Dear Kindergarten Parent,

Welcome to Sage Community School and to the exciting beginning of your child’s formal school experience. We’re looking forward to working with you in providing your child with new experiences and the educational activities that will promote intellectual, physical, social, and emotional growth.

For the last five years, the home has been the center of your child’s life. Beginning this fall, the school will become a “second home” for your child. It is our intention to provide your children with the best possible learning environment in order to provide an ever-widening range of opportunities for learning and growth. We will do our best to ensure a positive first school experience for your child.

You are always welcome in our school. We believe that we are in a partnership with parents and that by working as a team we can give your child the best possible start in his or her educational experience. We invite you into the classroom to volunteer, share your talents, and join the learning process.

This booklet will acquaint you with the kindergarten program and its educational goals, and provide suggestions to help your child be successful in this new situation. We look forward to having your child in our school system and working together with you to give your child the best education possible.

Sincerely,

Anna M. Fowler

Anna Fowler
Director/Principal
Sage Community School
PHILOSOPHY

Sage Community School’s philosophy for kindergarten is based on the belief that each child is unique and each child deserves the best educational opportunity possible. We believe the program must encompass the total needs of each child: intellectual, social, emotional, and physical.

With that goal in mind our kindergarten program will provide activities focused on children’s needs, abilities, interests, and cultural background. Our kindergarten environment will stimulate curiosity, creativity, and problem-solving, and provide meaningful, concrete experiences which are fundamental to the way young children learn.

A balanced approach to learning will be emphasized with instructional activities provided through whole group, small group and center based learning situations. Children’s free choice activities will allow for additional exploration in a variety of areas, including science, social studies, and creative problem solving.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- All kindergarten students:
- Need to be five (5) years old on or before the first day of September.
- Need to provide a birth certificate as proof of age, to conform to the state law.
- Will attend the extended day kindergarten program that provides a full day of learning experiences. Daily attendance is essential to your child’s successful educational experience. Frequent absences and tardiness disrupt the consistency necessary in a young child’s education.
- Will have the opportunity to participate in the breakfast and lunch programs provided at each school site.
- Must be immunized according to the Oregon Immunization laws. The law requires Oregon children initially entering school to be fully immunized or currently up-to-date on immunization PRIOR to enrollment. Children coming from out of state are given thirty (30) days to be currently updated or to start receiving immunizations. Only medical or religious reasons will exempt children from provisions of the law.

IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULE

- 5 doses of diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis (DTaP)
- 4 doses of polio (IPV)
- 2 doses of measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)
- 3 doses of Hepatitis B
- 2 doses of Hepatitis A
- 1 dose of varicella (chicken pox)

If a child already had chicken pox, the parent/guardian must sign Certificate of Immunization Status form indicating date of disease.

**STARTING SCHOOL SUCCESSFULLY: Tips for Parents**

Most young children look forward to starting school, but at the same time, may be a little anxious about what lies ahead. You can help your child be happy and confident about his/her school experience in the following ways:

- Talk positively with your child about school, what he/she will learn, and what to expect. Let your child know that learning is an exciting and enjoyable activity.
- Familiarize yourself and your child with the school before the first day.
- Encourage your child to ask questions and share fears and/or excitement about school.
- Read to your child.

Your child will feel more secure if he/she:

- Knows their full name, address and telephone number.
- Knows the directions to get to school if walking, or their bus number.
- Is on a schedule which ensures a good night's sleep, and has the ability to follow daily routines.
- Knows who will be waiting for them at the end of the day.

Your child will be more successful in kindergarten if she/he can:

- Be away from you for an extended period of time without becoming upset.
- Dress him/herself by being able to tie shoelaces and button or zip clothes.
- Attend to personal needs such as using the toilet without assistance, correct handwashing procedures, and other good hygiene habits.
- Be responsible for the care and use of materials such as toys, books, pencils and clothes.
- Be able to listen and follow directions.
- Be able to print his/her name.
- Take turns and cooperate in a group.
GENERAL PROGRAM GOALS

- To develop personal abilities and foster a positive self-image.
- To provide a program rich in language experiences.
- To provide opportunities for physical development.
- To foster an understanding of protective health and safety habits.
- To explore and develop mathematical and scientific concepts.
- To provide activities for creative exploration of music and art.
- To encourage curiosity, creative thinking, and problem-solving skills.
- To promote positive social skills and democratic principles.
- To develop self-discipline and self-help skills.

We encourage you to visit SCS, to be inquisitive about your child’s educational program, to feel free to ask any questions, and to volunteer your time and talents in the classroom. Our ultimate goal is to develop your child to his/her fullest potential. We strive to provide excellent educational opportunities and guidance for your child. We believe this is best achieved through a strong and harmonious partnership with parents.

The following pages describe the goals and objectives of specific curriculum areas covered during the kindergarten year. As you browse through the specific goals and topics for each area, look for opportunities to support your child’s learning at home and as a volunteer in the classroom. Please contact the director at 541.783.2533, if you have any questions.

