

# The PK3 Experience

## **Describe the day in the life of a PK3 student:**

8:10-8:15 Unpack backpacks and put folders and lunchboxes in cubbies

8:15 Circle time (pledge, prayer, good morning song, school song, calendar & counting, show and tell, songs/poems/fingerplays/movement, critical thinking lessons, stories, star of the week, read class mascot's journal, review daily schedule)

9:00-11:30 Resource classes: PE (3x week), Music/La Musica (3x week), Spanish (2x week), Library, STEAM Lab

Snack

Pre-reading, pre-math, social studies and science centers

11:30-12:15 Recess, free play centers, one-on-one time with students

12:15 Lunch, pack up backpack and get stamps

1:00 Dismissal

## **What do we learn in PK3?**

*1st trimester:* school days, physical me, thinking/feeling me, shapes, Fall, friends, community helpers, fire safety, pets, opposites, colors/shapes/sizes, Halloween, under construction, things that go together, nursery rhymes, Thanksgiving, letters A-I

Skills: cutting, coloring, listening/following directions, same/different, sorting & counting, recognizing name, straight and curved lines, size comparisons, horizontal and vertical lines, rhyming sounds, alliteration, patterns with colors

*2nd Trimester:* zoo animals, Christmas, sound and movement, music, Winter, manners, traditional tales, cowboys/cowgirls, transportation/travel, Valentine's Day, weather, letters J-R

Skills: matching sets to numbers, patterns, measuring, rhyming, counting and comparing

*3rd Trimester:* farm animals, real and make believe, big things, Easter, bugs, Spring, growing things, ocean life, Mother's Day, food and nutrition, Summer fun, celebrations, Father's Day

Skills: graphing, combining shapes, combine/separate & name how many objects, count/add & subtract objects, sorting

### **What are the special learning celebrations in PK3?**

Cowboy/cowgirl day

Goofy glasses day for letter G

Hilarious hat day for letter H

Silly socks day for letter S

Weekly show and tell related to one of our themes or letter of the week

Weekly "cooking" projects related to one of the themes or letter of the week

Raising butterflies, praying mantis, ladybugs and ants

Making class books related to units of study (each child gets at least three at the end of the year)

Each child makes an ABC book with a project for each letter of the alphabet

Each child makes journal of critical thinking activities as well as important days and activities they have experienced

### **What field trips/special activities happen in PK3?**

Field trips include a behind the scenes tour of Publix and the Fire Station when studying community helpers, Jacksonville Zoo when studying zoo animals and Diamond D Ranch when studying farm animals.

Each child gets to be "Star of the Week" and can take the class pet home for overnight, weekend or holiday visits. They will also take home the class mascot and write/draw in his journal to bring back and share.

### **What critical thinking skills do we learn in PK3? How do we learn them?**

Critical thinking skills are taught during whole group instruction using thinking maps and graphic organizers utilizing discussion, brainstorming and active learning. Skills are reviewed in small groups during centers and/or individually with the teacher.

Specific skills taught are:

Parts to whole relationships (the body, fire fighter's uniform, story "Three Blind Mice", cowboy/cowgirl clothing, the farm, insects, plant life cycle, story "Little Red Hen")

Predicting what will happen (story "If You Take a Mouse to School", "If You Take a Mouse to the Movies", "If You Give a Moose a Muffin", "If You Give a Pig a Pancake")

Problem solving (story "Best Friends", Winter, story "Three Billy Goats Gruff", "The Gingerbread Man")

Reasons and conclusions (Things that go together, story "You Should Brush your Teeth")

Generating Possibilities (Under construction, story "What Can We Do With a Box of Bottle Tops?")

Choosing/decision making (story "Little Miss Muffet", "Goldilocks and The Three Bears")

Compare/contrast (pets, insects, different versions of the same story, farm animals and zoo animals)

### **How do we differentiate instruction in PK3?**

Adjusting the degree of difficulty of activities and games during centers and one-on-one time with teacher according to each child's understanding of the concept or idea.

### **How do we develop character and social skills in PK3?**

Classroom rules, positive reinforcement, songs, stories, modeling, teaching skills for problem solving and making good choices, units of study on friends and manners, encouraging independence, celebrating differences and teaching Habits of Mind such as managing impulsivity, thinking interdependently and listening with empathy and understanding.

### **How do we prepare students for the next stage of their education?**

We are continually aware of our standards and curriculum as we plan and assess students throughout the year.