesday, August 22	"Parent Night" (6:30 Social 7 Meeting Begins) (for parents ONLY – All age groups Invited)
Thursday, August 24	Opening Day of Kindergarten Opening Day of Pre-K 3's & 4's for 2-dayers & 5-dayers T-Th Pre-K Threes; 5 –day Pre-K Fours
Friday, August 25	Opening Day of Pre-K 3's & 4's for 3-dayers (MWF)
Monday, August 28	Opening Day of Nursery for MWF & 5-dayers (Beginners, Toddlers & Twos)
Tuesday, August 29	Opening Day of Nursery for T-Th children (Infants, Toddlers, & Twos)
Monday, September 4	Holiday-Labor Day/ WM School Closed
Friday, October 20	Teachers Fall Workday/WM School Closed
Thurs & Fri, November 2 & 3	"Weekday Workshops" Conference – School Closed (for Staff Professional Development)
Weds,Thurs,Fri, November 22,23,24	Holiday – Thanksgiving/ WM School Closed
Weds, December 20-Mon, Jan 1, 2018	Holiday – Christmas/ WM School Closed 2 weeks
Tuesday, January 2	Teachers Workday/ WM School Closed
Wednesday, January 3	WM School Re-opens for children
Monday, January 15	Holiday – Martin L. King Day/ WM School Closed
Friday, February 23	Teachers Workday/ WM School Closed
Thursday, March 1	WMS "Family Night" & Ice Cream Social! (6:30 pm)
Good Fri, March 30-Fri, April 6	Holiday – Easter/ WM School Closed
Monday, April 9	WM School re-opens for children
Sunday, May 6	Springfest Carnival/Auction (4-6 pm)
Thursday, May 17	End-Of-Year "Family Celebration!" (6:30 pm) (Families of Beginners, Toddlers, 2's & Pre-K 3's)
Tuesday, May 22	End-Of-Year Pre-K Fours Program/Dessert Social (7 pm)
Wednesday, May 23	End-Of-Year Kindergarten Covered Dish Dinner/Program (6 pm Dining Hall)
May 21-24 (Mon – Thurs)	Last Week of WM School
Friday, May 25	Teacher's Workday – WM School Closed

What is Kindergarten For?

Standards are high at Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church. We meet the criteria for highest-quality Nursery, Preschool, and Kindergarten education as established by the **National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)**. Our program was accredited by the NAEYC in 2002 and we completed Re-Accreditation in 2008. Through the Board of Education of the United Methodist Church, we completed requirements to achieve The W.I.S.E. Award (Wonderfully In Search of Excellence) in 2005. Wesley Memorial School also follows all curriculum guidelines of the Common Core Standards as adopted by the Department of Public Instruction of the State of North Carolina.

Our teachers are professionals with early childhood/elementary education degrees and experience. Wesley Memorial School is administered by our church acting through a Weekday Board of Directors.

Friedrich Froebel, the “Father” of the Kindergarten, wrote about 1840 that:

The Kindergarten shall give them employment suited to their nature, strengthen their bodies, exercise their senses, employ their waking minds, make them acquainted judiciously with nature and society, cultivate especially the heart and temper, and lead them to the foundations of all living—to unity with themselves.

Froebel’s language sounds quaint in our high-tech world, but the purposes he suggested are still sound. Today the content of a quality Kindergarten program remains essentially what it was in Froebel’s day—a “garden” where children may grow naturally and may develop their own distinctive personalities and talents in a child’s world. Experience and scientific study of children are constantly providing updated information. We are better able than in Froebel’s time to provide a program which meets the needs of the child in his first years of school.

Our responsibility goes beyond that of a public or private Kindergarten. As an outreach of our church, we are obligated not only to offer a program consistent with the highest type of early childhood education but also to provide an atmosphere and program in which teachers and children are learning to live in a Christ-like way.

In approaching our task, we keep in mind the child’s total growth—social, emotional, spiritual, mental, and physical. By their signatures on the registration forms, parents indicate their willingness to cooperate with the Christian emphasis of our Kindergarten; to attend parent-teacher conferences; and to participate in other planned opportunities (such as class programs and parent workshops) as will bring about better understanding between teacher, parent, and child.

“And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.”

Wesley Memorial School

Our Purpose

Our Purpose Is To Provide:

- An environment of Christian nurture and educational opportunities based on sound principals of early childhood development and quality care for young children.
- Opportunities for each child to enhance his/her learning, academic performance, and personal gifts.
- An educated and professional staff that is passionate about early childhood education.
- A Christian environment where teachers and families partner in nurturing a child's early development in social, moral, educational, and spiritual growth.
- A welcoming and inclusive Christ-centered community that embraces and cares for all children and their families.

Mission Statement

Wesley Memorial School is a Christian school of excellence committed to caring for children and families in a safe, nurturing environment.

Our Core Values

- Preparation** – Children are prepared for academic success in an environment of excellence and creativity.
- Nurture** – Children are nurtured through positive, supportive and caring relationships in a diverse community.
- Partnership** – A Christ-centered environment is provided as we partner with families in their child's spiritual formation.

