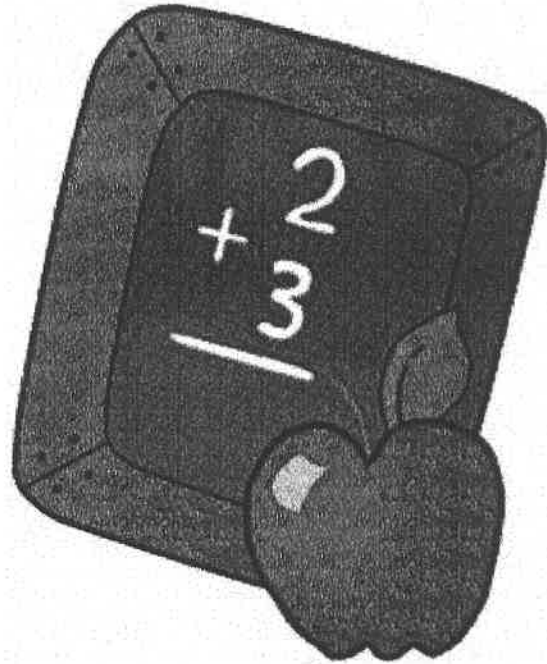


CANOPY OAKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



KINDERGARTEN SPRING HANDBOOK

2021-2022

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Kindergarten at Canopy Oaks! This year will be a milestone in your child's life. It is not only the beginning of his or her formal education, but also the first step towards life-long learning and social participation. New experiences and friends will make this year a special time for both you and your child. Many exciting activities are planned and we are anxious to share them with you and your Kindergartner.

We realize that you may have many questions about the Kindergarten program and hope that this handbook will answer most of them for you. In August, you will receive another handbook that will explain our classroom procedures as well as our rules and expectations.

We can't wait to meet you and your child at our orientation / meet-the-teacher day this fall! *The date for this is TBD, please check our COE website over the summer for more information*

See you soon!
Canopy Oaks Kindergarten Teachers

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Is my child ready for kindergarten?

Leon County Schools



Kindergarten Readiness Expectations

Prior to kindergarten, your child should be able to:

Approaches to Learning

- Ask questions about things in the classroom.

Social and Emotional Development

- Follow simple classroom rules and routines.
- Put materials away in designated places during clean-up time.
- Manage transitions (change activities or move place-to-place in an orderly manner).
- Play cooperatively with other children.
- Seek adult assistance appropriately.
- Seek adult help when needed to resolve conflicts.

Language and Communication

- Ask questions and add information related to current topics of conversation.

Emergent Literacy (Early Reading, Writing, Language, Listening, and Speaking Behaviors)

- Identify concepts of print
 1. Identify the front/back of the book.
 2. Identify the title of the book.
 3. Identify the first word on the page of a book.
- Comprehension
 1. Make predictions during a story.
 2. Answer questions about story elements (who, where, what happened, etc.).
 3. Retell a story or experience (telling, drawing, and dramatic play).
- Writing
 1. Use scribble to convey a message.
 2. Use known letters and approximations of letters to represent written language.
 3. Write own name (e.g., first name, last name), not necessarily with full correct spelling or well-formed letters, using capital and lower- case letters.
 4. Identify a minimum of ten lower- and upper-case letters of the alphabet.

5. Recognize written name.
6. Recognize basic category labels used in classroom.

Mathematical and Scientific Thinking

- Number Sense
 1. Point one-to-one while counting objects to ten or higher.
 2. Count two different sets of objects (ten through 15) and determine which set has more or less.
- Number and Operations
Name "how many" are in a group of objects after counting up to ten objects.
- Patterns and Series of Patterns
 1. Create simple patterns using colors, shapes, or sounds.
 2. Distinguish between a pattern and a non-pattern.
 3. Sort objects into groups by one attribute (color, shape, size, etc.).
- Geometry
 1. Identify circles, squares, rectangles, and triangles in various forms.
 2. Build shapes with objects (i.e., craft sticks, play dough, etc.).
- Spatial Reasoning
Place objects above, below, next to, beside, inside, or outside.
- Measurement
Answer simple questions about real and pictorial graphs.

Scientific Thinking

- Inquiry
Describe observations using simple tools, such as a magnifying glass or magnets.

Social Studies and the Arts

- Human Interdependence
Give simple explanations of what community workers do.
- Expression and Representation
 1. Use a variety of materials (i.e., crayons, various sized pencils, clay, markers) to create original work.
 2. Respond to music of various tempos through movement.

Motor Development

- Gross Motor Development
Run, jump, kick, and throw during play.
- Fine Motor Development
Use fine motor tools without assistance (i.e., scissors, markers, various sized pencils, tape, clothes pins).

Starting Kindergarten: Tips for helping your child make the transition

Visit the school in advance. If possible, introduce your child to their teacher and take a tour of the school. Find out the typical schedule for the day and share this with your child.

Talk and share with your child. Let them ask questions and share positive memories that you have about school, the fun you had, the teachers you enjoyed, the friendships you made, she said. Take time to answer your child's questions, validate their concerns, and remain positive and enthusiastic about their upcoming experiences.

