

Elementary Education

The Kettering City School District has a total of nine elementary schools that provide excellent educational experiences for all children. In addition to a full range of academic offerings, students at each of the elementary schools also participate in art, music and physical education classes. We believe that the six years students spend in the elementary grades serve as an important foundation for the educational opportunities they will have at the middle and high school levels.

Elementary Language Arts

The Kettering City School District provides a superior and well balanced language arts program for our students in kindergarten through the fifth grade. A balanced reading program encompasses the very best practices from both literature-based and skills-based approaches. We believe that reading and writing should be to, with and by the children.

Our kindergarten students have the opportunity to receive and learn the fundamental skills they will need to begin developing in becoming a life long reader. The kindergarten reading program consists of skills such as phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, comprehension, and fluency. These important skills are learned through teacher lead activities that engage the students through read-alouds, shared reading, guided reading, and independent reading. The kindergarten writing program is in alignment with the reading program. It consists of interactive writing, shared writing, guided writing, and independent writing.

Our first and second grade students have the opportunity to continue building upon the solid foundation that they were exposed to in the kindergarten program. These students continue the study of phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, comprehension and fluency with more focused and direct instruction while at the same time learning the skills and strategies of an independent reader. Written language development is introduced to the students which include instruction in writing applications, writing conventions, and writing process.

Our third, fourth, and fifth grade students have the opportunity to develop the reading and writing skills and strategies learned in the first and second grade. Students at these levels learn the different purposes of reading and writing and how it becomes an integral part of their daily lives. Reading instruction continues to emphasis the skills and strategies that good readers use to become a successful reader while making the transition from “learning to read” to “reading to learn”. Written language development is a continuation of the rich experience that they were exposed to and developed in the primary grades. Intermediate students will become more mature writers as they learn to develop their own style of writing, learn the different genres of writing, and write for different audiences.

Elementary Mathematics

Students in kindergarten, first and second grades will be exposed to a wide variety of mathematical concepts. Number facts, measurement, geometry, patterns and problem-solving are just a sampling of the lessons that each student will experience.

Numerous activities will be presented using manipulatives that will allow the students to apply what they have learned, thereby enhancing their understanding of new concepts.

Our goal in the primary grades is to teach students to think and reason mathematically and begin to understand how their mathematical knowledge can prepare them for school, daily life and work.

Third, fourth and fifth grade students will experience an array of mathematical experiences that will further prepare them to think and reason mathematically and, as in the primary grades, to prepare them for school, daily life and work. Manipulatives and the integration of math into other subject areas will allow the students to make necessary connections and extend their learning opportunities.

Students in the upper grades at the elementary level will use mathematical processes – including reasoning, communicating and applying technology – within problem-solving situations. They will receive instruction in number operations, measurement, geometry, spatial sense, patterns, algebra, data analysis and probability.

Elementary Science

Science in our kindergarten, first, second and third grade classrooms is best explored through hands-on activities that enhance a student's understanding of the concepts being taught.

At the primary level, students have the opportunity to develop scientific inquiry skills by observing, asking questions, comparing, investigating and communicating what they have learned. In the early grades, science instruction teaches and begins to guide the student how to think "like a scientist" and to gain skills to become an effective problem-solver.

As students progress to the third, fourth and fifth grades they will learn numerous scientific concepts through hands-on investigations that are safely conducted. Students at this level will learn how to make predictions, ask questions, measure items, collect data, formulate conclusions and communicate what they have learned from the process.

Hands-on investigations and participation in various projects will help the student in the third, fourth and fifth grades to once again think "like a scientist" and to hone his or her skills as an effective problem-solver.

The goal of effective classroom instruction in the Kettering City Schools is to prepare all students for success today, as well as in tomorrow's world, a philosophy manifested in every science classroom across the district as students participate in and learn from "real-world" investigations. Further, the science curriculum is often integrated into other areas of the curriculum, allowing students to understand how science is connected to many areas of their lives.

Elementary Social Studies

The Social Studies Curriculum at the Elementary Level is composed of six basic components, providing a strong foundation for preparing our students to become enthusiastic and participating citizens in our society.

These six components consist of History, People in Societies, Geography, Economics, Government and Citizenship Rights and Responsibilities. In addition, students are expected to collect, organize, evaluate and synthesize information within the above components and apply that information to real-world settings. A wealth of non-fiction literature and grade-appropriate technology are also integral parts of the Social Studies curriculum in the elementary grades.

Students in kindergarten, first and second grades focus on Building Community within the classrooms and understanding the importance of Rules and Responsibility. In addition, students have the opportunity to compare and contrast their families to families of long ago. Other concepts, such as map skills, cultural diversity and the basic principles of government are introduced.

Students in the third, fourth, and fifth grades build upon the concepts developed in the primary grades. The focus in the Third Grade is the local community, including local government and the local economy.

At the fourth grade level, students focus on the State of Ohio, learning about geography, history, government and the economy of their state. North America is the concentration in the FIFTH GRADE, as students continue to build on the concepts of geography, history, government and the economy of our nation.