Wesley Memorial is a Safe Sanctuaries Church

Wesley Memorial has long been an advocate of children and recognizes their uniqueness as individuals and as children of God. We are committed to providing a nurturing, safe environment free from emotional, physical and sexual abuse. All staff working with children are carefully screened. This includes our Wesley Memorial School Classroom Teachers, Substitute Assistants, Childcare Workers, Sunday School Teachers and regular Volunteers. Criminal background checks are required as well as reference checks. Teachers receive annual training in prevention of abuse and are trained in Infant/Child CPR and First Aid.

Our Policies

Our Discipline Policy

Teachers at Wesley Memorial are encouraged to establish fair, simple rules and enforce them consistently. We incorporate redirection and positive reinforcement of good behavior models. Children are shown positive alternatives rather than just told “no”. Teachers use teaching statements to let children know what behavior is expected of them (“We build with the blocks”) Teachers show children how their actions affect others. Teachers also model respect for the feelings of each person.

When the behavior of children is guided using this positive approach, the children...

- Learn to share and cooperate
- Are better able to handle their own anger
- Are more self-disciplined
- Feel successful and in control of themselves

Teachers at Wesley Memorial are not permitted to use any form of physical discipline. Under no circumstances will children be spanked, smacked, pinched, or hit; nor will children be humiliated or verbally belittled by a teacher.

Our Schedule

1. Kindergarten Fours will begin on Thursday, August 24, 2017 and will close on Thursday, May 24, 2018. Each day, Monday through Friday, regular session is 9 am until 1:00 pm. Children will eat lunch at school. Lunch box or bag needs to contain items which can be safely kept within the box and stored in child’s own classroom locker.
2. Arrival time is 8:50 - 9 am. Each child must be signed-in by a parent at the classroom door. Children may come no earlier than 8:50 am. We cannot stress enough the importance of being ON TIME. Best attitudes of learning and feelings of security occur when the child feels included in all of the day.
Note: teachers will be keeping records of absenteeism and of tardiness. This will be recorded on child’s Kindergarten Fives Progress Report.
3. Dismissal time is 1:00 pm—please be prompt! It’s not fun wondering if you have been forgotten. Kindergarten classes will be dismissed to carpools at Sanctuary side of church. Teachers will have the sign out sheet there.
4. Breakfast should be eaten before children enter the building.
5. All important dates are on one sheet for your usefulness. Please read and save in a convenient place for reference.
6. In times of bad weather, decisions regarding delayed openings or cancellations will be made for our Wesley Memorial School independently of public schools. (Snowed-in days will not be made-up or refunded.) Announcements will be broadcast three ways:
 - a. Fox 8 TV High Point (Channel 10 on cable)
 - b. WFMY 2 TV Greensboro (Channel 9 on cable)
 - c. Our WM School phone line, 884-4232
 - d. Our School Website: www.WesleyMemorialSchool.org

7. If the weather should become bad enough to cause hazardous driving conditions after your child has arrived for the school day, then come and pick him/her up before the roads become slick. In a half-day program, we do not make decisions for “early dismissals.” Use your best judgment and come while you can still manage to get back home safely.

Special Days

1. No Birthday Parties! We will pay tribute to your child’s special day in a variety of ways, such as singing birthday songs, using verses, and letting him/her make special choices, birthday hats, etc. It is impractical for each child to have a Birthday Party at school. No refreshments other than our usual foods. We feel that the party is best for a home celebration and in establishing this rule for our Kindergarten we do not leave out those whose birthdays come during the vacation months. Please, no party invitations or presents will be distributed at school.
2. Special Seasonal Days such as Fall Time, Christmas, Valentine’s Day and Easter) will be observed throughout the year in such a way that we hope it will have real meaning for children. There will be opportunities for families to bring in “holiday snacks” and coordinate a take-home treat. Teachers will schedule and help families plan for the holiday celebrations.
3. No candy or goodies of any kind are to be brought without first talking with the teacher. No chewing gum, please. (Please check child’s pockets!) It is unacceptable for parents to bring treats and “party favors” for holidays. Parents must discuss with teachers any idea for sharing with the group.

Bringing Items to School

1. Each child will have a cubby in which to keep outer clothing, personal belongings, and creative work. Cubbies should not be used as mailboxes by others in an effort to send messages or invitations home to parents. Please handle correspondence between families outside of the classroom.
2. Each child will need to bring a book bag or back pack for carrying items to and from school. It is helpful to look for a style that your child can open and close by him/herself. Also helpful is a bag that is sufficient in size to hold creative work and take-home notes.
3. Items to bring for us to use: dress-up clothes, plastic containers, empty spools, buttons and trims, old jewelry, and lots of your “recyclables” for children to use creatively in art activities. Soft, smooth wood pieces for use in our kindergarten carpentry centers are greatly appreciated. Teachers will let families know if there is a class pet, so that children can help with supplying food, cedar shavings or seed. Thank you!
4. Please leave toys at home—or leave in the car. Books, musical CD’s, and nature items are always welcome.
5. Always confer with teachers before bringing a pet. Visiting animals must appear in good health and have documentation from veterinarian or animal shelter to show fully immunized. Animals must be suitable for contact with children.

