



# Learning Across the Year

## ● Kindergarten ●

**Great Falls Public Schools is committed to...**

**Vision:** All kids engaged in learning today...for life tomorrow

**Mission:** We successfully educate students to navigate their future.

This document provides a broad overview of what your child will be learning in each of the content areas. For a more detailed look at the complete curriculum for kindergarten, go to: [www.gfps.k12.mt.us](http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us)

### **Reading**

In Kindergarten, students understand and apply concepts of print, phonological and phonemic awareness. They expand their oral language skills and continue to build their vocabulary. Students participate in reading by listening to or viewing informational and literary text. They are encouraged to talk about their reading by retelling and stating opinions about a variety of books.

### **Writing**

Kindergarten students use both pictures and print to communicate ideas. Students learn to form letters and show an increasing understanding of letters, sounds, and patterns. They draft simple sentences, often using a repeating structure or pattern. Students begin to write on their own, and much of their writing will be about themselves, their families, pets, and friends.

### **Handwriting**

Kindergarten students use singing, playing and building to develop proper pencil grip and letter and number recognition. Students begin writing basic print using the program Handwriting Without Tears.

### **Language**

Students in Kindergarten begin to understand basic features of print. They start to understand words, syllables and sounds. When writing, students begin to understand capitalization and punctuation and are encouraged to use correct grammar.



### **Speaking and Listening**

In Kindergarten, students learn to take part in class discussions by listening to others and taking turns when speaking. They are encouraged to ask questions and communicate clearly to express thoughts, feelings and ideas.

### **Math**

The focus in Kindergarten is on counting. Kindergartners practice counting objects in sets, and they think about how numbers are ordered by using a number line. Students put together and take apart simple numbers, which will allow them to begin adding and subtracting numbers less than 10. Students are encouraged to solve word problems by drawing or acting them out. Kindergartners name simple two- and three- dimensional figures and find these shapes around them. Students sort and match shapes as they begin to learn classification skills.

### **Science**

Children learn to observe, ask questions, classify and take notes while conducting experiments in exploring the following units: Trees, Wood and Paper, and Animals.



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## • Kindergarten •

### **Social Studies**

Kindergarteners develop social skills through experiences centered around the units: Community Helpers, My Family, Safety, American Indian Culture. Students may also explore the topics of Circus, Farm, Pets, Zoo, Seasons, Holidays and the Five Senses.

### **Music**

Kindergarteners listen, respond to and present music with guidance. They learn basic music symbols, terms, and signs and begin to recognize patterns and rhythms in music.

### **Physical Education/Health Enhancement**

Students learn body and space awareness, manipulative and fine motor skills, endurance and flexibility in PE. Other topics covered include nutrition, safety and fitness.

### **Technology**

Students will explore and use a variety of digital tools to create group projects and to communicate ideas.

### **Art**

Kindergarteners are encouraged to develop individual creativity through visual means. Students learn to use art materials, create works of art, respond to and analyze works of art and understand art influences.

### **Counseling**

Students acquire personal skills to support and improve their education by learning how to follow directions, learn from mistakes, make friends, take turns, follow safety rules, etc.

### **Library**

Students learn effective and efficient ways to access information. They are encouraged to access and read information and literature for learning and enjoyment. The library curriculum also supports the reading “concepts of print” by teaching students how to hold and take care of a book correctly, identify pages, authors and illustrators.

## How to Help Your Child Learn at Home

**Try to develop a routine where your child sits in a quiet place for 15 to 30 minutes daily to complete homework or reading. Sitting with your child will allow you the opportunity to see what he/she is learning. You will be the first to know if your child needs help with specific topics.**

- Read with your child every day. Talk to your child about the reading. Ask your child to explain his or her favorite parts of the story. Have him/her retell the story in his/her own words.
- Ask your child about books. Who is the author? Where is the front cover, back cover and title page? What can you tell about the book based on these features? Why did the author write this book?
- Encourage your child to tell you about his or her day at school. Encourage them to elaborate to encourage the use of vocabulary. Don't settle for one word answers. Ask specific questions or use the phrase “Tell me more.”
- Ask questions that require counting as many as 20 things. “How many shoes are in your closet? How do you know?” Ask questions that require some comparing. “Who has more peas on their plate? How do you know?”
- Talk to your child while in the car, while cooking, or when completing every day tasks. Encourage your child to listen by modeling good listening yourself. Ask questions to encourage multiple exchanges and listening behaviors.