



Piqua City Schools
Committed to Excellence
www.piqua.org

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2014 Piqua City School District Board Of Education

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*The Board of Education meets on the fourth Thursday of each month.
Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and are held at:
Municipal Government Complex
Commission Chambers,
201 W. Water St., Piqua, OH 45356*

Nicklin Learning Center
818 Nicklin Avenue
937.773.4742

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Welcome to
Piqua City Schools
Committed to Excellence



All I really need to know about how to live and what to do and how to be I learned in Kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate school mountain, but there in the sand pile at school.

Robert Lee Fulghum



Nicklin Learning Center
KINDERGARTEN



Welcome to Piqua City Schools!

Dear Parents:

Welcome to an exciting time for both you and your child. We are looking forward to the 2014-2015 school year as we work together to provide you with a rewarding Kindergarten experience.

The Nicklin Learning Center staff is hard at work preparing for the arrival of the 2014-2015 Kindergarten class. They will provide an excellent place for your child to learn and grow. The key to student growth is knowing each child's strengths and needs and continuously monitoring their growth.

We encourage you to be involved with your child's education. You can do this not only by participating in school activities and connecting with staff on a regular basis, but also by reading with your child and communicating with them about their school day.

Thank you for trusting us with your child. We appreciate that you have chosen the Piqua City School District as your partner in education. We will work hard to make this a wonderful experience and a celebration of their many successes.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Henderson at 937.773.4742 or contact the Board of Education Office at 937.773.4321. We are looking forward to a great school year and the beginning of a strong partnership!

Sincerely,



Richard A. Hanes
Richard A. Hanes
Superintendent



Loretta Henderson
Loretta Henderson
Principal

Piqua City Schools offers unique academic and social programs for our Kindergarten students. These programs and activities provide exciting, motivating, and valuable learning experiences for your child. Our programs and activities include you, the parent, and the community working together to provide opportunities and resources to meet your child's needs while helping them grow and learn!



Breakfast with Santa

Held annually on a Saturday in December, our Breakfast with Santa is a favorite Family Literacy Event that everyone enjoys. We invite Santa to come to our school to meet our students and take a picture with them, we have a special breakfast, and opportunities for stories, crafts and letter writing. The Piqua Rotary Club, Nicklin's Business Partner, always help at this event.



Great experiences your child will have in kindergarten include...

100th Day

The 100th day of school is filled with many exciting activities that focus on math. Students bring in collections of 100 items, practice counting to 100 by ones, fives, and tens, sort their collections into groups and count them, and parade around the school viewing other students' collections. The students have a scavenger hunt around the school to find 100 rubber ducks that they bring with them to our assembly. At the assembly the students sing 100 Day songs, count the ducks, and recognize students who dressed as a Centenarian (a 100 year old person).



Thanksgiving Feast Day

During the month of November, students learn about the first Thanksgiving. Just as the Pilgrims and Native Americans brought food to the table from each of their cultures, we ask our families to contribute non-perishable food items to donate to our local food pantry. The day before Thanksgiving Break our students will count the items we will be donating while we celebrate with a special Thanksgiving meal.



Artist in Residence

Mad Cap Puppet Theater's puppet master, Mel, spends a week at our school in the spring working with students on the parts of a story, breaking words into syllables, story writing, and a lesson on Folk Tales. The week culminates with a Family Literacy Event where the students and parents come to a puppet show and create their own puppets.



Family Literacy Events

Nicklin hosts three Family Literacy Events each year. All of our family events have a focus on reading and include activities for students, families, staff, and community volunteers to interact and enjoy fun and educational activities. Each of the events provides our parents with tips and ideas for working with their child at home on building reading and writing skills.

Fun Day and Bubble Play

During the month of May the students enjoy learning about bubbles and playing games that require cooperation, communication, and collaboration. Students learn about the science behind a bubble and get to make bubbles of all types. This is a fun day that promotes teamwork and sportsmanship.

Student Recognition Assemblies

Quarterly assemblies are held to recognize student accomplishments. We will celebrate students who have had birthdays during that quarter, perfect attendance, and achievements in learning and social skills.

