

A Day in the Life

of a Clark Fork School

Explorer (Kindergarten)

As a Clark Fork School Kindergarten Student your morning begins with a block of time set aside for greeting and socializing with your friends and choosing a center to play in. This allows you to ease into a busy day filled with many activities that include Morning Meeting, Writer's Workshop, Snack and Story Time, Math Stations, Reading Daily 5, Lunch, Outside Time, Yoga/Mat Time, and Thematic Study. We also enjoy many field trips and saunters as well as swimming and downhill ski lessons.

Circle Time

Circle time begins with a song as we gather on the big rug. First we read a morning message written by your teacher, and we update our daily calendar. We then talk about the weather and observations we made on our way to school. The morning letter includes news about what will be happening that day. We also fill in our weather observations in our weather journals.

Writer's Workshop

Writer's Workshop is our time each day dedicated to helping us become better writers. We will work on our letter writing in a variety of ways and expand on our knowledge of different types of writing. You will get to write your own stories, using pictures and words, and have time to share them with your friends.

Snack and Story Time

Now it is time for a break. During Snack and Story Time, we all gather with our lunch boxes on the circle rug and listen as the teacher reads aloud from a chapter book.

Morning Outside Time

After cleaning up your snack, you will get yourself ready to go outside and join in a whole-class game or free play.

Math Stations

Next, we come inside and get settled for Math Stations. Here we get to learn new concepts in math and have time in self-selected centers to practice those concepts.

Daily 5

After enjoying a brain break during our 5 Minute Movement, we move on to reading - Daily 5. This time starts with a 5-7 minute Focus Lesson about a particular concept in reading or writing. After the focus lesson you will get to choose from five different centers to practice your literacy skills: Word Work, Read to Self, Listen to Reading, Work on Writing, or Read to Someone. We will do two or three rounds of the focus lesson and then center format.

Lunch

This is the time for you to gather at the tables and eat your lunch with your friends while listening to music or a story.

Afternoon Outside Time

Let's head outside again! This time most of the rest of the school is outside as well. You can enjoy meeting new friends or playing with brothers or sisters. There are many places for you to play outside, from the swings and slides, to the sandbox and rock wall.

Yoga and Mat Time

Once we come inside again, we will gather on our mats on the circle to learn some yoga poses. These poses help us learn balance, muscle control, and calming techniques. Then we will have a free choice quiet time on our mats where you can create things with paper, draw, build with clay, or read books.

Thematic Study

Finally, we end our learning about the natural world. We often read a book to teach us something new about our environment and then dive in to a whole class project. At times we will even take our learning outside and apply it in our beautiful schoolyard setting. After we finish up, we gather for a Thankful Circle to focus on all the good that we experienced in our day. Then we pack up and head outside for pick-up.

Field Trips

Our goal in kindergarten is to spend at least one day a week (generally more) in activities outside the classroom. We value the natural world around us; therefore, we strive to use it as our classroom whenever possible. We are fortunate to be within walking distance or a short city bus ride to many wonderful parks and nature trails. These meaningful excursions and experiences include saunters to local parks and nature trails where you are encouraged to use your senses to take in the natural world around you. You will be given an opportunity to journal about your experiences. During certain occasions you will also get the chance to gather natural objects that can be shared with the class on our Nature Log.

Swim & Ski Programs

Every year the kindergarten program participates in swimming lessons at the YMCA and/or Currents and ski lessons at Snowbowl Ski Area. Transportation is provided for both programs, which take place during school hours. There is an additional fee for these activities and financial aid is available.

Classroom Expectations

Now that your children are in Kindergarten and ready to take on some responsibility, we will include them in the formation of our Community Agreements (rules), classroom jobs, and clean up. We stress an environment based on mutual respect and making responsible choices. Since Kindergarten does have some academic expectations, we require children to participate in some activities and centers, while giving choices for others.

We sincerely hope you have a wonderful School day!

To inquire about

Clark Fork School's Kindergarten Program,

Please call 728-3395, or send email to

office@clarkforkschool.org, or visit our website at www.clarforkschool.org.