



Early Learning

Pre-K and Kindergarten Parent Handbook

Tunica County School District

2015-2016



The mission of the Tunica County School District is to provide strong instructional leadership, research-based instructional strategies, high-quality professional development, and on-going parent and community engagement to ensure that all students are prepared to meet college and career ready standards.

Our Goals

The ***goals*** of the Tunica County School District are to improve student achievement and clear all process standards.



Kindergarten Philosophy and Goals

The kindergarten program shall reflect an understanding of child development principles. These principles shall be embodied in the curriculum design and general learning environment. The instructional delivery is to be organized around learning centers where opportunities are provided for children to acquire skills and concepts that include problem-solving, decision-making, questioning, evaluating, and discovering.

The realistic goals for kindergarten education are as follows:

1. Develop a positive self-concept.
2. Achieve intellectual growth.
3. Enlarge student's world of people, experiences, ideas, and things.
4. Increase competence and skills in reading, writing, listening, thinking, and speaking.
5. Increase the skills involved in physical coordination.
6. Increase competence in dealing with emotional feelings and social situations.
7. Increase competence in self-direction and independence.
8. Develop cooperative trusting relationships.
9. Develop natural curiosity and creative potential.



Learning Principles

Effective educational planning for young children takes into account knowledge of human growth and development. The learning principles that guide this planning include the following:

1. Children learn as total persons (emotionally, socially, physically, and intellectually).
2. Children go through similar stages of development, but at individual rates.
3. Children learn through their senses (hearing, seeing, touching, tasting, and smelling).
4. Children learn through active involvement (exploring, playing, manipulating, and problem-solving).
5. Children learn through attitudes as well as through content; therefore, attention should be given to methods, emotional climate, environment, and teacher-child interaction.
6. Children learn through play; therefore, sensitivity to the value of play is required, for it is through play that children create their own meaning and learning schemes. Play is the work of the child.

Requirements for Enrollment of Children in Public Schools

A. Entrance Age:

1. **Required Age:** A kindergarten pupil shall have reached the age of five years on or before September 1.
2. **Required Documentation:** A birth certificate and immunization record are required for all kindergarten students and shall be presented to the proper school authority.



Attendance: Regular and on time attendance is encouraged to meet the district and state guidelines for attendance.

Assessments: Our Kindergarteners will be assessed using the State Test MKAS (STAR) In the Fall and in the Spring. The Star Early literacy assessment is given once a month to monitor student’s progress on early literacy and early numeracy skills.

Transportation: Transportation for Kindergarteners will be the same as the guidelines set for the district, according to where you reside in the county.

Kindergarten Dress Code: The District’s dress code is established to teach grooming and hygiene, prevent disruption, and minimize safety hazards. Any disruptive or distracting mode of clothing or appearance that adversely impacts the educational process is not permitted. The students **MUST** follow the following guidelines:

Shirt/Top: Navy or Red Uniform Style Shirt (Alternating days)

Pants/Skirts: Tan Uniform Style Bottom

Shoes: Any Color

Shoe strings: Black, White, or Brown

Belt: Black, White, or Brown

Socks: Black, White, or Brown

Jewelry/Accessories:

Females: One stud/hoop per Ear not to exceed one inch in diameter (the size of a quarter and no dangling jewelry)

Boys: Earrings not permitted

Headgear: Knit/Sweater hats (Winter Only)

****Special Days:** The Principal may periodically designate a special day to deviate from the uniform. New and transfer students will be given five (5) days from the date of enrollment to obtain the required uniform.



How You and Your Child Can Prepare for Kindergarten

Preparation for Pre-k and Kindergarten begin at birth. In addition to a safe, loving home where children are well cared for and are involved in play experiences, children need many opportunities to talk about the world and their experiences and to have lots of books read to them. The school will work in cooperation with you to ensure your child has the best learning experience that establishes a solid foundation for future success. Here are some suggestions to help your child have a successful year:

- Accept your child as he/she is and seek out strengths and capabilities.
- Be ready with praise when things are done well.
- Talk about school with your child.
- Guide your child to trust the teacher and those who want the best for him/her.
- Discuss the need for rules in the community, home and school.
- Help your child understand that sharing is necessary in order to get along with others and be part of a group.
- Establish regular routines of sleeping and eating by eating at a scheduled time and setting a specific bed time. (Kindergarten-age children need 9-11 hours of sleep.)
- Teach your child to button, zip, or snap clothing and take care of all toileting needs.
- Read to your child to help develop an appreciation for books.
- Encourage your child to look at and listen to the person talking.
- Take trips to points of interest like museums, planetariums, art displays, concerts and sporting events.
- Give your child opportunities to refine oral language by encouraging him/her to explain and describe experiences.
- Encourage your child to recognize his/her name.



- Encourage play with manipulative toys. Let your child experiment with typing, cooking, building and sewing. Children learn best by doing.
- Help your child's sense of security by being certain that bus directions are clearly understood. While practice runs will be made during the first school days for loading buses, you could review them - being careful not to cause undue concern.
- Give your child opportunities to count and sort objects found in the home (socks, silverware, shoes, groceries).
- Give your child tasks to do at home. Such experiences develop responsibility, independence and self-reliance
- Encourage your child to make decisions by giving choices and having them abide by those choices.
- Listen to what your child has to say about school. It is important not to force the conversation, but be attentive when your child is ready to share an experience.
- Kindergarten children need to wear clothing and shoes that facilitate easy movement. Shoes should allow for easy running. As children spend much time painting, and sitting on the floor, washable clothing is recommended. Sweaters, jackets, raincoats, etc., can look amazingly alike, and numerous items end up in lost and found each year. Therefore, clothing should be labeled.

Contact your child's school for any additional needs, questions, and concerns
from 7:30-3:30 Monday-Friday

Robinsonville Elementary School (662) 357-1077

Tunica Elementary School (662) 363-1442

Dundee Elementary School (662) 363-1810