Spring Musical Program

Each May the students present a musical program for their family and friends. The musical is a presentation of songs, poems, and dances learned during the course of the year. The musical is a great way for our students to share with their families the gift of music.



“I really like the lunch here because it tastes so good.”

Jack McMaken 6



“I like having stations cause they are always different. My favorite station is the one where we get to listen to a book.”

Ian Lesley 6



“I love doing centers. I get to ride the bus and meet good friends and do fun things. I really like math because you get to do all kinds of fun stuff.”

Jacob Barclay 6



“The first time I went to Nicklin it was so much fun. I like the papers you do and I got to cut with scissors. I never did it before, only at Nicklin.”

HaileeJo Nichols 6



“I love learning, it's fun! I learned how to read and how to do subtraction.”

Alexis Laughman 6

Enrolling your Child in Kindergarten

“We are very pleased with the quality of education our son has received while enrolled at Nicklin Learning Center. The Nicklin Learning Center educators are second to none.” - Jim and Kelly McMaken

Physical & Immunization Requirements

Every child entering Kindergarten needs to have a physical examination. The form needed will be provided in the enrollment packet.

A series of Immunizations are required for each child entering Kindergarten. Specifically, the requirements are:

- 4 DPT
- 2 Chicken Pox (Varicella)
- 3 Polio
- MMR #1
- MMR #2
- 3 Hepatitis B

Students eligible for Kindergarten must present written evidence of immunizations, or written evidence to indicate that they are in the process of receiving such immunizations, to be completed no later than the day of entrance. Students failing to complete such immunizations within 14 days after entering will not be permitted to return to school. For the safety of all students, the school principal may remove a student from school or establish a deadline for meeting State requirements if a student does not have the necessary immunizations or authorized exemption.



Kindergarten Screening & Registration

Kindergarten Screening and Registration will be offered by appointment only on the following dates::

- April 5, 2014 ▶ 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
- April 8, 2014 ▶ 4:00–8:00 p.m.
- April 15, 2014 ▶ 4:00–8:00 p.m.
- July 30, 2014 ▶ 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

**Avoid Long Lines
by Turning in the Registration Paperwork Early!**
March 7-April 4 ▶ 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 26 ▶ 4:00-7:00 p.m.

To register your child you will need to provide a Certified Birth Certificate, your child's social security card, divorce or custody papers if applicable, the Parent's photo ID (driver's license) and your child's physical and immunization records. Your child's paperwork must be turned in prior to the first day of school.



Building Your Child's Readiness Skills

Social/Emotional Development

- Encourage your child to keep trying when encountering a problem by giving him tasks slightly above his current ability level. When your child cannot find a solution on his own, encourage him to calmly ask for help.
- Play board games to practice taking turns.
- Set up several play dates with friends of various ages.
- Allow your child to stay with other trusted adults for a few hours at a time prior to Kindergarten (especially if she has rarely been in the care of someone other than mom and dad).
- Teach your child how to clean up after himself/herself. If they have difficulty completing the task, break it into manageable chunks. (Clean up all of your Legos, then put your books away.)

Language Development

- Verbally give your child specific one-step and two-step directions and encourage him to follow through.
- Read to your child for a combined total of at least 20 minutes each day.
- While reading, point out how to hold a book (right-side up with the spine on the left) and the orientation in which we read the words and look at the pictures (left to right).
- After reading, ask your child what happened in the beginning, middle, and end of the story.
- Give your child plenty of opportunities to draw (without coloring books). Ask her to draw the things she sees around her.
- Teach your child the uppercase and lowercase letters and, most importantly, the sounds each letter makes through play and games. Need some ideas? Go here: www.icanteachmychild.com/alphabet

Cognitive Development

- Have your child help you sort items according to color, size, and shape (laundry, blocks, silverware, toys, and other household items work well).
- Teach your child to make various patterns (red, blue, red, blue). Garage sale dot stickers or craft pom-poms are great for this purpose
- Practice counting aloud to 20 while driving in the car. Teach your child numerals 1-10. Need some suggestions on how to do this: Go here: www.icanteachmychild.com/numbers
- Count objects in your home. Have your child point to each object as she counts.
- Go on a shape hunt. Point out circles, triangles, squares, and rectangles to your child while you are taking or walk or grocery shopping.
- Talk about positional and directional concepts like up/down, over/under, in/out, behind/in front of, top/bottom, beside/between, off/on, stop/go.
- Talk about opposite words (big/little, empty/full, slow/fast).

