

Half Hollow Hills Central School District



**Elementary Curriculum Overview
September 2008
KINDERGARTEN**

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September 2008

Dear Parents:

The Half Hollow Hills School District's mission is to create and recreate optimal learning conditions that:

- set the highest expectations for all students, teachers, and the community
- are motivating, fully engaging, orderly, and safe
- engage all students, teachers, and the community in an active committed effort to help all members use his or her intellectual, social, and physical capacities to achieve personal goals in ways that foster the success of the society.

This guide provides parents with an overview of the kindergarten curriculum and the skills the students will acquire in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. Additionally, it will serve as a resource in helping you to understand the total elementary instructional program. While our goals, expectations, and aspirations are the same for all of our students, we recognize that children develop at different rates socially, emotionally, and academically. Our program is supportive and nurturing, and it will also excite, motivate, and challenge all students to achieve.

An education is a collaborative effort between school and the home. I hope this guide will provide parents with resources to become collaborative partners with our school community.

As you are aware, in recent years we have made every effort to provide as much parent information as possible online. This document is now available on our district website, and in future years it will be available solely online.

Sincerely,

Sheldon Karnilow, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Welcome

English Language Arts

New York State Standards for English Language Arts

Students will:

- Read, write, listen, and speak for information and understanding
- Read, write, listen, and speak for literary response and expression
- Read, write, listen, and speak for critical analysis and evaluation
- Read, write, listen, and speak for social interaction

By the end of the kindergarten year, students should be able to:

Reading

- Choose reading as a way to enjoy free time at school and home
- Re-read favorite books that have been read to them, imitating the reading behaviors of the teacher
- Distinguish between print and pictures in literature, following text with finger to point to each word
- Make predictions based on text and/or illustrations
- Show an understanding of books read aloud, by retelling the story in their own words, writing, drawing and/or re-enacting
- Respond to simple questions and discuss books with the teacher and other students
- Notice and learn new words daily from reading and discussion
- Join class in creating charts and diagrams to record important details about characters and events in stories
- Identify the common sounds of most letters of the alphabet
- Recognize their own names and some common words in print
- Build an awareness of different literary genres

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Writing

- Enjoy writing daily on self-selected topics
- Use drawings, signs, symbols, and inventive spelling to communicate
- Use words and phrases from classroom charts and labels to add to writing
- Write left to right and top to bottom, leave spaces between words
- Start to use simple punctuation and upper and lower case letters properly
- Re-read own writing and share finished work with an audience
- Build an awareness of different writing genres

Listening and Speaking in whole class, small groups, and one-to-one conversations

- Share information and ideas from personal experience
- Follow directions and ask questions for clarification
- Use appropriate eye contact and focus on the speaker for a specified period of time, without interrupting
- Take turns speaking and speak audibly in a group
- Listen and respond respectfully



Mathematics

New York State Standards for Mathematics, Science, and Technology

Students will:

- Use mathematical analysis, scientific inquiry, and technological design to pose questions, seek answers, develop solutions
- Access, process, and transfer information using appropriate technologies
- Understand mathematical concepts and principles, communicate and reason mathematically, and apply mathematics to real-world settings
- Understand and apply scientific concepts, principles, and theories
- Understand technological concepts and apply technological knowledge and skills
- Understand the relationships and common themes connecting mathematics, science, and technology
- Apply the knowledge and thinking skills of mathematics, science, and technology to address real-life problems and make informed decisions

By the end of the kindergarten year, students should be able to:

Number Sense and Operation Strand

- Begin to compare numbers using concepts of more, less, same, and equal
- Begin to understand the concept of tens and ones
- Begin counting, identifying, comparing, and ordering numbers to 20
- Write numbers 0 to 10
- Identify ordinal numbers to 10th
- Begin to understand the meaning of addition and subtraction
- Add and subtract basic facts to 10
- Understand horizontal and vertical forms of addition and subtraction
- Begin to understand the concept of counting on from a given number
- Recognize math symbols (+, -, =)
- Explore the concept of equal and unequal parts
- Explore fractions as part of a set
- Recognize fractions as part of a whole and part of a set
- Begin to create, repeat, and describe patterns of color, shape, and size

