



# DALLASTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT KINDERGARTEN

***A GREAT EDUCATION starts with a GREAT BEGINNING***

## **Why does Dallastown Area School District offer full-day kindergarten classes?**

*We know that early years are prime learning years, and we want students to have the best educational foundation possible; therefore, DASD offers a full-day kindergarten program to everyone. The district embraces a developmentally appropriate integrated kindergarten curriculum in which all students become independent, life-long learners and are actively engaged in a positive child-centered environment.*

## **What do students in kindergarten learn?**

*The curriculum was developed locally in alignment with PA Common Core Standards and early childhood goals established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Kindergarten teachers are able to provide an enriching and rewarding experience for your child – stories, projects and more that will extend the day's lessons and activities.*

## **What are the unique features of the kindergarten program?**

- ✓ Extension and depth of the program content*
- ✓ Access to a specialist subject teacher (Physical Education-45 minutes/week, Music-45 minutes/week, Art -45 minutes/week, Technology Education-45 minutes/week, Library-45 minutes/week)*
- ✓ A single classroom teacher for the entire day, for greater continuity of activities and individual attention*
- ✓ Breakfast (optional), lunch, and recess at school*
- ✓ The same starting and dismissal times as children in Grades 1-3*

## **What aspects of the current core curriculum will receive additional emphasis?**

- ✓ An emphasis on language development and balanced literacy experiences*
- ✓ Technology access and integration in the curriculum*
- ✓ A focus on experiential learning and higher level thinking*
- ✓ Social skill-building in small group and full class settings*
- ✓ Additional time for engagement in active, child-initiated, small-group and play activities*
- ✓ Opportunities for enrichment, reinforcement and re-teaching*

## What does a typical kindergarten daily schedule include?

*Kindergarten classes are offered Monday through Friday from 8:50 a.m. to 3:35 p.m. Students may purchase breakfast and/or lunch at school. More information about the Food Service Program, including free and reduced lunch, will be available to you during the August orientations and visits.*

- ✓ Arrival, Welcome, Announcements*
- ✓ Calendar/Daily News*
- ✓ Word Work*
- ✓ Integrated Language Arts (letter work, literacy centers, story time, writing workshop)*
- ✓ Shared Reading*
- ✓ Lunch & Recess*
- ✓ Quiet Time*
- ✓ Specialist Time*
- ✓ Math*
- ✓ Social Studies/Science/Thematic Learning Centers*
- ✓ Imagination Stations (including structured play for social development)*
- ✓ Clean Up/Pack Up/Dismissal*

## Are 5 year olds ready for school?

*Experience from DASD's kindergarten staff and other research inform us that not only are 5 year olds capable of attending full-day kindergarten but it also helps them thrive academically, socially and emotionally. The key is the structure and philosophy of the program. DASD believes that the curriculum should surround the child rather than placing the child in a rigid curriculum. Therefore, all of our early childhood programs are developmentally appropriate – from the daily schedule and routine to resources, centers, and materials. Our teachers understand that children learn best when they are engaged in hands-on, innovative activities. The kindergarten program also allows students to participate in art, music, and motor development; they enjoy art, music, computer, library and physical education classes, just like the older students.*



*Inspiring and creating pathways for student success*