



Maui Preparatory Academy

2011-12

Preschool Curriculum Guide

Preschool Curriculum Overview

Developing the whole child

Maui Prep's Preschool curriculum is comprehensive and integrated across all Preschool learning areas; literacy, math, social and science. We balance academic, social and physical development. We provide a wide array of resources to reach these goals.

Our Preschool classroom is exciting, fun, and full of energy. It's also a laboratory where children are discovering themselves and the world around them. This discovery is the most important work young children can do. The learning children accomplish in our classroom will form the foundation for a lifetime of success in school and in life.

Our Preschool program establishes clear and appropriate goals for children's learning across all content areas.

Our Preschool curriculum encourages children's learning by helping them make connections across many areas.

Project-Based Learning (PBL)

Project-based learning is an approach for classroom activity that emphasizes learning activities that are long-term, interdisciplinary and student-centered. This approach is generally less structured than traditional, teacher-led classroom activities; in a project-based class, students often must organize their own work and manage their own time. Within the project based learning framework students collaborate, working together to make sense of what is going on. Project-based instruction differs from traditional inquiry by its emphasis on students' own artifact construction to represent what is being learned.

Language Arts

Research clearly indicates that immersing young learners in rich oral language and vocabulary development has the greatest impact on reading success and achievement in the future.

Early Writing

Our Preschool children write in many forms. Drawing, scribbling, dictation, and letter formation are all aspects of children's early attempts to create print and transfer their ideas to paper. Early childhood research states that children should not be expected to master writing by the end of the year. However, children must write daily, for the following reasons:

- Writing on a consistent basis, in whatever format, enhances children's print awareness.
- Using writing tools (crayons, pencils, markers) and other materials (sand, shaving cream, play dough) develops gross and fine motor skills crucial for future writing success.

Pre-reading Skills

Our Preschool children actively learn letters and letter-sound associations through print, audio, and hands-on manipulative resources. These enjoyable, friendly characters help children associate letter names, shapes, and sounds in meaningful and memorable ways. Children will continue to use familiar components; routines, reviewing and practicing as they gradually progress to more challenging skills. This continual reinforcement of phonological awareness skills helps children build a solid foundation for entering kindergarten. Students in Preschool will learn:

- To understand book structure and conventions of print
- Literature appreciation
- Comprehension skills-retelling, compare and contrast, sequencing
- Story dramatization

Listening- Comprehension

As children begin to extend their vocabulary and acquire foundational literacy skills, comprehension begins to play a critical role in helping them maintain and expand upon the skills they are learning. Children can be guided to develop listening comprehension skills as they listen to stories and informational selections. Once they develop these skills as listeners, children can use this knowledge to enhance their beginning efforts in reading. Students in Preschool will learn:

- Listening skills
- Oral expression: in conversation, in group setting
- Contributing ideas to group

Mathematics

Preschool children are wonderful, natural mathematicians. Young children's curiosity about the world, their capacity for investigating and learning mathematics, and the important role that mathematics plays in the child's world all help to make a strong case for providing a broad, engaging, and appropriate math curriculum in preschool.

We are blending together content (what mathematics we use) and process (how we use and work with math) in appropriate, interactive ways to create a solid foundation for young children's mathematical learning. Students in the Preschool will learn:

- Number sense (1-20); one-to-one correspondence, conservation
- Sorting and classification
- Basic graphing
- Basic patterning
- Problem solving
- Geometry and spatial relations; shapes, puzzles
- Measurement; exploring weight, mass, length, area, estimating length, distance, time
- Reasoning and communication
- Connections, during which children connect math to other content areas and to the real world.

Fine Arts & Music

Art, dramatic play, and music are essential to the early learning of young children. These areas

develop skills, behaviors, and motivations that are fundamental to children's overall development. The broad scope of the preschool environment provides a stimulating venue for incorporating them into a child's daily or weekly routine. Preschool art places an emphasis the development of motor skills and the appropriate manipulation of materials. Students in Preschool will learn to:

- Produce innovative approaches to problem solving with strategies developed through the arts.
- Establish correlations between the visual arts and other disciplines.
- Recognize the relationship of the visual arts to history, culture, and society.
- Develop critical analysis through the process of comparing and contrasting works of art.

