



Ferndale Public Schools

Curriculum and Instruction

First 5s Kindergarten Option

The Ferndale School District is offering a First 5s program next school year; 2012-2013. The program is designed for students who:

- Are eligible to attend kindergarten, having turned five on or before December 1, 2012;
- Are developmentally young;
- Will benefit from classroom instruction designed with more frequent movement, reduced length of instructional periods, increased use of manipulative and motor activities and a focus on to social and emotional development.

First 5s is a full day optional program. All students are required to attend the morning session. Because of the developmental age of the students, the afternoon session is optional. The optional afternoon session provides an opportunity for parents to take their children home at the end of the morning session. Parents who want their children to attend a full day of school may select the full-day option.

Curriculum

The Ferndale Schools kindergarten curriculum serves as the basis for the First 5s program with instruction provided in all core content areas. Pre-reading, writing, speaking and listening skills are emphasized as are mathematics skills. In addition, students study science and social studies. Reading and mathematics instruction are taught during the morning session. The afternoon session focuses on science and social studies as well as additional English language arts and mathematics instruction. In addition to core content, the program's focus is on social, emotional, and large and small muscle development.

Concepts are presented in a developmentally appropriate manner. Students use objects, or manipulatives, to experience abstract concepts. Experiential learning is the instructional model employed in the First 5s program. Once mastery is demonstrated, students move to the next level of cognitive development; demonstrating knowledge through the use of pictures or images. Some students may demonstrate mastery of aspects of the kindergarten curriculum; however students are expected to exit the First 5s program ready to enter kindergarten.

All Ferndale Schools elementary programs, including the First 5s program, provide instruction in art, vocal music and physical education. Students attending the full-day program participate in one art class along with two vocal music and two physical education classes each week. Students enrolled in the half-day program participate in some of the above classes; scheduling will determine the classes as well as the number of sessions half-day students participate in each week.

Teacher Qualifications

All teachers are certified and highly qualified for the subject or class instructed. The First 5s teacher will instruct both the morning and afternoon sessions.

Eligibility

To be given consideration for the program children must participate in a short First 5s screening. Parents are welcome to observe the screening and are encouraged to discuss their thoughts and concerns with the screener.

Cost

There is no fee for participating in either the full or half-day First 5s program.

Calendar

First 5s classes follow the Ferndale Schools' district calendar with students attending school five days a week.

Bell Schedule

The students' day begins at the same time as all other students in the building. Half-day students are dismissed prior to the start of the student lunch hour. Full day students are dismissed with all students in the school at the end of the school day.

Transportation

Full-day First 5 students are eligible to ride a school bus to and from school where district transportation is available. Half-day students may ride the bus to school only (where district transportation is available) and parents are responsible to pick their child up each day prior to the start of the lunch hour.

Lunch

Students enrolled in the full-day First 5s program are eligible to eat lunch at school. Just as all students, they may bring their lunch or purchase a hot lunch. If eligible, full-day students may participate in the free and/or reduced lunch program. Half-day students are dismissed prior to the start of the lunch hour and do not eat lunch at school.

School Age Child Care

Ferndale Public Schools offers a fee-based before and/or after school latchkey program. Full-day First 5s students are welcome to participate in both before and after school programs. Half-day students may participate in the before school program only.

Open Program Lottery

If a student participates in the 2012 Open Program Lottery, he/she may retain the slot and use it Fall 2013 when entering kindergarten.

Location of the Program

The Young 5s classroom will be located at either Roosevelt Primary School or John F. Kennedy Elementary School. The location will be determined in August based upon kindergarten enrollment and room availability.

Changing Programs: From a Half-Day to a Full-Day Student

Parents may request a change in programming from the half-day to full-day or from the full-day program to half-day. For the safety of all children, parents must commit to either the half-day or full-day program and may not change programs without first participating in a parent/teacher conference.

Questions

For further information contact Barbara Evoe, Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction at (248) 586-8657.