



THE LITTLE SCHOOL
of KEYSTONE

PRE-KINDERGARTEN Curriculum Guide





MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Keystone School is to offer an accelerated PK3–12 curriculum to provide motivated students with a nationally recognized, well-rounded educational experience in a supportive, inclusive environment that encourages academic excellence, ethical growth, community involvement, and responsible leadership.

OVERVIEW

Early childhood is a time of wonder, discovery, and possibility. It is a foundation upon which a lifetime of learning is built. At Keystone, we pledge to facilitate your child’s developmental growth socially, physically, and academically within our loving environment.

Our preschool offers a warm, nurturing environment designed to meet the needs and interests of young children. The Little School of Keystone consists of four classrooms for children ages 3, 4, and 5. These well-equipped classrooms contain carefully planned learning centers where each child can pursue, investigate, and explore activities that promote their creative interests.

The Little School’s accelerated program offers a thoughtful balance between play and academics. Keystone’s skilled teachers partner with families to celebrate each child’s growth and progress. Our goal is to inspire the love of learning.

Students will learn the skills they will need to succeed in Kindergarten and beyond, while having fun along the way! We look forward to beginning this educational journey with you!

Dena Hoenig Valdez
HEAD OF PRE-K



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MONTHLY THEMES & UNITS

Every month, Jr. Pre-k and Pre-K4 study similar themes and character traits. These themes extend into math, literacy, and more to inspire learning at a young age.

Month	Themes	Character Traits
August	Welcome to School New Beginnings: Respect and Manners	Responsibility
September	All About Me My Family, My Friends, My Teachers, and My School	Trustworthiness Honesty Integrity
October	Autumn, Leaves, Apples, and Farm Animals	Self-Control Patience
November	Five Senses Celebrating Grandparents Thanksgiving Turkeys, Thankful Me, and Thankful Feelings	Gratitude Service
December	Cultural Month: Celebrating Holidays Around the World	Creativity Resourcefulness
January	Celebrating Winter with Animals, Snow, and Frozen Things Learning about Dinosaurs and Fossils	Courage Empathy Bravery
February	Happy, Healthy Me: Healthy Hearts, Body, and Teeth Celebrating Texas and the Rodeo	Kindness Caring Love
March	Community Helpers, Transportation, and Space	Respect Citizenship Safety
April	Spring Planting, Flowers, Worms, and Butterflies, Earth Day, and Fiesta Fun	Fairness Justice Problem-Solver
May	Measurement: How much have I grown? Summer Fun	Curiosity Initiative



JR. PRE-K OBJECTIVES

JR. PRE-K OBJECTIVES

By the time students finish this grade, they will have made significant progress toward these benchmarks:

Social Skills

- Exhibit impulse control and self-regulation
- Express thoughts and feelings appropriately; use phrases and begin to use complete sentences to articulate needs that are understood by both peers and adults
- Interact with peers appropriately; share and engage in cooperative play
- Respect school property and understand the difference between a safe and unsafe environment
- Follow two- to three-step directions and seek help appropriately when needed
- Gain the ability to work independently and cooperatively in small and large groups; gain the ability to focus and complete a given task with appropriate instruction
- Transition smoothly and appropriately
- Respect authority figures; follow classroom rules and accept redirection

Literacy

- Be introduced to uppercase and lowercase letters in the alphabet
- Recognize own name in print
- Be introduced to letter-sound correspondence
- Be introduced to rhyming patterns and finger plays
- Show interest in books, handle books properly, and be introduced to parts of a book
- Be introduced to the main idea of a story and real life vs. pretend
- Be introduced to story sequencing (beginning, middle, end) and retelling stories
- Be exposed to 20 high-frequency words (sight words)
- Use high frequency words (sight words) and pictures to read phrases

Writing Skills

- Learn to hold a writing tool properly
- Develop pre-writing skills using multi-sensory tools and resources
- Use writing tools in the transition from having a clear starting point to proper upper-case letter and number formation
- Understand and begin to use shapes to illustrate the human figure and recognizable objects
- Be able to write first name
- Be introduced to tracing and writing

Fine Motor Skills

- Practice hand-eye coordination
- Strengthen small muscle movement occurring in wrists, hands and fingers (grasping, squeezing, molding, tearing, building & lacing)
- Use utensils properly and independently while eating
- Be introduced to proper scissor grasp and squeeze; learn to cut straight lines