Clothing

1. Children should wear comfortable play clothes. Be sure your child has adequate clothing for outdoor activity on colder days, especially head attire. Please, warm leg covering is needed for girls. We will be going outdoors unless the temperature is below 40 degrees, or it is raining. Cowboy boots, slick hard-sole shoes, jelly shoes, "crocs;" and flip-flops are not safe for climbing activities that children enjoy. Tennis shoes are the best choice.
2. Please label all outdoor clothing: sweaters, coats, caps, and mittens

Carpools and Safety Concerns

The most likely time for your child to share his/her morning with you is immediately upon dismissal from Kindergarten. Keep in mind that if you do not pick up your child, both of you may miss the joy of this sharing experience. However you plan to carpool-please establish the following rules of safety on the first day you drive:

1. **Insist that each child wear a seat belt.** Driving groups go directly to and from school. No stopping on the way for any purpose without the consent of every parent in the driving pool. Insurance covers traveling directly between home and school.
2. **Arrival:** Use the front church. It is best for child's developing independence to walk to classroom door beside you or holding your hand, rather than being carried. Upon arrival at classroom door, teachers will greet and encourage child to put up his/her own belongings. Parents, please help us by not doing this for your child!
3. **Dismissal procedures:** Kindergarten classes will be dismissed to carpools at the Sanctuary side of the church directly behind the Fellowship Hall. Please use the second driveway entrance alongside the Sanctuary.
4. **Please provide us with a list of those who will be in your carpool** by opening day of school, along with a written schedule of day(s) each driver will bring carpool to school and/or pick up. Whenever there is a change in this written schedule, then teachers need an additional note informing them of the change for that particular day.

Health

1. Please notify us if your child develops a contagious disease. It will be our policy to pass this information on to other parents so all will be alerted to any symptoms.
2. When a child has a health care need that requires temporary medication to be given at school - or medication to be stored at school on an on-going basis in case of emergency (i.e. peanut allergy) - parent must see Directors to complete proper forms and for explanation of our procedure.
3. Our program protects a child with food allergies from contact with the problem food. Documentation must be provided from health care provider; parent will be asked to give us permission for posting information about the food allergy.
4. A First Aid kit will be available for use by teachers in the room. 5. In case of emergency, you will be notified along with your doctor.
5. Parents will be assigned date(s) of shared turns for contributing mid-morning snack for entire class. Thank you!

6. Food that comes from home for sharing among the children must be either WHOLE FRUITS or COMMERCIALLY PREPARED PACKAGED FOODS in factory-sealed containers. Parents are encouraged to select healthy choices such as cheese, fruits, yogurt, muffins, cereal-instead of doughnuts or cupcakes. Snacks selected for our school may not contain peanuts or peanut oil.
7. If you feel that your child should not play outdoors on any day, please make arrangements to pick him/ her up at outdoor play time (check class schedule) because teachers must be with the group on our playground.
8. Each child is covered by accident insurance, as included in your Registration fee. If an accident does occur, it is the responsibility of parents to secure the correct forms from the office and have them filled out by the doctor.

Childhood Illness - When to Keep/Send a Child Home

Certain symptoms in children may suggest the presence of a communicable disease. Children who have the following symptoms should be excluded from school until...

1. A physician has certified the symptoms are not associated with an infectious disease or they are no longer a threat to the health of other children at school, or
2. The symptoms have subsided for a full 24 hour period *without* medication. For example, children should be free of fever without the need for fever-reducing medication for a full 24 - hours before returning.

Fever	<i>Auxiliary or Oral</i> temperature: 100 degrees F. or higher, or <i>Rectal</i> temperature: 101 degrees F. or higher; especially if accompanied by other symptoms such as vomiting, sore throat, diarrhea, headache and stiff neck or undiagnosed rash.
Respiratory	Difficult or rapid breathing or severe coughing: - child makes high-pitched croupy or whooping sound after he/she coughs. - child is unable to be comfortable due to continuous cough.
Diarrhea	An increased number of abnormally loose stools in the previous 24 hours. Parent will be called after a <u>second</u> occurrence of diarrhea that occurs during the school morning. Observe the child for others symptoms such as fever, abdominal pain, or vomiting.
Vomiting	vomiting within the previous 24 hours.
Eye/Nose Drainage	<i>Thick</i> mucus or pus draining from the eye or nose. Child is unable to be comfortable due to continuous discharge.
Sore Throat	<i>Sore</i> throat, especially when fever or swollen glands in the neck are present.

Skin Problems	<i>Rash-skin rashes, undiagnosed or contagious infected sores-sores with crusty, yellow or green drainage which cannot be covered by clothing or bandages.</i>
Itching	<i>Persistent itching (or scratching) of body or scalp.</i>
Appearance/Behavior	Child looks or acts differently: unusually tired, pale, lacking appetite, confused, irritable, difficult to awaken.
Unusual Color	<i>Eyes or Skin-yellow (jaundice) Stool-grey or white Urine-dark, tea colored (These symptoms can be found in hepatitis and should be evaluated by a physician.)</i>

*Parents are asked to please notify our school if your child develops a contagious disease. It will be our policy to pass this information on to other parents so all will be alerted to any symptoms.

