

RTSD

2014-2015 Kindergarten Programming

**April 2014 Update
Kindergarten Screening /
Orientation**



Preparations Continue...

March 27, 2014 – Full day planning meeting with all kindergarten teachers, elementary principals and the curriculum department

April 23, 2014 – Next site visit of a full day program.



April Accomplishments

- Year-long curriculum map drafted for reading, writing, math, science and social studies topics.
- Allocations of time across the day and week drafted.
- Hands-on science and social studies materials examined by teachers.
- Professional development recommendations
- Kindergarten orientation and screening finalized.



Kindergarten Screening / Orientation: Purpose

- Provide a safe and welcoming first kindergarten experience where students, together with their parent(s), can be personally welcomed by the teachers and staff
- Allow each student time to interact one-on-one with teachers and other building specialists
- Begin to establish rapport with students and families
- Orient parents to the kindergarten program and school building
- Allow many different staff members to meet the building's newest students in a one-on-one or small group setting, before school begins
- Collect information necessary to create balanced classrooms
- Reduce the number of assessments given in the fall of kindergarten



Kindergarten Screening / Orientation: **Format**

Students are typically scheduled to visit the school in small groups. Currently $\frac{1}{2}$ of the grade level visits at a time. $\frac{1}{3}$ is more likely for next year.

- Welcome Parents and Students
- Student Activities / Centers
 - Free choice play and activities
 - Center activities – write, draw, cut, paste. Interactions with, and observations by, support staff
 - Teacher time – one-on-one time with each student around number and letter recognition
 - Literacy Team Time - one-on-one time with a reading specialist completing a 1 minute literacy activity (FSF)
- Parent Information – formal or informal



Kindergarten Screening / Orientation: **Screening Activities**

- Observations by OT, PT, speech, guidance, etc.
- Number Recognition – 0-100
- DIBELS - FSF
- Letter recognition, upper and lower case
- Students with solid letter recognition:
 - Fountas and Pinnell “Ready to Read” sight word list



Kindergarten Screening / Orientation: **Timing**

Advantages of Fall Screening

- All kindergarten students can participate
- Staff is solidified
- The information is current
- The information collected can be acted upon the first day
- The screening can dovetail with other orientation activities
- The positive experience is fresh in students' minds on the first day