JR. PRE-K OBJECTIVES

Gross Motor Skills

- Build on hand-eye and foot-eye coordination
- Strengthen large muscle movement with arms, legs, feet and core muscles to improve balance, endurance, and coordination
- Use slides and climbing equipment; kick and throw balls appropriately with control
- Engage in dance, movement games, and activities
- Run easily with coordinated movement and avoid obstacles
- Ride tricycles independently and safely
- Be able to dress self with minimal help

Mathematics

- Rote count to 25
- Count using one-to-one correspondence to 10 and beyond
- Recognize numbers and attempt to write 0 to 20
- Be introduced to 2- and 3-dimensional shapes
- Be able to use manipulatives to sort, sequence, count, and classify
- Be introduced to the concept of comparing quantities
- Be introduced to the concept of composing and decomposing numbers to 10
- Understand positional words (over, under, next to)
- Be able to copy, extend, and create simple patterns
- Be introduced to measuring with non-standard units

Science

- Observe, investigate, describe, and discuss properties and characteristics of common objects
- Demonstrate the importance of caring for our environment and planet
- Be introduced to weather, seasons, environment, and space
- Be introduced to seasonal life cycles
- Be introduced to the 5 senses
- Be introduced to nutrition and eating habits

Social Studies

- Be introduced to different cultures and communities
- Be introduced to the concept of me
- Develop spatial understanding, perspectives, and connections to the world
- Be introduced to the idea of our home, school, and San Antonio community
- Practice being a good citizen and a mindful friend
- Practice emergency school procedures
- Learn the emergency number 911
- Learn the United States symbols, Texas symbols, and the Pledge of Allegiance
- Learn and recognize peer and teacher names
- Be introduced to major U.S. national holidays and their significance
- Learn to identify own age, birthday, city and state







PRE-K4 OBJECTIVES

PRE-K4 OBJECTIVES

By the time students finish this grade, they will have made significant progress toward these benchmarks:

Social Skills

- Exhibit impulse control and self-regulation
- Express thoughts and feelings appropriately; uses complete sentences to articulate needs that are understood by both peers and adults
- Interact with peers appropriately; share and engage in cooperative play
- Respect school property and understand the difference between a safe and unsafe environment
- Follow two- to three-step directions and seek help appropriately when needed
- Able to work independently and cooperatively in small and large groups; able to focus and complete a given task with appropriate instruction
- Transition smoothly and appropriately
- Respect authority figures; follow classroom rules and accept redirection

Literacy

- Recognize upper- and lower-case letters in the alphabet
- Recognize own name in print
- Understand letter-sound correspondence; be introduced to blending sounds into words, long and short vowel sounds, digraphs, and decoding words
- Recognize rhyming patterns and create a series of rhymes
- Show interest in books, handle books properly, and understand parts of a book
- Identify the main idea of a story and fiction vs. nonfiction
- Identify 3-step story sequencing (beginning, middle, end); compare and contrast, can draw conclusions, ask questions and is able to retell stories.
- Be exposed to 30 high-frequency words (sight words) and color words
- Use high frequency words and pictures to read stories
- Be introduced to nouns, adjectives, verbs, and pronouns

Writing Skills

- Learn to hold a writing tool properly
- Gain pre-writing skills using multi-sensory tools and resources
- Use writing tools to properly form upper/lower case letters and numbers
- Draw the human figure and recognizable objects with controlled detail
- Be able to write first name in name case and introduced to writing last name
- Be able to draw, label, and describe illustrations
- Initiate free writing and encoding

Fine Motor Skills

- Practice hand-eye coordination
- Continue to strengthen small muscle movement occurring in wrists, hands, and fingers
- Use utensils properly and independently while eating and are able to open and close small containers
- Hold and use scissors with proper grasp and etiquette; cut straight and curved lines and simple shapes

PRE-K4 OBJECTIVES

Gross Motor Skills

- Build on hand-eye and foot-eye coordination
- Continue to strengthen large muscle movement
- Use slides and climbing equipment; kick and throw balls appropriately with control
- Engage in dance, movement games, and activities
- Run easily with coordinated movements and avoids obstacles
- Ride tricycles independently and safely
- Be able to dress self with minimal help

Mathematics

- Rote count to 100; count by 5's and 10's to 100
- Count using one-to-one correspondence to 20 and beyond
- Recognize numbers and attempt to write 0 to 100
- Recognize the difference between 2- and 3-dimensional shapes
- Be able to use manipulatives to sort, sequence, count, and classify
- Use symbols to compare quantities
- Use numbers to compose and decompose numbers up to 20
- Understand the concept of time
- Understand and use positional words (over, under, next to)
- Be able to copy, extend, and create patterns
- Be able to measure using non-standard units and be introduced to standard units
- Understand the difference between right and left