**Follow the doctor's or nurse's advice about when to return to school. On return of child who has been out with a fever, we may choose to check child's temperature before allowing participation. We may also ask you to provide proof of treatment.

Parent Contacts and Involvement

1. Teachers will communicate through special notes, phone calls, or e-mails.

Teachers will invite parents of same class to take part in a shared Classroom ShutterFly® Site. Parents use passwords to access their account, which communicates: teacher blogs, calendar, lesson plans, family contact information, volunteer sign-ups, and photos of class events.

Individually scheduled conferences will be held during the year for mothers and fathers. Parents will be invited to participate in an Observation Day prior to the winter conference.

Your child's teacher is a professional person. Please feel free to talk over with her any needs or concerns of yours. We ask that you come to her first with any matter concerning your child. No problem is too small to discuss with your child's teacher! If you tell your neighbors and friends but fail to tell us, we cannot help. Let us have any evaluations you might have concerning any phase of our Kindergarten operation. At the end of the year, parents will be given a "Family Survey" to complete. Your responses are important to our annual program evaluation and goal planning.

2. Our Wesley Memorial School newsletter is *The Pitter Patter*. It informs families of school-wide events throughout the year and is distributed through email.
3. Teacher's plans for the day are posted so that parents may know and follow-through at home if desired. Follow-through at home enhances the child's growth.
4. Parent involvement greatly enhances the learning opportunities for children. We encourage parents to share their special talents, and to check the message board outside their child's room and Classroom Shutterfly Site for opportunities to participate. We also appreciate

parent involvement in the planned fundraisers, playground workdays, and open house events for our total school. Families will be invited to complete Volunteer Sheets indicating their areas of interest-then we will contact you to help! *ALL PARENT VOLUNTEERS must sign in at our School Office before going into classrooms. Pick up a VOLUNTEER name tag to wear when you check in.

5. Parent meetings and educational workshops will be planned throughout the year. It is parents' opportunity to respond in attendance at events for greater understanding and experience in helping the child reach his/her greatest potential.
6. Parents are invited to visit the Media Center with their child and check out books. The **Media Center** is located in the Adult Education wing. It is **open from 9 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday**.
7. No visits from visiting cousins or playmates, little brothers or sisters. It is not that we are not sociable, but when this gets started, it is hard to find a place to stop! Our ministry is helping the boys and girls in our school to grow in their whole development, thus we cannot do this with visiting children dropping in. *Parents volunteering for Kindergarten (K5) class field trips need to keep in mind our policy of **NO SIBLINGS ON CLASS FIELD TRIPS**.

Please remember! Release Policy

We will not release a child to anyone other than his/her usual ride without a written note from parents! This applies to relatives, sitters, and friends. This also means we must have a written note from parents if your child is going home with a classmate in another carpool. No phone calls accepted except in case of emergency. If your child is no going to go in normal carpool, a note is necessary to give teachers instructions.

If someone besides a parent is to be at home to meet the child when he/she returns, be sure your child understands that you will not be there. This can be upsetting for the young child expecting to see you.

Tuition

Registration fee of \$85.00 (\$40.00 for 3rd, 4th child enrolled same school year) includes insurance. Tuition rate for Kindergarten is \$309 per month.

Direct Payment Policy

1. WMS will require all **tuition** payments, including morning and after school fees, to be set up on draft authorization through a Direct Payment Authorization Form obtained through the school administrative office. The draft will occur on the 5th of the month; September through May. An email reminder that the draft will occur will be sent monthly.
2. **This service will not deduct registration fees.**
3. Monthly tuition is paid in full, regardless of enrollment date and/or absenteeism and snow days.
4. Tuition is due for the entire month in which the withdrawal of a child occurs unless the Director or Associate Director is notified in writing of such withdrawal at least 30 days prior.
5. When tuition is due and payable from previous school year or from the summer program, the child will not be re-enrolled in another program (summer or fall) until the full amount is paid up-to-date.

Special Experiences Just for Our Kindergarten!

Field Trips

We enjoy many trips throughout the year for the purposes of enriching their background of experiences and learning more about our units of study. Parents sign a permission slip and are given information prior to each trip. Transportation is provided in our church Minotaur bus. Trips are always taken during the school morning—leaving from school and returning by 1:00 pm. Our field trips may vary year to year, but include visits to places such as:

High Point Museum and Historical Village
Children’s Carousel Theater in High Point (2 live performances)
Greensboro Nature Science Center Petting Farm and Aquarium
Farmer’s Market
Fire Station
Millis Health Education Center

Computer use and iPads in each classroom reinforce letter and word recognition, math, creative thinking and problem-solving; also promotes eye-hand coordination and simple keyboarding skills. Computers also used for individual and small group research of study topics.

“Let’s Find Out” Newspaper subscription by Scholastic brings the latest news information to Kindergarten children in an appealing, easy to read format. We will incorporate use of this newspaper and activity pages into our class lessons at school.

Media Center weekly visit for book check-out and story-time session with guest readers, emphasizes love of literature and responsibility of caring for books.

Children’s Worship weekly Chapel Time is a special and important part of our continual faith building. Chapel is led by our Director of Wesley Memorial School, Director of Children’s Ministry and Pastors on a rotating basis.

