



## **Transitional Kindergarten at Beacon:**

Beacon Cary is excited to welcome our TK class of 2021. This school year will be filled with engaging academic experiences that balance the student's abilities to work independently with a heightened level of teacher direction towards specific learning goals. Students in the TK program will be exposed to a curriculum that challenges their thinking and independence skills, all while still offering plenty of social and emotional support.

### **Language Arts:**

Beacon will continue to review upper and lower case alphabet letters, and the phonetic sounds of each letter. We will introduce the Letterland Characters so that your TK student will be familiar with these upon entry in the wcpss system. Students will become familiar with fluency words which are common words found in early childhood reading passages such as the, it, we, all, and more! Students will explore thought provoking questions about literature such as "What is the main idea?", "Whose point of view is this story told in?" and "What do you think the Author's purpose is in telling this story?". Students will learn to compare two literary pieces in order to be able to determine likes/ differences, reasons each were written, and students will use skills learned to break stories down into parts. Students will learn how the author and illustrator present parts of the story and will research the hows and whys of this when reading. We are excited to provide opportunities to expand language and encourage the student to use new words learned and to use words that are more descriptive when reading/ writing such as replacing the word "run" with "jogged" or the word "laugh" with "chuckle" or "giggle".

**Writing:**

Beacon will provide many varied opportunities for our TK students to practice writing their alphabet, numbers, and proper punctuation. Students will engage in journal writing, research projects, and individual passages. Some students may receive spelling words based on their personal advancement through the year.

**Reading:**

Students will be assessed at the start of the year to determine their reading ability. They will receive suggested books to read based on their ability, some books will challenge them and others will be ones they choose based on their own interest. These books will guide them during some of their language activities. They will be introduced to sight words and you should expect to see your child's interest in reading increase greatly as the year progresses. One way to encourage this skill at home is to allow them to pick a few library books every couple weeks and engage in reading with them or allowing them to read you the book or show you the pictures. It is important to read and reread the same books again and again in the early stages of literacy when a child is just learning to read. The more you read with or to your child, the quicker they will learn to read.

**Math:**

Beacon students will continue to learn numbers from 0-100. Students will count to tell the number of objects and compare numbers. We will sort objects by 1's, 2's, 5's and 10's. We will utilize ten-frames as we learn simple addition and subtraction. Students will learn to show their work to prove their answer. We will analyze, compare, create, and compose shapes. Children will learn to classify objects by describing and comparing attributes. Students will engage in fun games and individual work in order to practice these skills and more!

**Science:**

Our TK students will have a focus on a weather unit, learn about animals, and investigate properties. The weather unit will include new vocabulary, experiments, and charting. The children will learn types of clouds, weather prediction, meteorology, and types of weather. Our animal unit will include learning about animals who reside in various habitats around the world. Students will engage in learning about the life cycles of animals introduced during the unit and make comparisons such as how different animals camouflage, or categorize animals using various attributes. Students will explore what animals need to survive and function, and how behaviors they demonstrate are influenced by internal and external cues. Our unit on properties will help students understand that properties of objects and materials can be used to compare and classify the objects and materials. These properties can be used as criteria to arrange the objects and materials into categories or sequences.

### **Social Studies:**

Our TK students will explore what it means to be a citizen of a country. We'll explore diversity and learn that cultures are expressed through language, dress, food, art, music, and more! They will learn that we have needs and wants and learn to compare these two concepts. We will compare being alike and different. Beacon students will use geographic representations and terms to describe surroundings in relation to culture and countries.

### **Independence:**

Perhaps the most important set of skills a child will learn while in our TK program will be to gain the confidence to interact independently when problem-solving, to recognize and follow routines, and be an active participant in their classroom. They will be asked to dress themselves, tend to their own grooming, toileting and hygiene needs, tie their own shoes (yes we will help assist as needed) and clean their own work up. They will be welcomed to join in conversations and engage in discussions with peers to encourage communication abilities and practice taking turns, leading and/ or following, and to learn language which can promote respectful interactions.

Overall, our students will be provided a rich curriculum that also includes art, music, dance, and outdoor play. Our TK families should expect to participate in a fall and spring parent conference and will receive a portfolio full of their student's work at the end of the year.

**Communication:**

School to home and home to school communication is very important to the success of each student. Mrs. Kristi will provide information to join her homeroom app, where she can communicate with each family in her class. This is also her method to send out classroom information. ***It is of the utmost importance that families follow her instructions shared here.*** There will be info shared that is time-sensitive and you should bring those items by the date requested in order for your student to participate. You will be able to ask Mrs. Kristi classroom specific questions, however, we ask that you contact your admin team if you have a school-related question.

We look forward to an amazing year in TK at Beacon!