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Algebra Strand

- Determine and discuss patterns in arithmetic

Geometry Strand

- Understand and use ideas such as over, under, above, below, on, beside, next to, and between
- Identify and use basic geometric shapes in everyday activities
- Compare and sort plane and solid figures according to their attributes
- Understand the concept and recognize examples of symmetry

Measurement Strand

- Use non-standard units to estimate and measure length
- Recognize that money is used as a system of exchange
- Relate specific times such as morning, noon, afternoon, evening activities and absence of daylight.

Statistics and Probability Strand

- Use concrete objects to categorize, sort, label, and make comparisons
- Gather information and record results using pictographs



Science

New York State Standards for Mathematics, Science, and Technology

Students will:

- Use mathematical analysis, scientific inquiry, and technological design to pose questions, seek answers, develop solutions
- Access, process, and transfer information using appropriate technologies
- Understand mathematical concepts and principles, communicate and reason mathematically, and apply mathematics to real-world settings
- Understand and apply scientific concepts, principles, and theories
- Understand technological concepts and apply technological knowledge and skills
- Understand the relationships and common themes connecting mathematics, science, and technology
- Apply the knowledge and thinking skills of mathematics, science, and technology to address real-life problems and make informed decisions

By the end of the kindergarten year, students should be able to:

Scientific Inquiry

- Ask questions based on observations and experiences
- Make and test predictions
- Use observational skills to collect data
- Record data in varied forms
- Sort and classify data, recognizing simple patterns, sequences, and relationships
- Report on what they learn using visual and/or verbal modalities
- Use non-standard/standard units of measure to collect data

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The Physical Setting: Seasons

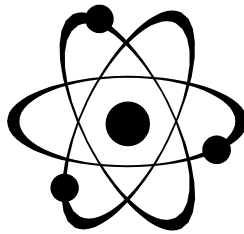
- Chart daily, monthly, and seasonal changes in the environment
- Recognize seasonal patterns
- Recognize the relationship between the sun and the Earth (day/night)
- Recognize the importance of caring for the Earth

The Physical Setting: Classification

- Observe and describe properties of materials using appropriate tools
- Observe, describe, and classify objects by their attributes

The Living Environment: Living and Nonliving

- Recognize the characteristics and variations between living and nonliving things
- Describe the structures of plants and animals
- Describe how these structures enable plants and animals to survive in the environment



Social Studies

New York State Standards for Social Studies

Students will:

- Understand the major ideas, eras, themes, developments, and turning points in the history of the United States and New York.
- Understand the major ideas, eras, themes, developments, and turning points in world history, examining these from a variety of perspective
- Understand the geography of our interdependent world from local, national and global perspectives
- Understand how the United States and other societies develop economic systems and associated institutions
- Understand the governmental system of the United States and other nations, the United States Constitution, and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship

By the end of the kindergarten year, students should be able to:

History

- Develop an awareness of themselves as individuals with unique qualities
- Understand that people are alike and different in many ways
- Understand that people use oral and written histories, folk tales, legends, music, and other means to teach values, ideas, and traditions
- Understand that each one of us is a part of a family, school, neighborhood, and community in which everyone has a role

Geography

- Locate home, school, neighborhood, and community on maps and globe
- Locate land and water masses on maps and globe
- Locate the United States on maps and globe

Economics

- Identify basic human needs and wants
- Understand that people rely on one another for goods and services
- Develop an awareness that people make economic decisions and choices

Civics, Government and Citizenship

- Develop an awareness of the symbols of our nation
- Develop an awareness that all children and adults have rights, responsibilities, and roles of citizenship
- Understand that people make and change rules and laws
- Understand that rules are made to govern and protect people



Assessments

Assessment is a process for gathering information to meet a variety of evaluation needs. Educators collect and organize information or data to demonstrate the growth that each child makes in academic areas. Teachers use a variety of assessment tools, formally and informally, to determine where a child is in his/her developmental growth. Assessment is an integral part of the curriculum.