Creative Arts

- Always encourage pretend play...occasionally join your child in his fantasy world.
- Teach your child to recognize the following colors: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, black, white, brown, and pink. For help, go to: www.icanteachmychild.com/colors
- Use a variety of materials to let your child paint, draw and explore!



Physical Development (Gross & Fine Motor)

- Give your child plenty of opportunities for outdoor play: running, jumping, and climbing.
- Play catch on a regular basis.
- Practice skipping.
- Stack blocks together.
- Let your child use child-safe scissors to cut out a variety of shapes.
- Teach your child to write his name (capital for the first letter and lowercase for the remaining letters). To start, write his name using a highlighter and encourage him to trace over it. Be sure that he forms the letters from the top to the bottom.
- Ensure your child is holding her pencil correctly: www.icanteachmychild.com/2012/06/correct-pencil-grip/
- Play with playdough regularly. Roll, squish, stamp, and even cut it!
- Encourage your child to cut out various shapes using child-safe scissors.
- String large beads to make a necklace.
- Play with an interlocking puzzle together.



Self Help Skills

- Teach your child how to tie his shoes.
- Teach your child how to put on and zip their coats.
- Teach your child how to open snack packages. (chips, Lunchables, fruit snacks, etc.) with little to no adult assistance.
- Teach your child how to take care of toileting needs and hand washing without the assistance of an adult.
- Help your child learn how to use a tissue to blow their nose.
- Teach your child how to button and zip pants/shorts.
- Help your child learn their address, phone number, and first and last name.
- Work with your child to recognize and write their first name and the letters in their name.

Trusted Educational Websites

- www.starfall.com (letter and sound recognition and math games)
- www.abcya.com (reading activities and stories)
- www.funbrain.com (language arts and math games)
- www.kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/ (science videos and activities)
- www.sesamestreet.org (reading and math games and activities)
- www.parentteachplay.com/gross-motor-skills-activities-from-play-group/ (activities to do indoors and outdoors to build your child's upper and lower body strength)





Nicklin Learning Center's Kindergarten program provides our students with a wide variety of learning opportunities:

The Nicklin Learning Center Kindergarten program is designed to meet the individual needs of our students using a wide range of learning styles and differentiated instructional strategies. Students will learn new academic skills through direct teacher instruction, collaborative experiences through center based learning, and exploration and play. In addition to developing our student's academic abilities the staff at Nicklin Learning Center strives to help students build on their social skill development, creative and artistic interests, and technology and communication skills. We will work as a team with our family and community resources to provide exciting, meaningful learning experience to help our students grow into confident learners. Building upon success, making school enjoyable, and instilling in our students the desire to grow and achieve makes them ready for future challenges socially, emotionally, and academically!

Over 70% of our Kindergarten students participate in our all day Kindergarten program!



Piqua City School District Kindergarten Program will focus on:

Reading, Writing, and Language

- Identify letter names and their sounds including long and short vowel sounds
- Correctly write upper and lowercase letters
- Blend letter sounds to form words
- Learn high frequency words to increase reading fluency and writing ability
- Understand printed text: read left to right and top to bottom
- Identify the parts of a book
- Rhyming words
- Break words apart into beginning, middle, and end sounds
- Read emergent reader texts for purpose and understanding
- Answer questions about and retell stories
- Name the character, setting and major events in a story
- Identify author and illustrator roles
- Compare two similar stories
- Write a variety of stories ranging from research papers to personal narratives
- Identify appropriate uses of nouns and verbs
- Use singular and plural forms of words correctly
- Share ideas about their experiences and environment
- Learn how to ask questions and explain ideas

