

PARK MAITLAND SCHOOL

K-5

A Quick Overview of Our Program



The kindergarten (K-5) program at Park Maitland School is designed to encourage learning while 'doing.' Due to this fact, a variety of multi-sensory activities and experiences are built into each lesson. We provide carefully planned centers and activities that are fun, engaging, and challenging. It is also important to us that we teach each of our learners the social and emotional skills necessary to become a successful student, so we strive to embed lessons in conflict resolution and character development. Kindness, sharing, using good manners, patience, friendship, working successfully with others, and being proud of oneself are just a few of the life skills we emphasize. These lessons are woven into our guidance programs, story discussions, and everyday classroom management. They brilliantly complement the school's emphasis on building young "leaders" through the *Seven Habits of Highly Effective Students*.

With the 21st century needs of every child in mind, daily curriculum is also 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-5 student will do the following:

Build Creativity

- Think of possibilities to expand his/her thought/ideas that lead to the creation of original products
- Play with an understanding of how possibilities lead to creativity

Build Critical Thinking

- Exhibit a willingness to try new things and embrace learning from mistakes
- Learn the functions and appropriateness of tools, technology, and materials needed for producing prototypes that make thinking visible
- Articulate and reflect on the Design Thinking Process
- Take pride in both the process and product during the exhibition of his/her work

Build Communication

- Speak with clear enunciation to an intended audience
- Express ideas in complete sentences
- Effectively describe something using age appropriate vocabulary
- Effectively communicate ideas through writing and drawing
- Use various multimedia tools to communicate ideas and class content to an audience

Build Collaboration

- Stay on task and work towards meeting goals and deadlines with support
- Solve problems and work to resolve conflict within the group with guidance
- Share the responsibility of keeping the workspace cleaned and organized for the benefit of all learners
- Publish, present, and exhibit work with group members, highlighting common goals and problems solved with guidance

Language Arts -- Reading, Writing, and Listening

In K-5, our expert teachers utilize the first grade level SRA Open Court reading program. Open Court includes the essential concepts research has repeatedly shown are necessary for learning to read. The program uses a spiral approach to curriculum; all strategies and skills are arranged from the simplest to the most complex. The teachers differentiate their instruction to meet the individual needs of the students while giving each child a solid foundation in the language arts skills they will need to become confident readers and writers.

Open Court provides instruction for every skill throughout the program, and our teachers provide the warm and trusting atmosphere that is required to open a young mind to the magic of reading.

Math

The K-5 students use the first grade level of the Saxon Math program. This program allows all children to develop a solid foundation in the language and basic concepts of all areas of mathematics. We know that mathematics builds on prior learning, and it is our goal to provide a firm foundation of knowledge. This is why new learning is presented in increments, with time provided between these sessions for practice. Our educators also realize that the learning pattern which creates the highest quality retention is one where concepts are integrated throughout the year rather than taught in isolated units. Therefore, each day your child will participate in a wide variety of mathematics activities, learning through hands-on experiences, discussion, and exploration.

At Park Maitland new learning is always reinforced through carefully considered practice and accompanied by the competencies which boast engagement. Our K-5 math classes are all abuzz with students learning about numeral recognition, ordinal position, sequencing, more and less, addition and subtracting, patterning, shapes, and money. They accumulate this knowledge while they communicate, collaborate, and critically consider the skills they practice.



Science and Social Studies:

The science and social studies program is a hands-on, activity-based curriculum designed for the K-5 student. The science component provides students with an introduction to the scientific method as they enjoy a wide variety of science experiments. They keep a journal documenting these experiences, so they can enjoy them again at home. In addition, our many parent volunteers add to the fun in science by sharing a science experiment or activity with their child's class as a Guest Scientist.



The social studies component is designed to build character, help children learn a classroom "philosophy," and create a personal mission statement. These targets are accomplished as the students learn about the world around them and the creatures that live in it. The students befriend the *Seven Habits of Highly Effective Students* and apply these habits throughout their day. They also learn about their community and how they can contribute to it. It is our ultimate goal that each student build the desire to live in harmony with themselves, others, and their world.

Enrichment Classes:

The major academic classes described above are richly balanced with enrichment classes that expose the 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, and allows the students to learn Spanish vocabulary and expressions in a relaxed, fun-filled atmosphere while forming the foundation for future years of study.



K-5 Special Events:

Park Maitland School is known for our special activities and events! The kindergarten students enjoy many opportunities to take field trips and celebrate grade-level achievements with festivities that support the curriculum and build unique, lifelong memories.

- **“Johnny Appleseed Day”** -- with a myriad of apple activities -- painting, counting, cooking... and eating!
- **“Halloween Fun Day”** -- encouraging creative dress-up accompanied by Halloween games and activities.
- **Green Meadows Farm visit** -- building a keen awareness of the animal world and agricultural practices.
- **The “100th Day of School” celebration** -- inspiring creativity as the students share their own unique 100th Day projects through presentations which communicate their design thinking process.
- **Guest Scientist presentations** -- igniting scientific thought as students enjoy exciting science experiments shared by parent volunteers.
- **“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.
- **Field trips to see local children’s theatre productions** -- instilling an appreciation for the arts and all facets of developing a stage production.
- **Holiday parties** -- further deepening the camaraderie and peer relationships that have grown throughout the year
- **“Mother’s Day Tea”** -- celebrating the strong bonds between mother and child
- **Sports Fest** -- showcasing many of the skills learned in the PE classes.
- **K-5 Grade Level Show** -- for parents and relatives-- unmasking hidden performance talents in every K-5 student

