



FREEDOM PROJECT ACADEMY

Kindergarten Course Syllabus:

Kindergarten is an exciting year for students as they begin their journey into education. FPA's kindergarten program is filled with adventure and academic learning as students engage in the curriculum. This is the year where students begin to learn how to read, manipulate numbers, and learn about the world God created.

Phonics and Reading:

Our kindergarten program introduces students to the joys of reading and writing. Phonetic immersion equips them with knowledge of letters, sounds, one- and two-vowel words, consonant blends, and a solid understanding of the phonetic code. Within a few weeks into the school year, students are ready to begin reading books with simple plots and characters.

Handwriting:

Our commitment to mastering the art of handwriting begins in kindergarten. Students practice using the proper pencil grip with the formation of all upper- and lower-case letters. Skills of handwriting and phonics meet when students begin to scribe short sentences.

Arithmetic:

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

Science:

The science curriculum is an overview of the 7 days of creation from a Christian perspective. Beginning with the heavens and the earth to the creation of man as well as the final day of rest, students will gain an understanding of God and his wonderful creation.

History:

The kindergarten history curriculum covers many of our national symbols such as the American Flag, the Bald Eagle, and the Presidential Stamp. In addition, students begin to recognize notable American presidents printed on our coins and money. Rounding out the kindergarten history curriculum is a series of familiar bible stories in which students engage in activities in the classroom and at home.

Text/Required Materials:

McGuffey'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
SRA Phonics 1
A Reason for Handwriting K
The World God Made (2nd Edition)
FPA Kindergarten Arithmetic Workbook

Grading Scale:

We have adopted this system of grading because we believe that learning is a journey. Every assignment that students complete is meaningful and beneficial to their growth.

All assignments are scored with the following criteria:

- 0 points = “Not submitted”
- 1 point = “Still developing skills toward consistency in expectations”
- 2 points = “Independently demonstrates expectations consistently”
- 3 points = “Exceeds expectations”

~0 points are given when the student has not submitted the homework assignment.

~1 point is given when the student is working toward grade level expectations in a particular skill for kindergarten.

~2 points are noted when a student’s skills demonstrate expected Kindergarten level expectations for that skill or concept. This designation is made with the understanding that the student is working with a high level of independence, completing tasks as designed, and will retain that skill in the future.

~3 points are noted when the student exceeds mastery of the level of a typical Kindergarten student. Factors such as neatness, accuracy, detail, fluency, and depth of thought are considered in this designation.

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 the development of independent performance. We have provided an example of supporting your child at home in partnership with FPA below.

Example 1: The student is given the task to count backward from 10 to 1.

- Your child writes 1, 2, 3...stop your child...erase... Explain the directions, let him/her practice orally...try again. Submit without further direction or correction.
- Your child writes 10, 9, 8, 5, 3, 2, 1...Submit the assignment without any corrections.

Assignments:

Assignments uploaded and submitted into Canvas will be graded as well as any Canvas quizzes. Reading checks are highlighted in yellow and are assigned the same day they are due.

All assignments must be completed by Friday, at 10:59 pm Central Time. However, students in kindergarten are granted a one-day grace period.

Attendance/Participation:

Students should attend class Monday-Thursday and are expected to actively participate and engage during class time to benefit from direct instruction by the teacher. Please notify the teacher in advance (if possible) of any absences. For extended absences such as a vacation, please notify FPA administration.

Expectations/Guidelines:

Assignment sheets will be posted by noon Central Time every Friday for the upcoming week. These schedules will include all assignments (Monday-Friday) required for each subject during that week. Teachers will provide feedback and parents are encouraged to review the graded assignments with the student to facilitate learning from any errors made. This approach to partnership with parents, fosters independent learning and growth, instilling confidence in our students.