



Kindergarten Programs

A Time and Place for Wonder

A welcome message from the Kindergarten Staff ...

Brighton Area Schools is pleased to welcome families to our Kindergarten Program. Whether you are new to Brighton or already have children in our district, we look forward to working with you to provide a wonderful learning experience for your child.

As early childhood educators, our ultimate aim is to prepare each child to be an engaged and enthusiastic thinker, a caring individual, and a lifelong learner. Recognizing that play is the work of young children, we are committed to creating environments that inspire joyful discovery, imagination, cooperation and respect.

As teachers, we also believe that young children are capable of attaining deep understanding in the areas of language arts, mathematics, science, social studies and fine arts. Our students enjoy exposure to superb literature, explore mathematics and science through hands-on activities, engage in the wonders of outdoor and imaginative play, and express themselves through art, music and movement – all while developing confidence in their oral language and social skills in a caring and safe environment.

Finally, at Brighton Area Schools, we strive to develop strong habits of mind that will lay the foundation for a lifetime of learning. Thus, every aspect of our program, from the daily schedule and routines to the design of activities and lessons has been carefully crafted to foster the social, emotional, and cognitive growth of each individual child.

In the pages that follow, you will find an overview of our Kindergarten and Jr. Kindergarten programs that we hope will assist you in making the best educational choice for your child.

Thank you for considering the Kindergarten programs of Brighton Area Schools!

Brighton Area Schools Early Childhood Staff

BRIGHTON AREA SCHOOLS KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

All BAS Kindergarten/Junior Kindergarten Classes are Taught by a Certified Early Childhood Specialist

JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN: Honors the unique pace of young learners and was created specifically for children with summer/fall birthdays as an important transition year.

- ❖ Focus on emotional and social skills development
- ❖ Focus on large and fine motor skills
- ❖ Focus on developing strong language skills
- ❖ Experience with new materials, roles, ideas, and activities through child initiated play, i.e. sand, blocks, painting, and dramatic play
- ❖ Foundational literacy work that includes language experience activities and read-a-louds
- ❖ Integrated instruction & exploration time in math, science, and social studies
- ❖ Specials in Art, Music, Physical Education, and Media taught by certified teachers
- ❖ Daily fresh air & outdoor exploration for overall well-being
- ❖ Emphasis on community building activities
- ❖ Opportunities for promoting positive social behavior and healthy habits
- ❖ Rest and relaxation time for healthy brain development

KINDERGARTEN: Designed to be the foundational year for a successful elementary experience with curriculum thoughtfully aligned with the Common Core State Standards

- ❖ Explicit instruction and practice in literacy through the Reading and Writing Workshop model
- ❖ Math workshop promotes mathematics and numerical learning through hands-on play, exploration & manipulatives
- ❖ Science and Social Studies support exploration in a variety of integrated topics
- ❖ Intentional large & fine motor skill development to enhance learning
- ❖ Specials in Art, Music, Physical Education, and Media taught by certified teachers
- ❖ Experience with a variety of creative materials, roles, ideas, and activities through child initiated play, i.e. sand, blocks, painting, and dramatic play
- ❖ Fresh air & outdoor exploration for overall well-being
- ❖ Emphasis on community building activities
- ❖ Opportunities for promoting positive social behavior and healthy habits
- ❖ Rest and relaxation time for healthy brain development

Welcome to Kindergarten at Brighton Area Schools



The Kindergarten and Junior Kindergarten Programs at Brighton Area Schools provide a well-rounded, academically challenging and balanced curriculum designed to meet the needs of today's young learner. Our Kindergarten Program is designed to be the foundational year for a successful elementary experience with curriculum thoughtfully aligned with the Common Core State Standards. Our Junior Kindergarten Program honors the unique pace of young learners and was created specifically for children with summer and early fall birthdays as an important transitional year.

Our kindergarten and junior kindergarten teachers are fully certified Early Childhood experts with a master's degree. Each teacher has an early childhood endorsement, which means they have had additional coursework dealing specifically with the academic, physical, emotional and social needs of young children ages 4 through 8. Our teachers work hard to meet the needs of the whole child, and offer a safe and secure environment in which to build all essential early learning skills, including academics, oral language, motor skills, and social skills.

Our kindergarten curriculum incorporates the best and most current researched-based instructional practices.