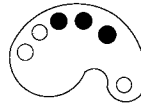
All kindergarten students in Half Hollow Hills take the Boehm Test of Basic Concepts. This assessment is administered in the fall and spring semesters. In addition, The Early Literacy Profile is administered to all kindergarten students in the fall and spring semesters.



Specials

The following programs enrich the classroom experience and are provided on a weekly basis for all students:

- Art
- Music
- Library
- Physical Education (two times a week)



Additional Services

The following personnel and/or services are available to students on an “as needed” basis:

- School Nurse
- School Psychologist
- Speech and Language
- Reading support
- Resource room
- Occupational and Physical Therapy
- ELL (English Language Learning)

Additional Programs

- Music Lessons — available to all students beginning in third grade for strings and in fourth grade for band instruments
- Orchestra— available to students fourth and fifth grade
- Band - available to students in fourth and fifth grade



Each elementary school in Half Hollow Hills offers an opportunity to join a variety of clubs. Please check with your school about the clubs available to your child.

*Assessments/
Specials*

Elementary School Online Resources

Many of these sites are available through the HHH Website

<http://www.hhh.k12.ny.us>

Choose your school and
click on the link for "Library and Media Center"

Almanacs

- <http://www.farmersalmanac.com/> - Farmers Almanac.com
- <http://yahooligans.yahoo.com/> - Yahooligans Kids' Almanac
- <http://www.factmonster.com/almanacs.html> - Fact Monster Almanac
- <http://www.infoplease.com/almanacs.html?link=hptab> – Site to search all Info Please almanacs, or search individual almanacs by subject

Authors

- <http://www.ipl.org/div/kidspace/askauthor/> - Learn more about some of your favorite authors

Biographies

- <http://www.biography.com/> - Search over 25,000 of the greatest lives, past and present
- <http://www.s9.com/biography/> - This biographical dictionary covers more than 28,000 notable men and women who have shaped our world from ancient times to the present day

Calendars

- <http://www3.kumc.edu/diversity/> - Diversity Calendar
- <http://www.earthcalendar.net/> - Calendar of celebrations by month: Earth Calendar

Current Events

- <http://www.timeforkids.com/TFK/> - Time For kids brings the latest news of the world to you

Dictionaries

- <http://www.m-w.com/dictionary.htm> - Merriam Webster Dictionary Online
- <http://nhd.heinle.com/> - Newbury House online Dictionary
- <http://www.yourdictionary.com/> - Provides more than 1,800 dictionaries with more than 250 languages
- <http://www.yourdictionary.com/languages.html> - Language Translation Dictionaries

Thesauri

- <http://www.bartleby.com/62/> - Roget's Thesaurus
- <http://www.thesaurus.com/> - Basic-type in a word, choose thesaurus (online version of Roget's) or dictionary and search
- <http://www.m-w.com/dictionary.htm> - Merriam Webster Thesaurus Online

Quotations

- <http://www.bartleby.com/100/> - Bartlett's Quotations

Ecology-Animals and their environments

- <http://www.nwf.org/kids/> - Learn about animals and their environments

Dinosaurs

- <http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/diapsids/dinosaur.html> - Learn about dinosaurs

Encyclopedias

- <http://www.britannica.com/> - Includes the complete updated Encyclopedia Britannica
- <http://www.infoplease.com/> - Combines the contents of an encyclopedia, a dictionary, and several up-to-the-minute almanacs
- <http://www.encyclopedia.com/> - Puts tons of information right at your fingertips