Introduction to Second Languages Children will be exposed to other languages, exploring basic concepts in alphabet, numbers, simple dialogue and culture. We seek to appreciate people from around the world.

Sight Word Baggies - Each child will have baggies of printed word cards that will become his/her individual word file. New words are added on an on-going basis, as child’s readiness for more complex words occurs. Your child will dictate or copy words that he/ she is learning to read. The words will be used for independent writing of sentences and creative stories and will make reading individualized and meaningful.

Homework Folders - Kindergarten homework offers opportunity to share at home with mom and dad; thereby reinforcing the concepts learned at school. Folders also serve as a communication tool between families and teachers.

Common Core Curriculum Workbooks in Language Arts & Math individualizes learning at each child's own level of skills and understanding. Workbooks are used for one-on-one instruction of child with teacher – not as a class group activity.

V. I. P. (Very Important Person) - Each child's name is randomly chosen to be our VIP of the week! Child chosen will bring in photos of him/herself and of family, and the entire class participates in creating an experience chart story about this friend. Other special privileges are included in the week for our "honoree!" Every child will get a turn!

Lunch at School every day! Children bring their own meal in lunch-box or bag, including beverage. (No soft drinks or "fast food" meals.) Children will eat in the classroom with their own class group.

Hot Lunch Fridays are offered the last 2 Friday dates of each month! Menus will be sent home. Child learns responsibility of bringing in lunch money to purchase the meal; or may decide to pack own lunch from home as usual. Hot Lunch Fridays are served downstairs in the big Dining Hall, where children practice selecting food choices from a buffet, carrying a cafeteria tray, and the manners expected when eating in a large group setting. All Kindergarten classes eat together. Parents volunteer as our "Lunchroom Helpers" to serve the meals.

Children's Programs of drama, songs, and creative arts give boys and girls opportunity to share what they have been learning with their families. Kindergarten programs will be presented at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and end-of year.

In addition, there will be a special program to honor Dads & Step-Dads (Uncles & Grandpas, too!) at our "Dad's Day Luncheon!" Moms & Step-Moms (Aunts & Grandmas, too!) will be honored at our "Mother's Day Tea!" Invitations made by the children for each program will indicate dates well in advance of each event.

Kindergarten Academic Program

General Program Objectives:

To provide many opportunities for social development and adjustment to group living.

1. To promote development of good health habits.
2. To instill habits, appreciations, and attitudes which serve as standards of conduct in work and play and as guides to worthwhile use of time and materials in and out of school.
3. To provide opportunities for self-expression through language, music, art, and play experiences.
4. To provide situations in which the child can succeed, and through success build confidence in his own ability and worth.
5. To develop an atmosphere in which creativity is stimulated.
6. To develop a feeling of adequacy through emphasis on independence and good work habits.
7. To lay foundations for subject matter learning and intellectual growth.

Kindergarten Curriculum

We follow curriculum guidelines provided by the Department of Public Instruction of North Carolina and based on sound principles of early childhood growth and development through criteria established by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The United Methodist Curriculum is interwoven throughout our units of study. Planned experiences during each unit of study will further each child's understanding of:

—reading and language arts—science—mathematics—social studies—
—music—art—health and safety—physical education—

The concepts gleaned from these learning experiences are as unique as each child. It is the objective of each teacher to meet each child's needs at his particular level so as to enhance his/her self-worth and capitalize on his/her learning potential, and help him/her find a responsible place in the world. To help the children learn at their individual levels the teachers will use many tools—such as workbooks, puzzles, beginner readers, phonetic awareness games, hands-on math and science, books and stories, music, computers, iPads, and nature walks. Our curriculum may be described as “streams of experience” flowing through the child's lifelong educational path, even into adulthood.

An Overview of the Kindergarten Curriculum

This overview is taken from the Kindergarten Common Core State Standards which is required to be taught in all North Carolina Public Schools. We carefully follow this same Course of Study in planning for the Kindergarten Fives Program at Wesley Memorial School.

Science

- Names likenesses and differences among animals
- Learns about weather changes throughout the year
- Describes objects by color, size, shape, and texture using five sense
- Learns how to use simple tools
- Learns how to use tools and measurements to describe their environment and world

Computer Skills

- Identifies and discusses correct and responsible use and care of computers and resources
- Uses a computer for learning to read, write, and organize information
- Uses teacher-selected Internet resources/information to enhance learning

Social Studies

- Displays good citizenship and correct behavior at school and other social environments by use of the following character traits: honesty, respect, responsibility, self-discipline, courage, and integrity
- Identifies how individuals, families, and groups are alike and different
- Describes the importance of rules and laws
- Recognizes and describes changes in self, families, schools, and communities
- Learns about famous people, holidays, and special days of diverse cultures
- Uses simple maps and models to locate familiar places
- Identifies examples of how families and communities work together to meet their basic needs and wants
- Recognizes how technology is used at home, school, and in the community

Healthful Living

- Learns how to develop healthy habits through
 - ◆ Good diet
 - ◆ Feelings
 - ◆ Exercise
 - ◆ Cleanliness
 - ◆ Safety
 - ◆ Rest
- Learns to be careful with medicine
- Becomes aware of the health risks of smoking and other drug addictions

In order to be ready for first grade in reading, writing, and math, kindergarten students should master the North Carolina state required skills by the end of kindergarten. On the following pages and after each skill areas are examples that measure how well students understand and apply what they have learned.