Hit the books. But not school texts. Go to the library with your child and check out stories about the first day of school. Discuss the feelings outlined in the stories and answer questions your child may have.

Plan for a smooth first-day experience by preparing the night before. Help your child pick out their "first day of school" outfit, pack their lunch, and set out their backpack.

The first day is just the first day. Don't stop checking in with how your child feels about transitioning to kindergarten after Day 1. It is important to check in with your child and communicate about their experiences throughout the year.

Along those lines, continuity is key. Talk to your child's teacher about activities that take place each week so that you can ask your child direct questions. Not just "What did you do at school today?" Find out the stories read during circle time and read the same story before bedtime. Inquire about any upcoming lessons and themes and incorporate them in your conversations with your child, she said.

Read our monthly newsletters and weekly emails!

It's not just about letters and numbers. School readiness isn't just about academics, but also includes social-emotional readiness -- paying attention to directions, sharing with peers, for example. It also includes physical readiness, such as proper nutrition, health and wellness.

INCREASE YOUR CHILD'S SELF-CONFIDENCE

To grow up securely and confidently your child needs the satisfaction of accomplishing home and school tasks and doing their very best on some things. Here are a few ways to help your child to become more self-confident:

1. Encourage your child when genuine compliments can be made. Avoid ridicule and sarcasm. Bring out the best in your child by praising him/her frequently for what he/she does best. Help your child with his/her best activities by staying in close touch with their school and neighborhood life.
2. Approach failures as positively as possible. Show ways to avoid immediate mistakes and make positive specific plans for the future. Help your child see the progress that is being made in spite of setbacks.
3. Set reasonable standards. Each child is unique and even children of the same age will have different maturity levels. Perfectionist attitudes can't build self-confidence in children.
4. Choice of friends is a reflection of self-confidence to a certain degree. If you're concerned about the quality of some of your child's friends, don't condemn them because this will further harm your child's confidence-he has chosen them. Most probably he will outgrow them or they will drift apart. Very quietly, over time, you can assist your child in seeing the fun different friends might bring.

MOST IMPORTANTLY:

Think of your child as a perfectly normal child, with one or two limited areas, and you will automatically have a better attitude as will your child. Be committed to success and be committed to a loving family atmosphere that will leave no room in your child's heart for lack of confidence. He/she will know the love they receive does not depend upon his /her success.

Sample Schedule

- 8:00-8:20 Students arrive in classroom (unpack, sit at tables & color, look at books, morning work) **After the first week students will play on the playground from 8:00-8:20, weather permitting ☺
- 8:20-9:00 COE Morning News, Calendar, & Morning Work
- 9:00-11:00 Language Arts/ Reading Workshops
- 11:00 - 11:25 Science/Social Studies
- 11:25-11:50 Lunch
- 11:50 - 12:20 Developmental Play
- 12:20 - 12:30 Finish Science/S.S./Read Aloud
- 12:30- 1:15 Special Area* Consists of Art, Music, P.E., Computer/Technology, and SEL.
- 1:15 - 2:05 Math
- 2:05-2:40 Wrap up the day/Centers/ Snack
- 2:40-2:50 Clean Up & Prepare for Dismissal
- 2:50 Dismissal

*If your child needs to be picked up early from school, you must go by the front office to sign out your child. The office will then notify the teacher and the teacher will send the child to the office. We cannot dismiss the child without this procedure. This is for the protection of your child.

**Students are dismissed from school at 2:50pm each day. Supervision ends at 3:15pm. The only exception to this is for the students enrolled in the COE After School Program.

All students will receive a car tag at the beginning of the school year! For the protection of your child, you must show your car tag when you pick your child up from school.

supplies

Below is a list of supplies we are asking each child to bring to school. These are not required, but are strictly donations. No child will be penalized for not bringing these supplies. Please be sure to label the supplies.

It would be very helpful if you could purchase and bring the supplies to your child's classroom on orientation day, when your child will meet his/her teacher.

- 2 boxes of #2 pencils
- 4 boxes of 24 count Crayola Crayons
- 3 boxes of Crayola Classic Colors **10 count** washable markers *no skinny markers please* ☺
- 24 Elmer's glue sticks
- 1 pair of child's Fiskar scissors (metal round tip)
- 1-1 inch 3 ring Binder- **with front clear view pocket**
- 1 Plastic Supply Box (**5 inches x 8 inches**)
- 2 Composition Notebooks
- 1 bottle of antibacterial waterless hand sanitizer
- 1 container of Clorox Wipes
- 1 can of Lysol disinfectant spray
- 1 large box of tissue
- 1 pack of assorted playdough
- 1 box of Ziploc freezer bags (quart size with SLIDE LOCK) **GIRLS ONLY**
- 1 box of Ziploc freezer bags (gallon size with SLIDE LOCK) **BOYS ONLY**
- Backpack, NOT ONE ON WHEELS (needs to fit a normal size notebook & your child should be able to open and close it on their own)

VISIT OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE!

<http://www.leonschools.net/canopyoaks>

ON THE WEBSITE YOU CAN:

- Join the School LISTSERVE for important school information emails.
- Fill out your Volunteer Application
- See the Lunch Menu
- Find bus routes and much more!