



## Young 5's & Kindergarten

Young 5's and Kindergarten are the foundation of your child's formal education. We have assembled an outstanding staff and a strong curriculum designed to develop your child's love of learning through individualized social and academic support with a low teacher to student ratio.

### The First School Advantage

Our experienced teachers lead this group of children in a year of fun exploration of language, math, and more complex science and social studies topics. Because of the small teacher to student ratio (14:1 during academic times), we are able to move at a faster pace than other Young 5's & Kindergarten programs. Projects and topics can be fully explored in many different ways to incorporate many different learning styles.



### Customizable Program

Families come to First School's Young 5's & Kindergarten Program for many reasons. Flexibility is one of those reasons. Not only are we able to provide an experience that is superior to other programs in terms of staff to teacher ratio, high academic standards, and unique experiences, but we are also able to customize a schedule that works best for each child.



### Young 5's (for children with May – Dec. 31 birthdays)

Our Young 5's is a delightful bridge program to help the transition from preschool to Kindergarten. For families that question their child's Kindergarten readiness, First School's Young 5's program will provide the academic and social foundation that will help your student be successful in the years of school ahead.

The First School teachers are early childhood professionals and the classroom has a low teacher to child ratio to ensure one to one attention and individualized instruction. Our goal is to build lifelong learners and to provide a smoother transition to kindergarten. Our curriculum is developed around the Ohio Common Core Standards. The Young 5's classroom is filled with hands on, developmentally appropriate approaches to encourage enthusiastic learners who interact with their peers as they problem solve together. The children are active learners and participate in the classroom using interactive experiences and active discoveries in Language and Literacy. Math and Science, Social Studies, Personal and Social development gross and fine motor development as well as technology. We work on listening skills and extending our focus, which is required in Kindergarten yet may not be achieved at this time. Our ultimate goal is to have the children gain confidence while actively learning and having fun. We are confident that our students will have a positive start to Kindergarten after completing this program.

We have found that it is better to give your child another year to grow than to become frustrated with their development and achievement in the first few years of school. First School's Early 5's program gives your child a year to succeed.

## Afternoon Enrichment

Our afternoon enrichment program is a great way to expand on creative and problem-solving skills. After enjoying lunch with their peers, these students are encouraged to grow their critical thinking through many STEM related activities. STEM activities enrich the lives of these young learners with experiences in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The teacher is continually adjusting the enrichment program curriculum based on the particular interest of the group. They are encouraged to think through problems and solutions individually and together. This will add to their growing confidence in social and communications skills. In addition, the group will explore a variety of beginning chapter books and art mediums to expand their knowledge base. This class is open to our morning curriculum students.



A.M. Young 5's have access to the following program:

### Lunch Bunch

Our lunch program serves as a great way for students to gain extra social time, interacting with different friends and teachers. During this time, the students eat lunch and then work with staff on thematic units that offer enrichment and exploration of topics that are not a part of our traditional curriculum. Some examples are: author studies, fairy tales, health and nutrition, and extra science experiments. This class runs from 11:10-12:45.



## KINDERGARTEN

For Students Turning 5 before September 30

Our Afternoon Kindergarten class prepares students with reading skills such as phonemic awareness, vocabulary work, and word play that are constantly being introduced and reinforced. Quality classic and contemporary literature are shared daily and children always have access to many different levels and genres of books. The process of writing is an exciting moment when our Kindergartners begin to add text to their drawings to tell us their thoughts. Mathematics is a big portion of the day and is studied in large and small groups as well as individually. Science is always fascinating at the Kindergarten level: we include many experiments and demonstrations as well as encouraging careful observation of the world around us. We make social and cultural studies a part of everyday life in this program as we explore geography and cultures from around the world including the importance of being a good citizen in our community and a good role model for our Preschool students. Independent work is an important part of the Kindergarten program. Students will be able to move throughout different stations in the room with a small amount of instruction by the teacher. This puts our alumnae ahead of the game when moving on to the First Grade. Kindergartners enjoy a "Fun Room" class three times a week and have a group music class once a week. Weekly writing communication with parents assures a partnership between the home and school that supports our students throughout the year.

### Kindergarten and Young 5's Sample Schedule:

Arrival- Individual and small group work

Center time/guided reading groups

Writing/journal time

Foreign Language

Story/whole group game

Music (Fridays)

Whole Group Learning, new content introduced

Sensorimotor

Snack, provided by First School

Learning Centers