Course Syllabus

Kindergarten

Course Description:

Language:

Our kindergarten language program introduces students to the joys of reading and writing. Phonics immersion equips them with knowledge of letters, sounds, one- and two-vowel words, and consonant blends. Within a few weeks of our opening day, students are ready to begin reading *Primary Phonics* fun books with simple plots and characters. Our commitment to mastering the art of handwriting begins in kindergarten. Students practice formation of all upper- and lower-case letters. Skills of handwriting and phonics meet when students learn to scribe short sentences.

Arithmetic:

Mastering basic arithmetic skills in early childhood sets students up for a lifetime of enjoyment of numbers. Kindergarten students count, develop number sense, learn addition and subtraction facts, measure, tell time, and calculate money. They begin to see the patterns that make arithmetic work.

Classical Studies:

Recitation of poetry, author/illustrator studies, hands-on crafts, viewing of classical artwork, and an introduction to a child's place in creation gets students ready to learn in a big world. Within the framework of the days of creation, students explore time, matter, the earth, space, plants, and animals.

Major Topics of Study:

Language

Arithmetic

Classical Studies

Text/Required Materials:

McGuffy's Eclectic Primer (free access online)
EPS Primary Phonics Storybook Set 1
EPS Primary Phonics Storybook Set 2
EPS Primary Phonics Workbook 1
EPS Primary Phonics Workbook 2
EPS Primary Phonics Storybook Set 1A
Fun in the Sun
Scamp and Tramp

Text/Required Materials: (cont'd)

Soft and White
SRA Phonics 1
A Reason for Handwriting PK
The World God Made (2nd Edition)
FPA Kindergarten Arithmetic Workbook

Grading Scale:

You can anticipate several kinds of feedback on submitted assignment work:

- Errors marked
- Corrections when answers are not obvious
- Responses to parent questions
- Periodic comments to guide student learning

*A designation of “Developing,” “Secure,” or “Exemplary” on most submitted assignments

What do these designations mean?

“Developing” is noted when a student is still working toward grade level expectations for kindergarten.

“Secure” is noted when a student’s skills demonstrate expected kindergarten level expectations for that particular skill or concept. This designation is made with the understanding that the student is working with a high level of independence, completing tasks as they are designed, and will retain the skill in the future.

“Exemplary” is noted when the demonstrated level of skill or mastery exceeds the level of typical kindergarten development. Factors such as neatness, accuracy, detail, fluency, and depth of thought are considered in this designation.

There will be no number or letter grades issued. We have adopted this system because we believe that learning is a journey. Every piece of work that students do is meaningful and beneficial to their growth. The composite of a student’s work speaks to his/her skills and his/her preparedness for first grade.

Our system serves us well when student work accurately reflects student ability, mostly unsupported by adults. “Overhelping” flaws the grading system and taints important feedback that teachers use to guide instruction. There is no specific limit on the help for assignments that are not submitted; however, overhelping any assignment impacts student learning and development of independent performance.

Example: a student is given the task of counting backward from 10 to 1.

Scenario 1: The child writes, 1, 2, 3… Stop the student. Erase. Explain the directions. Let him/her practice orally. Try again. Submit without further correction or direction.

Scenario 2: The child writes 10, 9, 8, 5, 3, 2, 1. Submit work without correction.

Please follow any directions on assignments regarding the amount and type of parent support expected. Should you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact the teacher.

Expectations/Guidelines:

The administration and teachers of FreedomProject Academy are steadfast in our efforts to provide an excellent education for our students. This requires vigilance as practices and trends promoting mediocrity and low standards abound in government schools and private schools of all kinds.

Excellence in education begins with an evaluation of the student's independently completed work. The recent trend of resubmitting assignments after receiving teacher feedback leads to better grades but is not an accurate evaluation of a student's independent skill level. This practice stems from Common Core/ No Child Left Behind/Outcome-Based Education and puts the emphasis on grades (outcome). An excellent education is focused on learning and the student's growth not just outcome.

Our grading policy is designed to promote learning and student growth. For clarity, once an assignment is submitted, no resubmission will be accepted. Much effort is taken to grade and provide feedback. It is the parent's responsibility to review graded assignments with the child for the purpose of learning from mistakes. This permits the parent and teacher to direct the growth of each uniquely individual child with accurate knowledge.