Mathematics

- Counting with one number and one object at a time
- Count to 100 by ones and tens
- Write numbers 0-20
- Count on from a given number
- Simple addition and subtraction
- Take apart numbers to 10 in more than one way: ($5+5=10$ and $3+7=10$)
- Put together and take apart numbers up to 19: ($18=10+8$)
- Measure objects using non-standard units: (how many paper clips long is a pencil?)
- Compare/contrast the measurable features of an object
- Understand the concepts of ones and tens
- Count objects to tell how many and represent those objects in number form
- Identify which group has greater than, less than, or equal to another group
- Compare two written numbers
- Identify flat and 3D shapes no matter what position they are in
- Understand positional concepts: beside, below, above, before, after, etc
- Create and model shapes in the environment
- Use mathematical language to describe shape similarities and differences: (number of sides, corners, vertices, etc.)

Science and Social Studies

- Tell personal history using words and pictures
- Recognize national symbols
- Learn the Pledge of Allegiance
- Learn basic map skills
- Difference between wants and needs, goods and services
- Four seasons and changes in weather
- Compare/Contrast day and night, living and non-living objects
- Different objects produce different sounds

Social and Emotional

- Develop independence skills
- Provide social skill development to help students develop friendships and positive relationships with peers and adults
- Develop skills to help students cope with change
- Practice sharing and cooperation
- Learn how to set goals
- Develop a positive self-concept
- Feel a sense of satisfaction from working hard to complete a task

Artistic Development and Appreciation

Students will be provided opportunities within the arts that will allow them to:

- Develop enthusiasm for the arts
- Use their imagination
- Express their creativity through the arts
- Appreciate a variety of artistic means
- Communicate through the arts

Physical Health and Safety

- Learn and practice safe behavior
- Build gross motor strength to develop: good writing skills, a child's ability to sit upright in class, crossing the body's midline, and writing on the Smart Board
- Respect one's self and body
- Develop fine motor skills to improve: handwriting, ability to operate a mouse, turn pages in a book, and perform personal care tasks without assistance (zipping coats, snap or button pants, and tying shoes)
- Learn the importance of good nutrition and exercise

Technology Integration

Piqua City Schools are rich in technology and provide many opportunities for students to learn with and through the use of technology. Technology is used to reinforce skills and to assess student learning. Students are encouraged to be curious, explore and experiment with the wide variety of technology and software resources available to them.

Students will have the opportunity to experience & learn daily with:

- 4 student computers in every classroom
- Interactive white boards (Smart Boards) in every classroom
- Wireless notebook computers
- iPads





UNIQUE COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS



Piqua Rotary Club

The Piqua Rotary Club is Nicklin's business partner. The Rotary Club is a service-based organization comprised of business women and men from Piqua who are dedicated to the betterment of our community. Our partnership enables our community members to become actively engaged with our students at Nicklin. The Piqua Rotary Club supports many of Nicklin's programs including Friday Rotary Readers, the Miami Dental Clinic (providing free toothbrushes and toothpaste to each child at Nicklin multiple times during the year), Birthday Books for each child, Breakfast with Santa, Costumes for the Spring Musical, and providing support for our families in need.

Miami County Immunization Clinic

Miami County Immunization Clinic – The Piqua Health Department, in a collaborative effort with Upper Valley Medical Center, the Ohio Department of Health, and the Piqua City Schools provides immunizations at Piqua Immunization Clinic located inside Nicklin Learning Center. Immunizations are provided by appointment or walk-in and ADC insurance is accepted, however, no one is ever refused service for inability to pay. For more information call the clinic at (937) 615-9302. The hours for the clinic are 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. every Thursday. A minimal fee is charged for immunization shots .