LANGUAGE ARTS GOALS

Children should be actively involved in language experiences, both oral and written, in order to promote literacy. Literacy activities will include shared reading experiences, read-aloud activities, and alphabetic activities. Students will create oral and written stories, extend their vocabulary skills, and develop creative thinking and communication skills. These activities will follow state and Common Core standards and provide support for individual skill development.

Kindergarten language arts programs will also:

- Expose children to a variety of books so that they may recognize, enjoy, and value many kinds of literature.
- Introduce specific reading concepts such as:
  - What a word is.
  - What a letter is.
  - Letter names and sounds recognition (phonics).
  - Phonemic awareness (example – rhyming words).
  - Directionality of print (left to right, top to bottom).
  - Recognition of common words.
  - Making meaningful predictions.
• Comprehend (retell and/or act out a story).
• Facilitate language usage and understanding.
• Improve listening skills.
• Facilitate handwriting skills:
  ➢ Small muscle development.
  ➢ Eye-hand coordination.
  ➢ Holding writing utensils.
  ➢ Learning basic strokes.
• Facilitate written communication skills:
• Write simple stories and sentences to communicate ideas.
• Use phonetic spelling to label pictures and create stories.

**MATH GOALS**

Math concepts are developed through activities based on concrete experiences. Therefore, math instruction will provide numerous opportunities for students to manipulate materials during small group and whole group learning activities. These activities will follow state and Common Core standards and provide support for individual skill development.

Kindergarten math programs will also:

• Foster understanding of number concepts such as:
  ➢ Recognizing numerals.
  ➢ Grouping objects into sets.
  ➢ Counting orally.
  ➢ Counting backward from 10.
• Identify basic shapes.
• Foster the ability to classify objects by one or more attributes.
• Foster the ability to find and repeat patterns.
• Introduce the concepts of estimation, probability and measurement.
• Provide exposure to coins.
• Introduce simple addition and subtraction equations using manipulatives.

**SOCIAL STUDIES GOALS**

• Children’s attitudes are formed during their early years. Children should be provided many opportunities to work and play with others in order to foster appropriate social skills and attitudes. These activities will follow state standards and provide support for individual skill development.
• Develop an understanding of cooperative group living with an awareness and appreciation for the rights of others, personal property, honesty, courtesy, responsibility, including the need for rules and acceptable standards of behavior.
• Develop a positive self-image in each child.
• Explore the child’s immediate environment, focusing on family, home, school, and neighborhood.
• Broaden the child’s social environment and increase tolerance through guided opportunities to play, work, and meet with other children and adults of various backgrounds, religions, and races.
• Foster the ability to function as a responsible member of a group.
• Promote the ability to express feelings through socially acceptable strategies.
• Foster an awareness for the need of conservation practices in the use of our natural resources.
• Develop an appreciation for the democratic process.

**SCIENCE GOALS**

Young children are naturally curious about the world around them. Kindergarten students will have the opportunity to explore and manipulate their environment in order to promote learning and foster an appreciation of and enjoyment in science. These activities will follow state and Common Core standards and provide support for individual skill development.

• Provide opportunities for the child to utilize the scientific method to solve problems.
• Introduce process skills including observations, comparison classifications, and data collection.
• Foster an understanding that the physical properties of some elements change.
• Introduce the concept of cycle including seasons and life cycle.
• Introduce basic habitats and the organisms that live there.
• Provide opportunities for the child to communicate scientific knowledge and information.

**MUSIC GOALS**

Music is a creative art through which many skills are developed. It can be enjoyed in and of itself, as well as integrated to promote language, math, science, and physical and social development. Music is a natural means by which children can actively learn.

Kindergarten music programs will strive to:

• Foster an appreciation of various forms of music.
• Foster large and small muscle development through dance, creative movement, and finger plays.
• Introduce various instruments.
• Facilitate the understanding of specific music concepts: rhythm, tone, dynamics, mood, and tempo.
• Increase auditory memory.
• Develop language development through singing.
• Provide an opportunity for self-expression.
**PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH GOALS**

Physical education and health activities assist children in developing healthy lifestyles. In addition, they provide opportunities for the children to be actively involved with others.

Kindergarten physical education and health programs will align with the Klamath County School District wellness plan and provide the following opportunities:

- Assist children in finding different ways of using and moving their bodies.
- Foster the enjoyment of physical activities.
- Foster perceptual-motor development, including the concept of space in relationship to themselves and others.
- Foster small and large muscle development.
- Foster cooperation, social and moral growth.
- Foster an understanding of protective health and safety habits.

**ART GOALS**

Art provides a means of creative expression and problem solving. Children will be given many opportunities to explore and create with different mediums.

- Kindergarten art activities are designed to provide the following:
  - Foster creativity.
  - Facilitate eye-hand coordination.
  - Develop small and large muscles.
  - Introduce concepts such as textures, colors and mediums.
  - Foster positive self-concept and opportunities for self-expression.
  - Foster an appreciation of various forms and styles.
  - Represent learning symbolically.