Science

- Observe, investigate, describe and discuss properties and characteristics of common objects
- Demonstrate the importance of caring for our environment and planet
- Be introduced to weather, seasons, environment and space
- Be introduced to seasonal life cycles
- Be introduced to the 5 senses
- Be introduced to nutrition and eating habits

Social Studies

- Be introduced to different cultures and communities
- Develop spatial understanding, perspectives, and connections to the world
- Be introduced to the idea of our home, school, and San Antonio community
- Practice being a good citizen and a mindful friend
- Practice emergency school procedures
- Learn the emergency number 911
- Learn the United States symbols, Texas symbols, and the Pledge of Allegiance
- Learn and recognize peer and teacher names
- Be introduced to the major U.S. national holidays and their significance
- Identify own age, birthday, city, and state



SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING PROGRAM

As part of our goal to nurture healthy achievement among our students, we offer a robust program of social-emotional learning. Led by our Counseling Department, we aim to provide students in all grades with equal access to a collaborative, comprehensive, data-driven school counseling program that addresses the academic, social, and emotional development of all Keystone learners and is responsive to community needs.

Through school wide activities, classroom instruction, small group, and individual counseling, students will be empowered to become resilient, confident, lifelong learners who contribute their unique gifts to our ever-changing world.

The following chart is an overview of the topics introduced to the different levels of Pre-K. The monthly topics may change and adapt based on the class's needs.



MONTHLY SOCIAL EMOTIONAL TOPICS

	Junior Pre-K	Pre-K
August	Name feelings	Understand comfortable feelings
September	Identify happy	Understand uncomfortable feelings
October	Identify anger	Use coping skills
November	Identify worry	Understand a friend's feelings
December	Manage anger	Use I-messages to express feelings
January	Manage worry	Show good sportsmanship
February	Manage disappointment	Show caring to others
March	Ask for needs	Use kind words
April	Give others personal space	Be a problem solver
May	Develop a growth mindset	Be ready for the next adventure!

ENRICHMENTS

At the Little School, preschoolers supplement their academic foundation with complementary activities. Together, they offer a strong base of preparation as they advance in their academic careers. Among these enrichments:



YOGA

Students engage in age and developmentally appropriate physical education and learn yoga movement activities for children ages 3-5 years.

Through these activities, they:

- Increase eye-hand, foot-hand coordination
- Strengthen muscle groups: core, back, arms and legs
- Learn foundations of yoga through storytelling, creative imagery, music, songs, speech, and communication
- Participate in activities taught in a non-religious, non-spiritual manner
- Develop flexibility, balance, and coordination
- Gain mental focus
- Learn mindfulness and conscious breathing to enhance the development of nurturing self-regulation, stress management and relaxation

SPANISH

Students begin to learn Spanish in developmentally appropriate activities through a fun and dynamic way, using movement, tactile involvement, songs, and repetition.

They shall:

- Be introduced to and learn how to greet (Hello and Goodbye)
- Be introduced to and learn how to ask: What's your name? Where are you? How are you?
- Be introduced to and learn numbers, colors, shapes, days, and months
- Be introduced to and learn about body parts
- Be introduced to and learn about some food items, things around the room, and things around the house
- Be introduced to and learn about transportation
- Be introduced to and learn about feelings
- Be introduced and learn about family



PE AND MOVEMENT

Students engage in age and developmentally appropriate movement activities for children ages 3-5 years working specifically on:

- Motor skills
- Physical development
- Coordination and balance skills
- Eye-hand coordination
- Cross-body movement
- Building confidence and social skills

MUSIC

Students engage in activities exploring the areas of rhythm, pitch, texture/timbre/expression, harmony/form, and movement/group skills using their voices, bodies, instruments, and symbolic representation, specifically:



Rhythm

- Steady beat
- Two sounds on the beat

Pitch

- Sound and silence
- High and low Melodic contour
- Vocal exploration

Movement vocabulary:

- locomotor and non-locomotor

Harmony/form

- Accompaniment

Movement/group skills

- Line
- Circle
- Self and shared space

Texture/timbre/expression

- Unpitched percussion
- Loud and quiet
- Tempo



EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM

Students who stay for an optional extended day program have time on the playground, a snack, and fun indoor activities.



OPTIONAL AFTERSCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

- Soccer
- Martial Arts
- Piano
- Spanish
- Dance





KEYSTONE SCHOOL COBRA CODE



CURIOSITY
CREATIVITY
EMPATHY
INTEGRITY
SERVICE