Parents as Teachers

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is a parent education and support program for families of children birth to Kindergarten entry. The goal of PAT is designed to help provide all parents of these young children the information and support needed to give their children the best possible start in life. Through Parents as Teachers, parents acquire the skills to help make the most of the crucial early learning years. This is accomplished through a program of personalized home visits with certified parent educators throughout the school year via group meetings, playgroups, screenings and serving as a referral source. PAT is a literacy-based program that is free & voluntary, has universal access (open to anyone with young children, in the Piqua area), and is unique in its philosophy to work with the strengths of each individual child. If you are interested in this program please call 615-0228 and leave a message. A representative from Parents as Teachers will return your call.

Miami County Dental Clinic

The Miami County Dental Clinic provides free dental screenings to all incoming Kindergarten students. The dentists and hygienists that serve in this program are employed at several Miami County dental offices. The clinic continues to provide follow-up services throughout the school year to our families who request it. This service is provided during school hours so the child does not miss school for a dental appointment. The Piqua Rotary Club helps to support this program at Nicklin by providing the clinic with much needed supplies and furnishings and our students with dental kits that include toothbrushes, toothpaste and dental floss.

Bruckner Nature Center

Bruckner Nature Center provides our students the opportunity to interact with animals they study during the school year. As part of our curriculum our students learn about animal habitats, living and non-living things, and how the seasons affect habitats and animals. The educational specialists from Bruckner provide hands on experiences with their Wildlife Ambassadors as well as with skulls, skins, and skeletons.

Ohio Ready Schools

Nicklin Learning Center is a member of The Ohio Ready Schools Initiative. The initiative develops partnerships between early childhood educators and public school districts that will lead to consistent educational programs for early learners, pre-K-3. Elementary schools in the Ready School journey work to be ready for all children by partnering with early childcare providers and preschools as well as local service agencies.

Ready School sites use their resources to:

- create a bridge PreK-3rd grade by creating common teacher expectations and a progressive curriculum
- improve services to children and families
- monitor changes in education and collect data on effective educational practices



Miami County Parks

Students at the Nicklin Learning center connect with nature to make the science standards real.

In the fall Nicklin students participate in the "I Am a Tree" program where they travel to the Stillwater Prairie Reserve to explore trees and seasons, learn about habitats, living and non-living things, animal adaptations, and the gifts we get from a tree. The students experience animals that make trees their home, play in the leaves, listen to a story about leaves, and learn how to sort leaves to make a leaf crown.

In the winter Nicklin Learners work with the park Naturalists to review the gifts of the tree, seasons, and the importance of trees to the environment. They combine science, art, and music together to reinforce the learning objectives to the students.

In the spring Kindergarteners travel to Garbry Big Woods to participate in the "Hug the Earth Festival" with the Banana Slugs String Band from California. At the festival, students will participate in activities that reinforce Kindergarten science standards learned during the school year at Nicklin.



Assessments and Progress Monitoring

In order to know each child's educational strengths and needs we must frequently monitor student growth in all areas.

Assessing a student's strengths and needs begins during Kindergarten Screening. Students are assessed in body awareness, fine motor skills, letter identification skills, shape recognition, understanding of directional (above, below, beside, etc.) and positional concepts (first, second, last, etc), vocabulary, number skills, and rhyming.

During the first eight weeks of schools (Nov. 1) students will be assessed using the new Ohio Department of Education evaluation tool called the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA). It has six components: social skills (including social/ emotional development and approaches toward learning), mathematics, science, social studies, language and literacy, and physical well-being/ motor development. The results provide a baseline of where your child is when entering Kindergarten so that the teachers can individualize learning experiences for your child.

Students are also assessed using a tool called Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS). At the Kindergarten level the focus is on three main areas: ability to isolate the first sound in a word, sound out a word that is read to them, and read nonsense words based solely on the sounds of the letters (example: fet, saz, jit, etc.). This information allows us to provide targeted reading instruction based on each student's needs. If your child begins to read fluently during Kindergarten, we will administer the DIBELS fluency assessment to determine their reading level and differentiate for your child.