Language Arts

Literature

Key Ideas and Details

1. With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
2. With prompting and support, retell familiar stories, including key details.
3. With prompting and support, identify characters, settings, and major events in a story.

Craft and Structure

4. Ask and answer questions about unknown words in a text.
5. Recognize common types of texts (e.g., storybooks, poems).

6. With prompting and support, name the author and illustrator of a story and define the role of each in telling the story.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

7. With prompting and support, describe the relationship between illustrations and the story in which they appear (e.g., what moment in a story an illustration depicts).
8. (Not applicable to literature)
9. With prompting and support, compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in familiar stories.

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

10. Actively engage in group reading activities with purpose and understanding.

Informational Text

Key Ideas and Details

1. With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
2. With prompting and support, retell familiar stories, including key details.
3. With prompting and support, identify characters, settings, and major events in a story.

Craft and Structure

4. With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about unknown words in a text.
5. Identify the front cover, back cover, and title page of a book.
6. Name the author and illustrator of a text and define the role of each in presenting the ideas or information in a text.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

7. With prompting and support, describe the relationship between illustrations and the text in which they appear (e.g., what person, place, thing, or idea in the text an illustration depicts).
8. With prompting and support, identify the reasons an author gives to support points in a text.
9. With prompting and support, identify basic similarities in and differences between two texts on the same topic (e.g., in illustrations, descriptions, or procedures).

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

10. Actively engage in group reading activities with purpose and understanding.

Foundational Skills

Print Concepts

1. Demonstrate understanding of the organization and basic features of print.
 - a. Follow words from left to right, top to bottom, and page by page.
 - b. Recognize that spoken words are represented in written language by specific sequences of letters.

- c. Understand that words are separated by spaces in print.
- d. Recognize and name all upper- and lowercase letters of the alphabet.

Phonological Awareness

- 2. Demonstrate understanding of spoken words, syllables, and sounds (phonemes).
 - a. Recognize and produce rhyming words.
 - b. Count, pronounce, blend, and segment syllables in spoken words.
 - c. Blend and segment onsets and rimes of single-syllable spoken words.
 - d. Isolate and pronounce the initial, medial vowel, and final sounds (phonemes) in three-phoneme (consonant-vowel-consonant, or CVC) words.¹ (This does not include CVCs ending with /l/, /r/, or /x/.)
 - e. Add or substitute individual sounds (phonemes) in simple, one-syllable words to make new words.

Phonics and Word Recognition

- 3. Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.
 - a. Demonstrate basic knowledge of letter-sound correspondences by producing the primary or most frequent sound for each consonant.
 - b. Associate the long and short sounds with the common spellings (graphemes) for the five major vowels.
 - c. Read common high-frequency words by sight (e.g., the, of, to, you, she, my, is, are, do, does).
 - d. Distinguish between similarly spelled words by identifying the sounds of the letters that differ.

Fluency

- 4. Read emergent-reader texts with purpose and understanding.

Writing

Text Types and Purposes

- 1. Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose opinion pieces in which they tell a reader
- 2. The topic or the name of the book they are writing about and state an opinion or preference about the topic or book (e.g., My favorite book is...). Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose informative/explanatory texts in which they name what they are writing about and supply some information about the topic.
- 3. Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to narrate a single event or several loosely linked events, tell about the events in the order in which they occurred, and provide a reaction to what happened.

Production and Distribution of Writing

1. (Begins in grade 3)
2. With guidance and support from adults, respond to questions and suggestions from peers and add details to strengthen writing as needed.
3. With guidance and support from adults, explore a variety of digital tools to produce and publish writing, including in collaboration with peers.

Research to Build and Present Knowledge

1. Participate in shared research and writing projects (e.g., explore a number of books by a favorite author and express opinions about them).
2. With guidance and support from adults, recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.
3. (Begins in grade 4)

Range of Writing

1. (Begins in grade 3)

Speaking and Listening

Comprehension and Collaboration

1. Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about kindergarten topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups.
 - a. Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions (e.g., listening to others and taking turns speaking about the topics and texts under discussion).
 - b. Continue a conversation through multiple exchanges.
2. Confirm understanding of a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media by asking and answering questions about key details and requesting clarification if something is not understood.
3. Ask and answer questions in order to seek help, get information, or clarify something that is not understood.

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

4. Describe familiar people, places, things, and events and, with prompting and support, provide additional detail.
5. Add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions as desired to provide additional detail.
6. Speak audibly and express thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly.

Language

Conventions of Standard English

1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
 - a. Print many upper- and lowercase letters.

