

New Parent Orientation

Welcome to Highland Park!

Goals: to enjoy school and learning (in addition to learning all the TEKS!)
to be independent and responsible
to develop problem-solving skills
to be socially- and emotionally-skilled

Schedule: (Creative Learning strategies used throughout the day)

Calendar, Morning Meeting

Language Arts

WOW

Lunch (early!)

Math

Special Areas (Music, Art, P.E., Computers, Spanish, Library)

Recess, Snack

Science, Social Studies, Health

Free Centers

Language Arts

what it looks like: print-rich environment, balanced literacy, differentiated reading groups

curriculum:

- id letters, including some consonant blends and digraphs, and their sounds,
- phonological awareness: rhyming, blending, segmenting, phoneme manipulation
- sight words
- story elements
- reading comprehension
- writing: pencil grip, letter formation, writing name, writing a complete sentence with phonological spelling and some conventions
- oral language development: vocabulary, answering open-ended questions in complete sentences, participation in discussions and speaking in front of an audience

Math

what it looks like: answering real-world mathematical questions with the aid of manipulatives, moving from the concrete to abstract

curriculum:

- numerical fluency
- counting to 100
- sets 1 – 20
- simple +/- to 10 with aids
- skip counting (10s)
- data, graphing
- sorting, classifying
- parts of a whole/set (simple fractions)
- comparative, non-standard measurement
- financial literacy
- 2D, 3D shapes
- coin id and value
- patterns

Social Studies (taught through thematic units)

building awareness of and relationships with other people and cultures and gaining a sense of our place in the world

Science (taught through thematic units)

inquiry of the world around us using the scientific process, hands-on activities, and cooperative groups

Free Centers

dedicated time for creative play and social interaction

Homework

no formalized homework – read with your child, go over work sent home in daily folder
book bags later in the year

What you can do now:

toilet-train (keep extra set of clothes in backpack)

recognize, write first name

id some letters (lower case!), numbers

id basic colors, sizes, shapes

allow your child to use scissors and glue

familiarize your child with school – visit playground, Roundup, Pup Camp, Scottie Camps

establish early bedtime and other routines (laying out clothes, loading backpack)

simple chores/responsibilities

ask open-ended questions

expectation to follow one-step directions

purchase supplies at Roundup!

after-school care – secure it now!

retention

What you can do once school starts:

allow teacher to establish routines before joining for lunch or volunteering at school

keep extra-curricular activities to a minimum

make playdates with classmates

First Day

It's hardest for parents!

7:45 start, 7:35 – 7:45 window for classroom drop-off, 7:20 – 7:35 cafeteria drop-off

leave child at door, Principal Coffee

lunch plans (lunch from home/buy)

dismissal plans

Questions?