

Eagle Ridge Academy Kindergarten

At Eagle Ridge Academy, we follow the Core Knowledge Framework and the Minnesota State Standards for Language Arts; History and Geography; Visual Arts; Music; Mathematics; and Science. Core Knowledge provides a solid foundation for learning by building upon student knowledge and skills from one year to the next and eliminating gaps in student learning.

Students will receive instruction in the following areas during Kindergarten:

Language Arts: Our reading program instruction is done through guided reading, read-alouds, and Saxon phonics (this program includes a handwriting and spelling component). We use Shurley English for writing and grammar (writing complete sentences and identifying nouns and verbs). In reading, students will demonstrate book and print awareness; demonstrate phonemic awareness; decode and encode words; work of reading and language comprehension; study poetry, short stories, Aesop's fables, folk heroes, and tall tales; and literary terms. In writing, students will write letters in upper and lower cases; write simple words and messages; and spell their own names. They will also learn sayings, phrases, and work on oral communication skills.

History and Geography: The topics studied will include geography with spatial sense (working with maps, globes, and other geographic tools); an overview of the seven continents; local geography; Native American people of the past and present; early exploration and settlement (Columbus and the Pilgrims); July 4th, Independence Day; the presidents of the past and present; and American symbols and figures.

Visual Arts: The topics will include the elements of art as color and line; sculpture; and looking and talking about famous works of art.

Music: The topics will include the elements of music through participation (rhythm, melody, harmony, form, timbre); listening and understanding music (composers and their music; instruments); singing folk songs and dancing or moving responsively to music.

Mathematics: We follow the Saxon Math curriculum that allows for the development of foundational concepts and critical thinking skills, and concepts are developed, reviewed, and practiced over time. This curriculum is effective in reaching and challenging student at all levels. The scope and sequence of the curriculum provides instruction in Numbers and Operation; Measurement; Geometry; Patterns; Algebra and Functions; Statistics; Data Analysis and Probability; Problem Solving; Communication; Mathematical Reasoning and Connections. Benchmarks: The topics will include patterns and classification; numbers and number sense; money; computation; measurement; time; and geometry.

Science: In science, teachers follow the FOSS science kits which create hands-on, lab approach to developing science skills.

Benchmarks: The topics will include plants and plant growth; animals and their needs; the human body (the five senses); seasons and weather; taking care of the earth; and various science biographies.

Latin: Students will receive introductory instruction in Latin.

Physical Education: Students in the kindergarten program will receive instruction in physical education twice a week.