Reading instruction is taught daily through the Reader's Workshop model, which emphasizes oral language, shared guided and independent reading, and includes print concepts, phonological awareness, phonics, word recognition and fluency practice. Students are exposed to a wide variety of literature including stories, drama, poetry and informational text. Our teachers strive to instill a love of books and learning that will last a lifetime.

Writing instruction is also taught using the workshop model, which encourages children to draw from their personal experiences to write. Students use a

combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to share their knowledge. Our handwriting program teaches letter and number formation and helps develop strength and dexterity.

Mathematics is also taught daily in our kindergarten classrooms. Our math curriculum uses a variety of concrete materials to support each child's hands-on exploration of mathematical ideas. Students sort, compare, order, discover patterns and problem solve to better understand the world of mathematics. Counting and number-concept skill development help build confidence in mathematical thinking and lays the foundation for in-depth understanding.

Science at the Kindergarten level focuses on exploration through the use of the five senses and the development of important observational skills. Our science curriculum captures a young child's innate curiosity to discover and explore the natural environment and to build understanding from active sensory experiences. Kindergarteners are offered opportunities to learn through hands-on investigation and their own core sense of wonder.

The overarching goals for the Social Studies curriculum include helping children learn about themselves and learn how to get along with others. Children begin to develop awareness about their place in the larger community and the world. Teaching cooperation, collaboration and problem-solving skills allows students to build strategies to get their needs met, while building positive relationships with others. Such skills allow students to move comfortably between home and school and are essential for successful learning throughout life.

The kindergarten classrooms in Brighton are warm and engaging. Each beautiful classroom has been specifically designed for young children. They are inviting, open and child-centered. In addition to our regular classrooms, all kindergarten classes share an activity room allowing for more exploratory movement, social skill learning, artistic expression, building, dramatic play and sensory play. Our children also enjoy special classes in art, music, physical education, and media center skills—taught by certified specialists in each area.

Because Brighton Area Schools understands the important connection between healthy, strong bodies and healthy brain development, our kindergarten classes

offer opportunities for children to develop their motor skills in our VMI, or Visual Motor Integration Program, supported by our volunteer Motor Moms and Dads. We also provide plenty of recess time on our safe and fun-filled playground.

Parents and grandparents will have many opportunities to volunteer and support our kindergarten classrooms. Our programs are stronger because of parents who offer to supervise enrichment groups, go on field trips, help with classroom projects, and work on essential skills with their children at home. Parents are welcomed and truly valued as partners. In turn, parents can also benefit from partnering with classroom teachers on positive parenting techniques, motor skill development, nutrition, and reading and math strategies.

For our younger students with birthdays in the late summer or early Fall, we offer Full Day Junior Kindergarten. This carefully paced, play-based class is especially designed for children who would benefit from an additional year of rich programming that lays the foundation for the work and learning in future grades. This program's focus is also on the development of the whole child and includes time for child-initiated play, explorations, role playing, fine and gross motor activities, and important opportunities for social and emotional development. Our junior kindergarten teachers use music, movement, sensory experiences, storytelling, and outdoor play to nurture individual learning and development.

As you can see, Brighton Area Schools is very proud of our Kindergarten and Junior Kindergarten Programs. Our caring and highly experienced staff have been very intentional in planning for every area of your child's growth. We believe that this first critical year will lay the foundation for a successful academic career partnering with parents to instill a lifelong passion for learning.

Brighton Area Schools invites you and your child to come learn with us. We look forward to collaborating with you during the exciting year ahead!



Kindergarten Program Age Requirement (for Jr. Kindergarten and Kindergarten)

Michigan Law states that a child must be five (5) years of age **by September 1st** in order to be eligible to attend a kindergarten program for the 2020-2021 school year (this includes Jr. Kindergarten).

If the child is not five (5) years of age by September 1st (enrollment eligibility date), but will be five (5) on or before December 1st – the Jr. Kindergarten program is recommended – and an **Early Admission/Age Waiver must be included with the enrollment packet**. This form can be found on the Brighton Area Schools Enrollment/Kindergarten webpage or can be obtained from the Enrollment Office. The Age Waiver form is an application for early admission and an acknowledgement the parents understand they are waiving the eligibility requirement.

A child with a birthdate of December 2nd or later, will be eligible to enroll for a kindergarten program the following school year.

All enrollments must be complete before any child can attend kindergarten. Parents are encouraged to complete their enrollments for their child as early as possible ... by June 1st preferably.

For additional assistance, contact the Enrollment Office at 810-299-4095.