



# 2026-2027

# KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM GUIDE

---

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Antioch CCSD 34's kindergarten English Language Arts program supports early literacy development through structured, explicit, and research-based instruction aligned to the Science of Reading. Students build foundational skills in phonemic awareness, phonics, letter-sound relationships, word recognition, vocabulary, fluency, comprehension, speaking, listening, and language.

At the kindergarten level, students are developing important early literacy milestones, including recognizing and naming letters, identifying letter sounds, hearing and manipulating sounds in spoken words, understanding concepts of print, and beginning to read and write simple words and sentences. Instruction includes systematic practice with sounds, letters, decoding, encoding, high-frequency words, oral language, and early writing. Students learn to connect reading and writing through activities such as letter formation, sound-spelling patterns, drawing, labeling, and sentence development.

Teachers use whole group and small group instruction, modeling, guided practice, and opportunities for independent application to meet students' needs. Through rich read-alouds, meaningful discussions, vocabulary development, and exposure to a variety of texts, students build background knowledge and comprehension skills. This approach helps young learners develop confidence as readers, writers, speakers, and listeners while building a strong foundation for future literacy success.

## MATHEMATICS

Mathematics instruction in kindergarten follows the Eureka Math<sup>2</sup> curriculum to build a strong foundation in early math concepts. Aligned with the Common Core State Standards, instruction focuses on Counting & Cardinality, Operations & Algebraic Thinking, Measurement & Data, Geometry, and Numbers & Operations in Base Ten. Students explore concepts such as number sense, shapes, comparison, addition and subtraction, and place value through hands-on activities, games, and visual models. Kindergarten students develop problem-solving skills and a deep understanding of how numbers and patterns work in the world around them.

## SOCIAL SCIENCE

Kindergarten Social Science instruction promotes inquiry-based learning as students explore the theme *My Social World*. Aligned with the Illinois Social Science Learning Standards, the curriculum helps students develop critical thinking skills by asking questions, analyzing sources, and sharing their ideas. Units include *Holidays and Traditions*, *Needs and Wants*, and *Movement of People and Goods*, introducing students to foundational concepts in civics, geography, economics, and history. These experiences help young learners understand their roles in families, classrooms, and communities.

## SCIENCE

Antioch CCSD 34's kindergarten Science curriculum is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and delivered through the Amplify Science program. Students build curiosity and understanding through hands-on learning, observation, and exploration of real-world phenomena. Units include *Needs of Plants and Animals*, *Pushes and Pulls*, and *Sunlight and Weather*. Through these units, students investigate plant and animal survival, experiment with forces and motion, and study the effects of sunlight on temperature. These experiences promote foundational skills in scientific inquiry and encourage students to think like young scientists and engineers.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

Physical Education and Health promotes physical development, healthy habits, and social-emotional growth through active play and health-focused instruction. Students develop motor, fitness, and teamwork skills while learning how to care for their bodies and make safe, healthy choices. Health lessons in kindergarten include topics such as *How to Stay Safe*, *The Five Senses*, *Healthy Habits*, *Going to the Doctor and Dentist*, and *Good Food*. These experiences lay the foundation for lifelong wellness by encouraging goal setting, responsibility, and personal well-being.

## **SPECIALS**

### **ART**

Art instruction in Antioch CCSD 34 combines hands-on experimentation and application of various media, tools and processes. Through exposure to the arts, students will learn and utilize the basic elements of art: line, shape, color, space, value and texture. Building upon prior knowledge and skills, students will demonstrate these concepts through a variety of art activities. Additionally, the elementary Art curriculum introduces and expands upon vocabulary, art history and culture, and careers in art.

### **MUSIC**

General Music instruction in Antioch CCSD 34 includes experiencing music through singing, movement and the playing of instruments. Learning targets revolve around the musical elements of melody, rhythm, harmony, improvisation, form and expressive elements. The K-5 music curriculum is structured around the Illinois Art Learning Standards of creating, performing, responding to musical excerpts, in addition to the connection of personal and real life experiences to music.

### **PROJECT LEAD THE WAY (PLTW)**

Kindergarten students participate in Project Lead the Way (PLTW) and explore STEM concepts through engaging, hands-on learning experiences. Each module begins with a real-world challenge that encourages collaboration, creativity, and problem-solving. Throughout the year, students engage in the following units: *Structure and Function: Exploring Design*, *Structure and Function: Human Body*, and *Pushes and Pulls*. These experiences help students build foundational knowledge in science and engineering while developing confidence in asking questions, testing ideas, and working together to find solutions.

## **SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING**

Kindergarten students build foundational social-emotional skills through the *Second Step Program*, which provides weekly lessons that support emotional awareness, empathy, self-regulation, and relationship skills. Instruction focuses on four key areas: Skills for Learning, Empathy, Emotion Management, and Problem Solving. Students learn to listen, follow directions, express emotions appropriately, manage frustration, and resolve peer conflicts respectfully. These experiences help students navigate school life, build positive relationships, and develop the confidence and skills needed for both academic and personal success.

## **DIFFERENTIATION & ENRICHMENT**

Antioch CCSD 34 is dedicated to meeting the diverse academic, social, and emotional needs of all learners through differentiated instruction and enrichment opportunities. Teachers tailor instruction by adjusting content, process, product, and learning environment to support individual learning styles, readiness levels, and interests. Differentiation ensures that every student is appropriately challenged and supported to achieve growth. Enrichment opportunities are embedded throughout the curriculum to extend learning, foster creativity, and promote critical thinking.