- b. Use frequently occurring nouns and verbs.
 - c. Form regular plural nouns orally by adding /s/ or /es/ (e.g., dog, dogs; wish, wishes).
 - d. Understand and use question words (interrogatives) (e.g., who, what, where, when, why, how).
 - e. Use the most frequently occurring prepositions (e.g., to, from, in, out, on, off, for, of, by, with).
 - f. Produce and expand complete sentences in shared language activities.
2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
- a. Capitalize the first word in a sentence and the pronoun I.
 - b. Recognize and name end punctuation.
 - c. Write a letter or letters for most consonant and short-vowel sounds (phonemes).
 - d. Spell simple words phonetically, drawing on knowledge of sound-letter relationships.

Knowledge of Language

3. (Begins in grade 2)

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on kindergarten reading and content.
- a. Identify new meanings for familiar words and apply them accurately (e.g., knowing duck is a bird and learning the verb to duck).
 - b. Use the most frequently occurring inflections and affixes (e.g., -ed, -s, re-, un-, pre-, -ful, -less) as a clue to the meaning of an unknown word.

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use, continued

5. With guidance and support from adults, explore word relationships and nuances in word meanings.
- a. Sort common objects into categories (e.g., shapes, foods) to gain a sense of the concepts the categories represent.
 - b. Demonstrate understanding of frequently occurring verbs and adjectives by relating them to their opposites (antonyms).
 - c. Identify real-life connections between words and their use (e.g., note places at school that are colorful).
 - d. Distinguish shades of meaning among verbs describing the same general action (e.g., walk, march, strut, prance) by acting out the meanings.
6. Use words and phrases acquired through conversations, reading and being read to, and responding to texts.

Math

Counting and Cardinality

Know number names and the count sequence

1. Count to 100 by ones and by tens.
2. Count forward beginning from a given number within the known sequence (instead of having to begin at 1)
3. Write numbers from 0 to 20. Represent a number of objects with a written numeral 0-20 (with 0 representing a count of no objects).

Numbers and Quantities

1. Understand the relationship between numbers and quantities; connect counting to cardinality.
 - a. When counting objects, say the number names in the standard order, pairing each object with one and only one number name and each number name with one and only one object.
 - b. Understand that the last number name said tells the number of objects counted. The number of objects is the same regardless of their arrangement or the order in which they were counted.
 - c. Understand that each successive number name refers to a quantity that is one larger.
2. Count to answer “how many?” questions about as many as 20 things arranged in a line, a rectangular array, or a circle, or as many as 10 things in a scattered configuration; given a number from 1–20, count out that many objects.

Compare numbers

1. Identify whether the number of objects in one group is greater than, less than, or equal to the number of objects in another group, e.g., by using matching and counting strategies.
2. Compare two numbers between 1 and 10 presented as written numerals.

Operations and Algebraic Thinking

Understand addition as putting together and adding to, and understand subtraction as taking apart and taking from.

1. Represent addition and subtraction with objects, fingers, mental images, drawings, sounds (e.g., claps), acting out situations, verbal explanations, expressions, or equations.
2. Solve addition and subtraction word problems, and add and subtract within 10, e.g., by using objects or drawings to represent the problem.
3. Decompose numbers less than or equal to 10 into pairs in more than one way, e.g., by using objects or drawings, and record each decomposition by a drawing or equation (e.g., $5 = 2 + 3$ and $5 = 4 + 1$).
4. For any number from 1 to 9, find the number that makes 10 when added to the given number, e.g., by using objects or drawings, and record the answer with a drawing or equation.
5. Fluently add and subtract within 5.

Measurement and Data

Describe and compare measurable attributes.

1. Describe measurable attributes of objects, such as length or weight. Describe several measurable attributes of a single object.
2. Directly compare two objects with a measurable attribute in common, to see which object has “more of”/“less of” the attribute, and describe the difference. For example, directly compare the heights of two children and describe one child as taller/shorter.

Classify objects and count the number of objects in each category.

3. Classify objects into given categories; count the numbers of objects in each category and sort the categories by count.

Number & Operations in Base Ten

Work with numbers 11-19 to gain foundations for place value.

1. Compose and decompose numbers from 11 to 19 into ten ones and some further ones, e.g., by using objects or drawings, and record each composition or decomposition by a drawing or equation (such as $18 = 10 + 8$); understand that these numbers are composed of ten ones and one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, or nine ones.