Field Trips

- <http://www.ringling.com/> - Visit the circus
- <http://www.bronxzoo.com/> - Visit the Bronx Zoo
- <http://www.seaworld.com/> - Visit Sea World
- <http://www.sandiegozoo.org> - Visit the San Diego Zoo
- <http://www.amnh.org/home/> - Visit the American Museum of Natural History

Geography

- <http://www.geographic.org/> – Country profiles
- <http://www.50states.com/>- 50 states

Government

- <http://bensguide.gpo.gov/> - This site provides learning tools for K-12 students, parents, and teachers about how our government works

Presidents

- <http://www.whitehouse.gov/kids/index.html> You will find various information concerning different aspects of the White House
- <http://www.ipl.org/div/potus/> -Election results, cabinet members, notable events, and some points of interest on each of the presidents. Links to biographies, historical documents, audio and video files, and other presidential sites are included.

Homework Helpers

- <http://www.suffolk.lib.ny.us/youth/homework/kidindex.html> - Suffolk Library System lists of helpers
- <http://school.discovery.com/homeworkhelp/bjpinchbeck/index.html> - BJ Pinchbeck's Homework help

Search Sites for children:

- <http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/KidsClick%21/> - Search for homework by subject area
- <http://www.askforkids.com/> – Ask Jeeves for Kids
- <http://yahooligans.yahoo.com/> – Yahoo for Kids
- <http://www.icyber.com/homeschool/olr.html> - Home-School support
- http://www.kidinfo.com/School_Subjects.html - Kid Info

Just for Fun

- <http://www.seussville.com/> -Fun with Books by Dr. Seuss

Reading Lists

- <http://kids.nypl.org/reading/recommended2.cfm?ListID=61> - This is a list of 100 picture books everyone should know for teachers
- <http://kids.nypl.org/reading/recommendedz.cfm?listID=61> Book Lists
- <http://www.carolhurst.com/titles/allreviewed.html> – Find reviews of books you might like to read
- <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown/bestbooks.html> - List of notable sites listed by the American Library Association

Search Engines

- <http://www.askforkids.com/> – Good search engine for homework helpers has a spell check feature for questions
- <http://www.dogpile.com> – Fun search engine, easy to use, lets you “fetch” information
- <http://www.yahooligans.yahoo.com> – Nice current events page, easy format
- <http://www.google.com> – Check out the kids and teen section in the web directory
- <http://www.discovery.com> – Homework helper site for students
- <http://www.ipl.org/youth/> - The internet public library youth section
- <http://www.mamma.com/> - This search engine contains the web, videos, mp3, audio, news, and images
- <http://www.msn.com> – This search engine features news and stock information
- <http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/KidsClick!/> - Search for homework help by subject area

Social Studies

- http://www.hyperhistory.com/online_n2/History_n2/a.html - Hyper History presents 3000 years of history with a combination of color lifelines, timelines and maps

Black History

- http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/BHM/bh_hotlist.html

Colonial America History Resources

- [http://pilgrims.net/Pilgrims Plantation](http://pilgrims.net/Pilgrims%20Plantation) - Virtual tour –illustrating many aspects of life at the time

Native Americans

- <http://www.hanksville.org/NAresources/> - Index of Native American Resources on the Internet

Revolutionary War

- <http://www.ushistory.org/tour/index.html> - This is a virtual tour of historic Philadelphia with great photos and information accompany you on this virtual tour
- <http://www.pbs.org/ktca/liberty> - This is an online game prepared by PBS to test your Revolutionary War knowledge

Western Movement

- <http://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest> - Oregon Trail
- <http://www.americanwest.com/trails/pages/oretrail.htm> - California Gold Rush
- <http://www.ohenrymace.com/GRHA.html> Remembering the Gold Rush History Alliance
- <http://www.lewis-clark.org/> - Explorers Lewis and Clark

Women's History

- <http://www.greatwomen.org/>

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