Parent-Teacher Conferences are held in the fall and spring. Parents are strongly encouraged to participate in these conferences to discuss how your child is progressing through the curriculum and how you can support their learning at home. We also encourage our parents to contact their child's teacher any time they have a question or concern about their child's progress.



“ I have the best job in the world! Every day I come to work and feel fulfilled when I leave and that doesn't really feel like work at all, but a pleasure. I love spending each day with the students, families, and staff. We have a talented team at Nicklin that works together to grow our students. It amazes me how much progress our students make throughout the year; becoming readers, writers, and problem solvers by the end of their Kindergarten experience. The staff at Nicklin keep students as the focus and strive to provide each child a safe and caring environment in which to learn and grow. ”

Loretta Henderson, Principal

“ Teaching: I laugh, I cry, and I work harder than I ever thought I could. Some days I'm trying to change the world and some days I'm just trying to make it through the day. My wallet is empty, my heart is full, and my mind is packed with memories of children who have changed my life. Just another day in Kindergarten! ”

Katy Scott, Teacher

“ I like teaching at Nicklin because I love our fun and friendly staff. I also enjoy getting to know all of our wonderful kindergartners! ”

Amy Davis, Teacher

“ Teaching Kindergarten Music is inspiring. The children are fast paced and I learn things from them every day. It is so much fun to watch them learn because most concepts and activities are new to them. Their caring for each other has made me a better person. Their honesty is sincere, brutal at times, and refreshing. No other job in the world would allow me to wear a pink mustache during class, play a recording of "Flight of the Bumblebee" during a hula hoop activity, or let us all dance ballet to "Pizzicato Polka". Kindergarten music is "The World of Wonderment" ”

Beth Fair, Teacher

“ I love teaching at Nicklin because the students come each day excited and enthusiastic about learning! The teachers and staff are fabulous at Nicklin because they are always going above and beyond what is expected of them and always willing to help another staff member or student. Lastly, the Piqua Community stands behind its school district and supports the staff and students 100%! ”

Brittney Heitman, Teacher

DISTRICT INFORMATION

Mission Statement:

The students, parents, staff and community of the Piqua City School District accept the responsibility to provide our students with the best possible opportunities for the intellectual, moral and physical development necessary to become responsible citizens.

Strategic Planning Goals

The Piqua City Schools' Strategic Plan is focused around five areas: Academic Performance, Facilities, Staff, School and Community Relations, and Finances. Our district Strategic Plan is a collaborative document written with the input from our staff, students, families, and community members. The plan is updated annually and is the basis for decision making and goal setting at the building and district level.

The 2014-2015 Strategic Plan goals are:

Academic Performance: By 2016 all students will reach high standards of Mastery.

Facilities: By 2015 complete three new elementary schools project.

Staff: By 2015 district will develop and provide professional development in content, instructional practices, state standards, data and assessments.

School/Community Relations: By 2015 staff, parent & community involvement will be increased in support of student learning.

Finance: Through 2015 continue sound conservative fiscal forecasting and management to operate within our resources.

“Nicklin Learning Center has gone *above and beyond* what's expected to make each child's first step in their education an enjoyable experience for the child and parents. Whether it's through *quick responses* to e-mails, newsletters, one-call now, or by ensuring the students have fun while learning through songs, dancing or other *engaging activities*. Sending my first child off to Kindergarten can be a little nerve-racking, but my fears didn't last long because of the *compassionate, hard-working staff* at Nicklin.”
- Libbey Leininger, Parent

“Nicklin Learning center is *AWESOME!* The entire staff makes sure your child is safe and well taken care of.”
- Melinda Runkle, Parent

“The staff is great at Nicklin Learning Center. Everyone is *friendly and helpful*. Drop off and pick up is *easy*. It is a great place for the kids to go and has been for all three of our kids.”
- James Hepner, Parent

“I have nothing but good things to say about the staff and my children's experiences at Nicklin Learning Center. Each teacher is *attentive to the needs of children* while providing a fun and interesting learning experience.”
- Jessie Hess, Parent

“The Nicklin staff is very *in tune* with my child's *specific needs*.”
- Jennifer Turner, Parent