

**CATHERINE E. DOYLE SCHOOL**  
***“FEEL THE SPIRIT!”***

2008/2009

KINDERGARTEN SUPPLEMENT

JOSEPH E. FULCO, PRINCIPAL

**Wood-Ridge School District  
Wood-Ridge, NJ 07075**

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September 2008

Dear Parents:

Welcome to kindergarten! The *Kindergarten Supplement* has been designed to acquaint you with information particular to the kindergarten instructional program. The major characteristic of our program finds its distinction in parental participation. This supplement should serve as a complement to the *C.E. Doyle Student Handbook*, which contains the school's general policies and procedures.

Kindergarten is the introduction of your child's formal education. It is the goal of the Doyle School staff to nurture the growth of the whole child, and to foster a strong foundation that promotes lifelong learning. The cooperation of the home is essential to attaining this goal. The teachers and I look forward to working with you. You and your child will find the rewards to be immeasurable.

Have a wonderful year in kindergarten!

Sincerely,

**JOSEPH E. FULCO**  
PRINCIPAL

## **Kindergarten Schedule**

School begins on September 3, 2008. On the first day, kindergarteners will have an abbreviated schedule and be dismissed 10:00 am. On that day, parents are invited to join the principal for a Kindergarten Parent Tea in the Multipurpose room at 9:00 – 10:00 am, hosted by the Wood-Ridge PTA.

Kindergarteners will follow the regular full day school schedule, **8:15 am – 2:55 pm, beginning on the second day of school. In order to ensure full protection and supervision, children are not to arrive at school before 8:05 am.** Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated and anticipated.

The kindergarten lunch period is scheduled from 12:30pm – 1:13pm. Under the supervision of a paraprofessional, children will eat lunch first, and then enjoy recess time outside, weather permitting.

## **Overview of Program ...**

The kindergarten program is implemented through multidisciplinary instruction where children can make real-life connections about their world. Classroom curriculum is supplemented through activities enriched by our special subject teachers in the areas of art, technology, library, music, physical education, world languages, and reading. This diverse exposure to instruction addresses the variety of learning styles and multiple intelligences among our children. It also allows youngsters the opportunity to discover relationships and draw meaningful conclusions about their own learning.

## **CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS**

### **LANGUAGE ARTS ...**

The kindergarten language arts curriculum is engaged through a balanced literacy program designed to address the specific needs of young learners. Balanced literacy is a flexible, research-based design that views teachers as informed decision makers who use authentic assessment to guide student instruction. A balanced literacy approach to instruction offers students daily opportunities to engage in various reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing and presenting activities to help them communicate ideas more effectively. These components of literacy are essential to develop literate members of society who possess a variety of critical communication and comprehension skills that are purposeful.

In a balanced literacy framework, students participate in read-alouds, shared reading, flexible/guided reading, independent reading, and word study. Students engage in modeled writing, shared writing, interactive writing, guided writing, and independent writing. In this child-centered environment, students take charge of learning as they are immersed in meaningful instruction. The learning connections that are made in these rich, early experiences build a strong foundation in literacy and lifelong learning.

A child's success in learning to read is dependent upon his/her stage of development and prior experiences. Though stages of development come with maturation, instructional centers allow children to practice and uncover learning through various activities. The exploration of literacy components through diverse activities allows children to find a sense of purpose in the printed word.

All kindergarten language experiences provide a foundation for the development and extension of skills that are necessary for lifelong achievement. The varied language and literature experiences stimulate creative expression, build vocabulary, and broaden a child's ideas and outlooks.

The following skills are incorporated in language arts instruction.

phonemic awareness and phonics  
listening  
language development  
critical thinking skills  
appreciation of literature  
oral/written communication

visual and auditory discrimination  
using picture clues  
oral/written comprehension  
high frequency word identification  
viewing, interpreting, presenting

### **MATHEMATICS ...**

The kindergarten mathematics program emphasizes the development of concepts by using a "hands-on" approach to promote student understanding.

The skills developed in the mathematics program include:

- concepts of equality and difference
- recognizing ordinals, numerals, simple fractions, and mathematical symbols
- measurement of time and money
- identification and classification
- order and position
- recognizing quantity and size

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION ...**

Through participation in both planned and informal play activities, children develop muscular coordination, motor skills, and endurance for everyday living. Focus on sportsmanship and cooperation are central to the development of all skill areas. Activities are planned with knowledge of the child's developmental patterns and include:

- directed activities (games, rhythms)
- informal activities (blocks, balls, balance)
- playground activities (large motor, social play)

## **SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ...**

Social experiences in the kindergarten classroom help children learn how to work and plan together. The kindergarten environment promotes the values of sharing, cooperation, and respect for others. This environment also strives to assist children to become independent and resourceful thinkers. The students' experiences are extended beyond the kindergarten room to include knowledge of the school community, facility and personnel.

## **Role of Parents ...**

Parents play a vital role in the support of the learning process. Kindergarten teachers will actively seek parental involvement through participation in classroom activities and projects, special school programs, and homework assignments. To maximize the learning experience, parents must serve as active partners in the education of their children.

Children must be made to understand that they and their education are non-negotiable priorities. Volunteering in your child's classroom and remaining visible to your child within the school environment can reinforce this understanding. Spending time with your child, whether in or out of school, is of paramount importance to his/her development.

## **How Parents Can Help ...**

1. Label all outer clothing, footwear, etc. These articles should be large enough for the child to handle on his/her own.
2. Provide strong loops on outer garments so that they can be hung up properly.
3. Place your child's name on all items brought to school.
4. Teach your child his/her full name, address, and telephone number.
5. Be certain that your child has a good night's sleep (10-11 hours) and a substantial breakfast.
6. Maintain contact with your child's teacher.
7. Broaden your child's experiences and interests through activities such as:
  - reading stories and poems
  - visiting libraries, museums, etc.
  - encouraging discussion
  - demonstrating compassion and understanding
  - listening to good music
  - taking family trips
  - listening with interest to what your child shares with you

ENJOY THIS AMAZING EXPERIENCE WITH YOUR CHILD!!!