Geometry

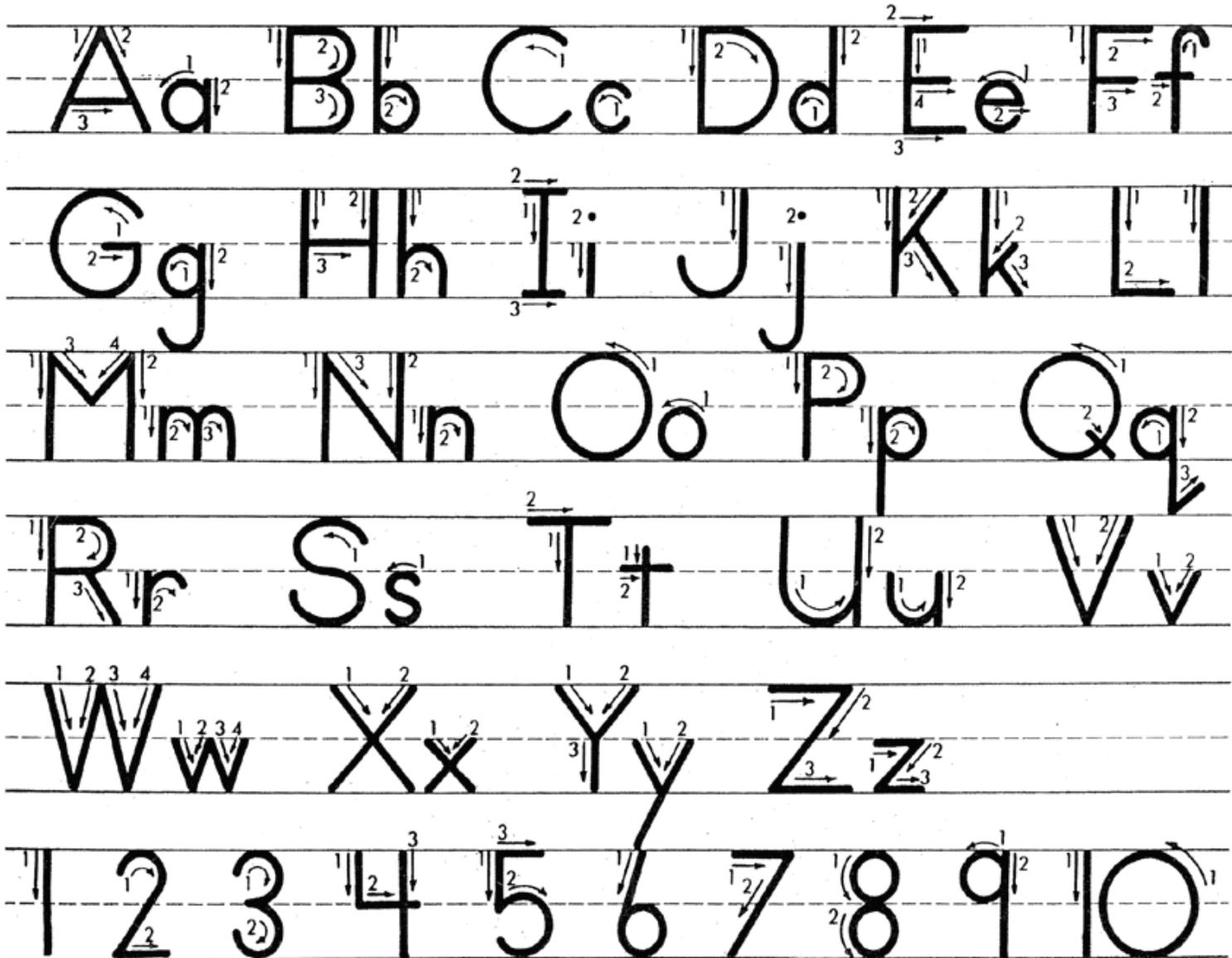
Identify and describe shapes (squares, circles, triangles, rectangles, hexagons, cubes, cones, cylinders, and spheres).

1. Describe objects in the environment using names of shapes, and describe the relative positions of these objects using terms such as above, below, beside, in front of, behind, and next to.
2. Correctly name shapes regardless of their orientations or overall size.
3. Identify shapes as two-dimensional (lying in a plane, “flat”) or three-dimensional (“solid”).

Analyze, compare, create, and compose shapes.

4. Analyze and compare two- and three-dimensional shapes, in different sizes and orientations, using informal language to describe their similarities, differences, parts (e.g., number of sides and vertices/“corners”) and other attributes (e.g., having sides of equal length).
5. Model shapes in the world by building shapes from components (e.g., sticks and clay balls) and drawing shapes.
6. Compose simple shapes to form larger shapes. For example, “Can you join these two triangles with full sides touching to make a rectangle?”

Traditional Manuscript



* **To Parents:** As you write your child's name and make other labels to mark toys and belongings, **be sure to print just as the word would appear in a book.** Do *not* use all capital letters. For example, print *Jim*, not *JIM*. This gives your child real experiences with name recognition and print awareness that will not have to be "re-taught" later.

All I Ever Really Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten

By Robert Fulghum

Most of what I really need to know about how to live, and what to do and how to be, I learned in Kindergarten.

Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate school mountain, but there in the sandbox at nursery school.

These are the things I learned: Share everything. Play fair. Don't hit people. Put things back where you found them. Clean up your own mess. Don't take things that aren't yours. Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody. Wash your hands before you eat. Flush. Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you. Live a balanced life.

Learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some. Take a nap every afternoon. When you go out into the world watch for traffic, hold hands, and stick together. Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the plastic cup. The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like that.

Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the plastic cup— they all die. So do we. And then remember the book about Dick and Jane and the first word you learned, the biggest word of all. LOOK.

Everything you need to know is in there somewhere. The golden rule and love and basic sanitation. Ecology and politics and sane living.

Think of what a better world it would be if we all—the whole world—had cookies and milk about 3 o'clock every afternoon and then laid down with our blankets for a nap. Or if we had a basic policy in our nation and in other nations to always put things back where we found them and cleaned up our own messes. And it is still true, no matter how old you are, when you go out into the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together.

