





EARLY CHILDHOOD  
DISCOVERY AND DESIGN  
MAGNET SCHOOL

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Welcome to Kindergarten and thank you for coming to our special orientation event! We are so pleased that you've chosen our school for your young learner and look forward to learning and growing together in the coming year.

Included in this packet are the “nuts and bolts” of our Kindergarten program. We hope that it answers most of your general questions about what the coming year will offer and we look forward to the more personal introduction we'll do in September.

Thank you,

The ECDD Kindergarten Team



## Our Curriculum

### Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Journeys



#### HMH Journeys:

- Alignment to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)
- Integrated Reading, Language Arts, Writing
- Uses latest research to help students become proficient readers
- Uses the best new literature to introduce Concept of Prints, Anthology short stories, Big Books, Read Alouds, and Trade Books

#### Balanced:

- Encompasses all 5 strands (Phonemic Awareness, Phonics (Foundations: teaches letters, letter sounds, spelling and handwriting), Vocabulary, Comprehension, Fluency)
- Reading Skills and Strategies are reinforced throughout
- Focus is on both written and oral comprehension

#### Instructional Practices Include:

- Clear Goals and expectations
- Explicit Instruction
- Aligned Standards and Instructional Practices
- Rich practices to develop students who can read, write, and speak well



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- Supports English Language Learners
  - rich visual context pictures
  - child friendly sentences to introduce vocabulary and connects to meaning

#### Differentiated Instruction:

- Abundance of resources to support the teacher edition from the struggling reader all the way to the advanced reader
- Intervention Plan:
  - Uses an acceleration model to help students achieve grade expectations
  - Targets deficiencies with interactive lessons, focused instruction
  - Home-connection (parent letters) and student online access at home

#### On-going Assessment:

- Formative and Summative
- Progress Monitoring
- Prescriptive data-driven instruction

#### Technology:

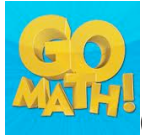
- Comprehensive set of resources with a multitude of activities and ideas for students and teachers



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## **Go Math Curriculum**

The “Go Math” program is the math curriculum we used in grades K-2. This program is designed to meet the Common Core standards. You will notice that the children are required to write and strategize a lot more than in previous years. In addition to the traditional textbook experience, the students will have SMART Board interactive instruction, computer review and reinforcement activities for home and school, as well as center activities and other project based learning opportunities. We will continue to work on “speedy responses” to basic number fact questions in school; any additional practice you can do at home would benefit your child immensely.

In January we start the Math CHAMPS program, in which students are tested on their counting by 1’s to 100, counting from any number to 20, counting backwards from 20, counting by tens to 100 and drill the fast facts drills (1+1, 1+2, 5-4, etc.).

**Social Studies and Science:** We integrate science and social studies learning into four thematic units throughout the year. We start off with a unit of study titled, *Yours, Mine, and Ours*. It’s a study of community and diversity that focuses on noticing differences and similarities. We take a close look at how are families in our community are the same and different. We take a close look at different types of trees and notice how they are alike and different. We study how family members have roles and responsibilities and how family members depend on each other. We notice how families grow and change. We study the different parts of a tree, and how each part makes a special contribution to helping the tree to thrive. We adopt a tree in the neighborhood and visit it throughout the year to notice how it changes and responds to the seasons. We end the unit by making ‘family trees’ to celebrate our family and appreciate similarities and differences. Each of the units includes special trips in the community and beyond to help children make connections among what they are learning in school and the real world.

### **Engineering/Robotics**

In the first months of Kindergarten, students work in the LEGO Lab to develop skills and understandings for how to work in a playful way and how to play with specific purpose in mind. We initiate this learning with free building experiences and challenge students to work in pairs towards a shared goal. This is big learning for five year olds and they are very motivated to succeed with the LEGO and DUPLO materials. Later in the year, students will explore engineering concepts and create robotic structures using CHERP and KIBA computer programming tools and motors. The Engineering Design Process (Ask, Imagine, Plan, Create, Test, Improve and Share) plays a special role during this first unit and throughout the year.

### **Social and Emotional**

Students have direct instruction weekly in skills related to College and Career Readiness, including topics such as persistence, self-esteem and getting along with others.

### **The Arts**

Students have dance, music and art classes each week.



### **Homework**

A packet of homework will be sent home every Friday or Monday. The work is to be completed at home and returned Friday. Every night your child will also be responsible for reading at home and completing a log. It is important to return borrowed book(s) and the log weekly. Kindergarten students should be encouraged to be responsible for keeping up with the homework and develop good homework habits.



## UNIFORM and SUPPLIES

Please remember our yellow and khaki, choices for uniforms. Children should wear socks and play shoes with closed toes. Uniforms should be worn **every day**.

A **book bag** or **backpack** is a necessity for your child's ease of carrying papers, daily snack and lunch, Library books, or school supplies. Anything that is brought to school--backpack, lunch bag, sweater, hat/visor for the sun, jacket, umbrella, personal supplies--should have your child's **name** to help locate misplaced items.

## Healthy Snacks

In order to learn effectively, students need a healthy school environment. To ensure that ECDD provides a healthy school environment, we are suggesting the type of healthy snacks that can be included in student lunches and provided at classroom parties. Remember parents it is "**healthy snacks only!**"

The link between nutrition and learning is well documented. Healthy eating patterns are essential for students to achieve their full academic potential, full physical and mental growth, and lifelong health and well - being. ECDD staff believes that they have a responsibility to help students establish and maintain lifelong, healthy eating patterns.

Foods brought to school as part of their school day lunch should be nutritious, low in fat and sugars, and moderate in portion size.



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**Here are some "bottom-line" expectations we have for every student:**

- Arrive for school promptly at 8:00 AM (7:20 for breakfast!)
- Be ready for an active day of learning (This includes getting a good night's sleep)
- Be safe, responsible and accountable in school
- Be kind - We take care of each other and ourselves. We all deserve to be treated respectfully.

*We look forward to a wonderful year! See you in  
September!*