

PARK MAITLAND SCHOOL

K-4

A Quick Overview of Our Program



Our K-4 program at Park Maitland School is designed to encourage learning while at play. Children this age embrace knowledge best by 'doing' and using all of their senses. Due to this fact, we provide carefully planned centers and activities that are fun, engaging, and challenging. We teach each of our students the social and emotional skills necessary to become a successful student, and we begin to teach conflict resolution along with character development. We also use this early platform to plant seeds, grooming our students to be 21st century learners.

With the needs of every child in mind, daily curriculum is enhanced through an intentional focus towards developing the 4Cs: creativity, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration. These competencies are nurtured and built upon in a carefully crafted continuum throughout each Park Maitland student's journey, ultimately preparing him or her to be a productive asset in a global society.

Evidences of the 4Cs at this level include assignments and tasks across our curriculum where the K-4 student will do the following:

Build Creativity

- Demonstrate an emerging understanding of the usefulness or appropriateness of ideas
- Begin to use existing ideas to create new ideas
- Start to envision new responses to varying situations

Build Critical Thinking

- Use the Design Thinking Process to guide his/her learning
- Eagerly wonder and ask many questions about new topics (with teacher guidance)
- Use their imagination to identify simple and concrete problems
- Demonstrate persistence and grit with teacher encouragement and support

Build Communication

- Explore different types and modes of communication
- Articulate thoughts and ideas — representative of real and imaginary experiences
 - clearly and effectively through oral, written, or multimedia communication
- Create simple visuals and use this information to solve problems and communicate information
- Dictate a simple story and use tools to sequence the story, adding appropriate images

Build Collaboration

- Organize and gather team materials with guidance
- Suggest new ideas with teacher prompting
- Ask questions to the group and teacher
- Explore leadership roles within a group
- Encourage members of the group



Language Arts

Our K-4 students come to school each day ready to perpetuate wonder and excitement as they set out on adventures with their new friends from the “Land of the Letter People.” Supporting our ever present drive towards lifelong learning, students build communication skills, learning to participate in class discussions, listen attentively, and follow directions. The pre-reading approach that we utilize reinforces the progression of the following concrete skills: distinguishing letters and sounds, putting letters together to form words, and recognizing “Everyday Words.” These steps lead each child to unlock the mechanics of reading. However, we also take time to mingle this progression with the creative aspects that further build student engagement and ignite creativity. Students are encouraged to make up stories and explore independent writing and “inventive” spelling. Time is spent strengthening fine motor skills with many fun, hands-on activities. Playing with play-dough, finger painting, writing in shaving cream, and exploring with the sand and water table are some of the many sensory experiences which will help prepare each student’s brain for writing. This creative, fun-filled, and motivating environment is the perfect setting to prepare our young readers and writers for kindergarten.



Math

In K-4 math we use manipulatives, games, and the Saxon Math kindergarten program. Saxon features hands-on activity based lessons using a spiral approach. Once again our pattern is to teach all concepts at the concrete level, gradually working up to pictorial representations and, finally, to abstract symbols. In order to build student confidence and increase the opportunity to communicate one-on-one with teachers and peers, lessons are taught to the whole group and then practiced and reviewed in small groups, individually, and through math learning stations. During this time, each child is accepted at his or her own developmental level and works to improve skills through careful reflection and critical thinking. Serving to immerse the whole brain into a world of mathematics, we integrate key concepts throughout daily activities, like calendar time, cooking, class graphs, music and movement, and “ooey gooey” experiments. On any day you can witness our K-4 students working happily toward their major year-end accomplishments: counting by 1’s to 100 and beyond, sorting objects by shape and color, identifying and extending patterns, identifying shapes, and comparing/measuring objects by weight, amount and size.



Science and Social Studies:

This hands-on program is designed to provide young children an introduction to basic scientific and social concepts. The children become aware of how these concepts are at work in their everyday lives. During daily classroom activities, as part of the study of being social, you will see the children practicing the art of operating as a “bucket filler” rather than being a “bucket dipper.” This instills a vigilance into each child to maintain a positive, caring classroom environment. To build the fundamentals of science, the children will be engaged in science projects that include “ooey gooeey, mess-making” fun! They will work together in small groups to perform these experiments and most of all, build their sense of creativity and wonder! The lessons and exchanges the students have from this course help to build the student’s understanding of the world around them and the relationships they have with their peers, teachers, and family.

Enrichment Classes:

The major academic classes described above are richly balanced with enrichment classes that expose the pre-kindergarten children to the mental, physical, cultural, and social opportunities needed to develop into well-rounded, confident, lifelong learners:

- **Daily recess/free play time** -- with healthy snack and drink
- **Physical education** – stresses development of motor skills, good sportsmanship, and the enjoyment of physical activities
- **Swimming** – instills the skills needed to grow into a safe, competent swimmer
- **Art** – focuses on providing opportunities for children to experiment with various art media, to nurture creativity, and to appreciate art in the world around them
- **Music** – encourages children to develop a love and appreciation for music while also learning basic music skills
- **Drama** – ignites creativity, promotes imaginative thinking, strengthens vocal and listening skills, and builds confidence in performing before a group
- **Tinkering Lab** -- builds 21st century learning skills, introducing projects where students will discover how to explicitly apply the design thinking process to solve problems, meet needs, provide structure, as well as drive curation and reflection of their learning
- **Spanish** – incorporates music, role-playing, stories, toys, and games, as strategies to teach Spanish vocabulary and expressions in a relaxed, fun-filled atmosphere while forming the foundation for future years of study



K-4 Special Events:

Park Maitland is rooted in traditions which deepen our connections to one another while celebrating mastery of class content. Here are just a few of the featured grade level activities that our students anticipate throughout the school year:

- **QU Wedding** -- This special event is an elaborate mock celebration of the nuptials between the letters Q and U as they join to become "qu."

- **The Fire Fighters' Visit** -- Student imaginations are lit aflame as they live the dream of becoming a firefighter.

- **Pop-In Parent** -- Parents are welcomed into the classroom to share one of their favorite activities or books that supports the "letter person" that is being studied.

- **The K-4 Show** -- The students showcase the performance skills they have been accumulating all year in a musical dramatic production.

- **Sports Fest** -- This is the celebration of many of the skills learned and mastered in the physical education classes.

- **Fun Friday** -- Each Friday the students and teachers combine classes, and they celebrate the letter person being studied as these eager participants move from one creative activity station to another.

- **Veggie Volunteers** -- Parents volunteer to join their child's social studies and science class as they share a vegetable that begins with the same letter they are studying in reading class. They also have the opportunity to taste some of nature's wonderful produce!

- **Tinker Buddies** -- This program offers a parent volunteer opportunity where participants help their children travel through the design process. Parents assist with the development of a 21st century growth mindset as they work with their child to plan, create, and reflect on a self-selected task.

- **Letter People Parades** -- Many of the units of study end with a visually stimulating Letter Person Parade which provides the perfect way to review letter connections.

- **Class Parties** -- The students enjoy a great day celebrating the holidays, Halloween Fun Day, Valentine's Day, and the end of the school year. We have many wonderful parent volunteers that help to facilitate these events.