Fine Arts

Students in Preschool will learn to:

- Use his/her senses to gather, classify, and communicate information.
- Follow a sequence of simple directions.
- Receive instruction in the proper procedure for cutting with scissors, drawing with a variety of tools, and applying liquid media.
- Manipulate three dimensional art materials – pinch, pull, squeeze, twist, pound and roll.
- Identify basic colors, textures, lines and shapes.
- Identify and create simple patterns.
- Identify spatial relationships – top, bottom, side, center, front, back, over, and under.
- Look at, describe and respond to works of art.
- Identify people who make art as artists.
- Develop the ability to create visual images.
- Develop an appreciation for self-expression through visual art.

Music

Students in Preschool will learn to:

- Sing 15-20 songs within a limited vocal range.
- Recognize differences in vocal production: singing, speaking, whispering, calling, and shouting.
- Identify beats and rhythms in chants, rhymes.
- Play rhythm instruments.
- Recognize western instruments: violin, piano, flute, and guitar.
- About Hawaiian musical traditions through cultural exploration.
- Execute different dynamics using instruments and voice.

Drama

Students in the Preschool will learn to:

- Introduction of drama through expression of emotion.
- Creative movement.
- Dramatize stories, folk tales, fables, poems, etc.
- Use their voices to convey different emotions.
- Physical characterization: imitating different animate and inanimate objects.
- Use props to help tell a story.

Science

By the time most children enter preschool, they are experts at asking questions. They can make interesting observations about objects and events, and then use them to draw conclusions about how things work. Refining these natural inquiry skills and using them to expand children's knowledge base is the major goal of the Preschool science curriculum. Students in Preschool will learn:

- Observation and description skills
- Respect for life: people, animals, and plants
- Light and color weights
- Science vocabulary
- Seasonal changes; weather, gardening, animals, live cycles
- State of matter
- Animals: insects, reptiles, pet animal, farm animals, wild animals, marine animal
- Think and talk questions
- Hands-on experimentation in center activities

Social Studies

Social studies are about people in time and space, people as individuals, and people interaction with others. The disciplines of history and the social sciences, integrated with other content domains, contribute to our understanding of people and groups across time and around the globe. Students in Preschool will learn:

- Feelings and emotions and needs recognition and communication
- Family-traditions, roles, and culture
- Community awareness- field trips
- Community helpers
- Introduction to diverse cultures
- Membership in School community

Social-Emotional Development

Preparing children to enjoy and participate in social situations is one of the fundamental goals of our Preschool environment. Personal development, such as managing feelings and developing a positive sense of self, leads to meaningful interactions with others on a family, group, and community level. Students in Preschool will learn:

Personal Development

- Identifying self-gender, age, family relationships
- Self-help skills
- Self-concept and self-esteem
- Responsibility-rules, routines, own behaviors, connect actions to
- Separation from family and adjust to new situation
- Respect for others-accept differences

Social Development

- Share and cooperate with others
- Initiate play situation
- Display symbolic play
- Positive and peaceful conflict resolution

Health and Safety

- Importance of wellness; practice good hygiene and routine exercise
- Good eating habits; recognize and select healthy food
- Good sleeping habits

Physical Education

The goal of the Preschool through Second grade physical education program is to provide students with physically enhancing and rewarding experiences that contribute to a lifetime of healthy choices and endeavors. Students in Physical Education will learn to:

- Practice developing and establishing fundamental skills within the areas of fine/gross motor skills, spatial awareness, flexibility, strength, rhythm, coordination and balance with an emphasis on developing work ethic, sportsmanship, and team camaraderie.
- Work on coordination and body awareness through throwing, catching, kicking, evading, and running activities.
- Perform skills and concepts of stretching, breathing, warm-up and cool down, and endurance to enhance their athleticism and encourage the synthesis of mind and body.

Classes will be held on Maui Prep's Lower School field and Napili Park throughout the school year and in the Dining Hall when weather dictates. Students are expected to abide by and uphold Maui Prep's honor code and core values of pursuit of excellence, seeking and appreciating challenges, accepting and appreciating the differences of others, exemplifying the highest ethical and moral behavior, and promoting environmental stewardship.