Chickering School Learners Guide  
Kindergarten

Kindergarten is an essential time at Chickering School. Kindergarteners are curious and eager to learn. They come to Chickering with a variety of skills and experiences that are nurtured and developed in the classroom. It is during this year that they learn the routines of the school and most importantly, become members of the Chickering community.

By the end of Kindergarten our students have phonemic awareness skills, concepts about print and beginning phonic skills. They are able to self-select “just right” books for independent reading based on their individual skills and learning needs. Students develop critical skills such as telling a story, drawing and writing it. Students practice handwriting, ordering events and publishing their writing.

Kindergarten students are introduced to the EveryDay Math curriculum which allows for the development of strong math skills within the six strands of the Massachusetts Math Framework: Number Sense and Operations; Patterns, Relations and Algebra; Geometry; Measurement; and Data Analysis, Statistics and Probability. For example, children use numbers, including written numerals, to represent quantities and to solve quantitative problems, such as counting objects in a set, creating a set with a given number of objects, comparing and ordering sets or numerals by using both cardinal and ordinal meanings, and modeling simple joining and separating situations with objects.

As Kindergarteners, our students explore the world around them in hands-on science activities. They will journal the changes in the seasons in the outdoor classroom, learn about life cycles with apples or pumpkins and the seasons. Students use their five senses to make observations.

In Social Studies Kindergarteners learn beginning map skills, American symbols and some major holidays. Students use and understand maps and globes. The themes of Kindergarten Social Studies include History, Geography, Civics/Culture and Economics.
Kindergarten students participate in five extended core classes per week. They focus on gross motor skills, spatial awareness and object manipulation during Physical Education, once per week. Art class is once per week and at art class, the students focus on color and line exploration. Kindergarten students have Technology once per week at which they learn basic keyboarding skills, mouse skills and reinforce math concepts and early literacy skills. Students go to the Library once per week for literacy instruction and book check out. Music class is once per week as well, at which students explore pitch, notation and instruments.

As citizens of Chickering School, our Kindergarteners will learn, laugh, grow, care and make a difference. They will develop good interpersonal and intrapersonal skills, such as sharing, taking turns, problem solving and making friends.