



Stedman
Elementary
School

Parent Handbook

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Advanced Kindergarten
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Room 102

Denver Public Schools

Stedman Elementary
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Stedman Kindergarten Description

Philosophy

Kindergarten at Stedman is a place where children can learn and grow in an environment that best meets their personal learning styles, interests, and intellectual abilities. The class is designed to provide children with a rich experience embedded in core academics, sciences, and arts. The curriculum is differentiated to promote optimal academic performance for each individual student.

Programs

Stedman Elementary provides a variety of experiences for all learning types. The classroom environment offers a cohesive curriculum of core academics including literacy, mathematics, social studies, and science. Special classes are scheduled to enrich the students with meaningful experiences in physical education, drama, music, and technology.

Core Academics

Literacy

The kindergarten students participate in the Denver Public Schools Elementary Literacy Program. Instruction includes Reading Workshop, Writing Workshop, and Skills Block. Reading and writing lessons are approached through direct teaching to the whole group, small groups, and individual conferences. Reading and writing strategies include modeling, guided/shared reading, and independent instruction. Our literacy program is supported with the phonics program, AlphaFriends by Houghton Mifflin, Accelerated Reader, and Guided Reading Plus.

Mathematics

Students learn mathematical concepts and skills with the McGraw Hill Everyday Mathematics program. Everyday Math enables the students to develop a solid foundation in the language and basic concepts of all areas of mathematics. Lessons involve number sense and measurement, whole number operations, fractions, money, geometry, data analysis, statistics, probability, and patterns.

Science

The kindergarten students will be exposed to a variety of scientific experiences in physical science, life science, health, and earth science. The curriculum is built around the themes of "My Senses" and "Here, There, and Everywhere." The children will explore these subjects using scientific investigation and inquiry, presenting questions, stating predictions, and analyzing data. These hands-on experiences will occur in the classroom and on our expeditionary trips.

Social Studies

Social Studies is taught using the books, materials, and lessons from *Social Studies Alive, Me and My World*. The children explore who they are and how they relate to the world around them. They develop a sense of history and time. They understand that society is diverse and that they are a member of this diversity. They begin to relate to the concept of politics and how rules relate to productivity in the classroom. The children also investigate geography using maps, atlases, books, and computers.



Parents are the individuals who have the longest and greatest influence on a child's education. They are the people who impact their child for a lifetime!-unknown



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A STEDMAN ADVANCED KINDERGARTENER

8:45–9:00 = Morning Circle

Arrive on time for our community-building activities, share shout outs, and connect with classmates!

9:00-9:30 = Literacy Groups

Small group instruction with teacher or paraprofessional

9:15-9:30 = Morning Meeting

Practice in concepts of print, reading, writing, language and speech
Promotes understanding of calendar, weather, math, and social skills

9:30-10:00 = Skills Block

Instruction in phonics, language, and reading skills with the use of songs, books, and poetry

10:00-10:15 = Recess & Restroom Break

10:15-11:15 = Reading Workshop

Independent Reading – student spends time reading “just right” books, exploring personal interests, and using strategies of good readers

Shared Reading – Reading together in large group...students echo the teacher, read at the same time as the teacher, or fill in the blanks for the teacher (instruction is above readers independent levels)

Guided Reading – Reading for teacher in small groups

Instructional-leveled books are used based on the need of the readers
Students learn and apply reading strategies and build confidence in their reading skills

11:15-12:00 = Lunch/Recess/Restroom Break

12:00-1:00 = Writing Workshop

Group Instruction focused on writing development

Work period when children express themselves through writing and pictures

1:00-1:30 = Social Studies or Science

1:30-2:00= Snack and Organized Recess

2:00-3:00 = Everyday Math

Includes group instruction in a wide variety of mathematical skills and concepts that spiral throughout the Kindergarten year and the entire span of the child’s education at Stedman

Centers = mathematical hands-on experiences in problem solving

3:00-3:40 = Music, Drama, or Physical Education

3:40-3:45 = Dismissal



Homework Policy = Homework will be sent home every Monday and is to be returned by Thursday. Please encourage your child to complete this work neatly using a pencil for writing words and crayons or colored pencils for coloring. Homework is differentiated for each reader and Kindergarten students are expected to spend 15 minutes a night on a homework. Please read every night for 20 minutes as well.

Book Bags = Each child will have a bag of “just right” books that they will work on throughout the school week. On a trial basis, these book bags will be sent home in the hopes that all books will be returned with the book bag the following week. This is a great opportunity for children to share their accomplishments with their families.

Work & Task Mastery = The children are encouraged to complete their work to the best of their ability the first time. However, many papers are often turned in quickly and without accuracy. These papers will be checked and returned to the children to complete with teacher guidance. This action will promote a healthy work ethic, pride in one’s work, and accountability. A star indicates an excellent paper. The work is completed neatly and without errors the first time. A smiley face indicates that the work is complete and accurate, but could use improvement in presentation. A check means the work needs to be corrected by the student or the work did not display their personal best. Students receive a conference with a check to guide them to understanding. The teacher will always promote student learning and the student’s best work.

Conference/Progress Reports = Parent/Teacher conferences will be held twice during the school year. These dates will be announced at a later time. Classroom progress reports are set up on a trimester schedule. Parents or teacher may schedule a meeting at any time in regards to a student’s academic standing or social and emotional behavior. Please call Stedman before or after school or contact me by e-mail for any concerns.



