

Junior Kindergarten Open House

Tracey McDowell, Teacher
Dr. Stephanie Helfand, Principal



JOSEPH SEARS

EST. 1899

RESPONSIBILITY KINDNESS HONESTY RESPECT

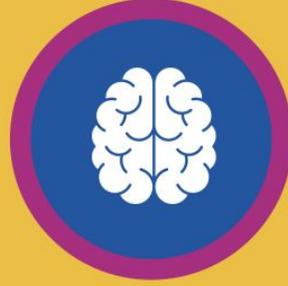
THE PORTRAIT OF A SEARS GRADUATE



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FEARLESS
LEARNER



CREATIVE
THINKER



COMPASSIONATE
CITIZEN



COURAGEOUS
ADVOCATE

THE PORTRAIT OF A SEARS GRADUATE



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FEARLESS
LEARNER

Sears graduates understand the process, seek and embrace the opportunities, and persevere through the challenges of learning something new.

A Sears graduate believes their knowledge, expertise, and skills can develop through effort, and that new learning is essential to advance and achieve. **They are looking for opportunities** to demonstrate their confidence, motivation, curiosity, and perseverance.



CREATIVE
THINKER

Sears graduates are passionate and innovative thinkers.

A Sears graduate believes that challenging existing boundaries and being imaginative will empower them to discover new ideas. **They are looking for opportunities** to demonstrate their creativity, collaboration, innovation, and open-mindedness.



COMPASSIONATE
CITIZEN

Sears graduates better their communities by being kind and compassionate.

A Sears graduate believes in being kind and caring to oneself and others and that they are part of a connected community. **They are looking for opportunities** to demonstrate their inclusivity, self-awareness, social-awareness, and empathy.



COURAGEOUS
ADVOCATE

Sears graduates demonstrate empathy by advocating for themselves and others.

A Sears graduate believes in the well-being of themselves, others, and the community and that their individual and collective actions have influence and impact. **They are looking for opportunities** to demonstrate their bravery, be communicative, problem-solve, and take action.



ALL STUDENTS. OUR STUDENTS.

Through an integrated system of teaching and learning and a culture of care, we support the academic achievement and social-emotional well-being of all students.



PORTRAIT OF A SEARS GRADUATE

*fearless learner
creative thinker
compassionate citizen
courageous advocate*

FOCUS AREAS

Academic Achievement



Provide a student-centered education rooted in best practices and quality learning experiences to drive academic achievement for all.

Whole Child Approach



Establish a safe, kind, inclusive learning community that promotes the social-emotional well-being of all students.

Staff Development



Foster a professional community that attracts, develops, and retains a diverse staff of student-centered, continuous learners.

Learning Environment



Build a safe, supportive, innovative learning environment that encourages all students and staff to work together toward shared goals.

Stakeholder Partnerships



Cultivate trusting relationships that advance objectives for our students, school, and community and elevate the Sears experience.

Fiscal Alignment



Assure that taxpayer dollars fund student-centered, high-return programs and invest in a safe, healthy, future-focused environment.

Tracey McDowell



- Undergraduate degree in Elementary Education from Wake Forest University
- Master's degree in Elementary Education from Peabody College of Vanderbilt University
- Early Childhood Teaching Endorsement 2024
- Twenty+ years classroom teaching experience
 - 18 years at Sears School
 - 12 years in Junior Kindergarten

Tracey McDowell



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- Past President and active Board Member of The Alliance for Early Childhood
- Mother of three daughters
- Winnetka resident



RESPONSIBILITY KINDNESS HONESTY RESPECT

Play



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- Start each day with gross motor play on the playground
- Open, free play in the hub everyday for a minimum of forty minutes
 - Including dramatic play, art center, large scale building blocks, duplos, Legos, puzzles, and sensory table, playdoh, painting, games
 - rotating themes including pumpkin patch, grocery store, pet vet, holidays, camping...



RESPONSIBILITY KINDNESS HONESTY RESPECT

SEL Curriculum



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- PATHS
 - Feelings
 - Self expression
 - Conflict resolution
 - Calming techniques
- Friend of the Week
 - Daily January-April
- Caring Schools Community Circle



RESPONSIBILITY KINDNESS HONESTY RESPECT

Literacy



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- CKLA Amplify
 - 7 Domains
 - All About Me
 - Families and Communities
 - Plants
 - Animals
 - Habitats
 - Classic Tales
 - Important People in American History
 - Learning Centers
 - Listening and Learning Instruction
 - Skills Groups



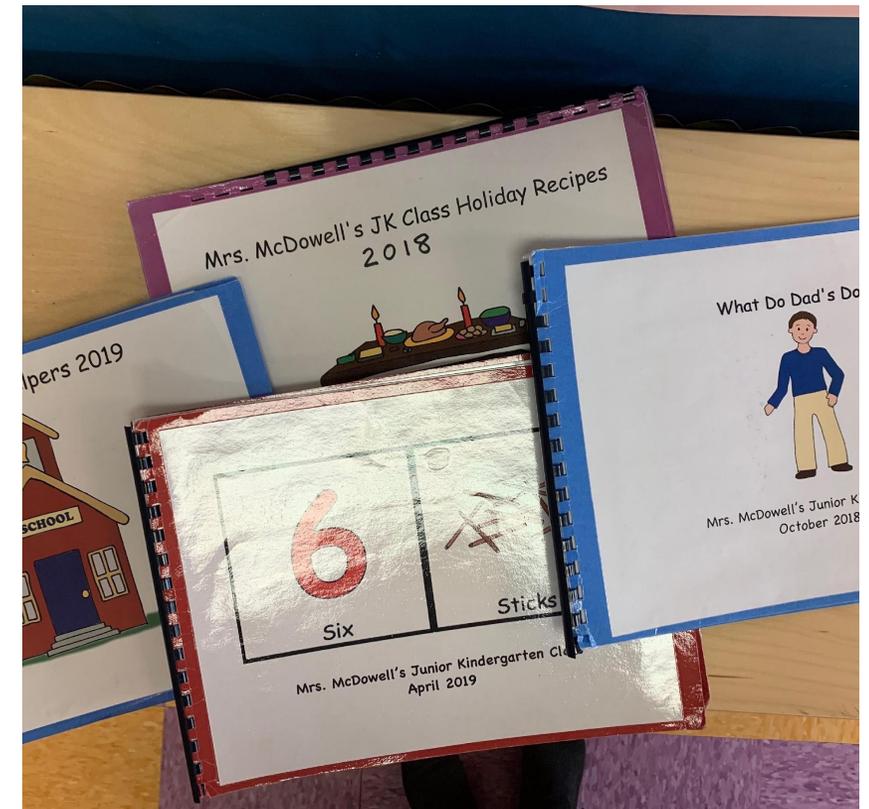
RESPONSIBILITY KINDNESS HONESTY RESPECT

Literacy



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- Language facilitation
 - scaffolded conversations and language goals
 - vocabulary
- Emergent writing
 - purpose of print
 - opportunities to represent writing in developmentally appropriate way
- Classroom routines
 - name recognition
 - name writing
- Phonemic Awareness
 - daily nursery rhyme practice
 - independent rhyming
 - alliteration



RESPONSIBILITY KINDNESS HONESTY RESPECT

Literacy



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- Alphabetic principle
 - words made of sounds
 - sounds represented by symbols
- Print knowledge
 - recognize words and letters
 - understand print directionality and organization



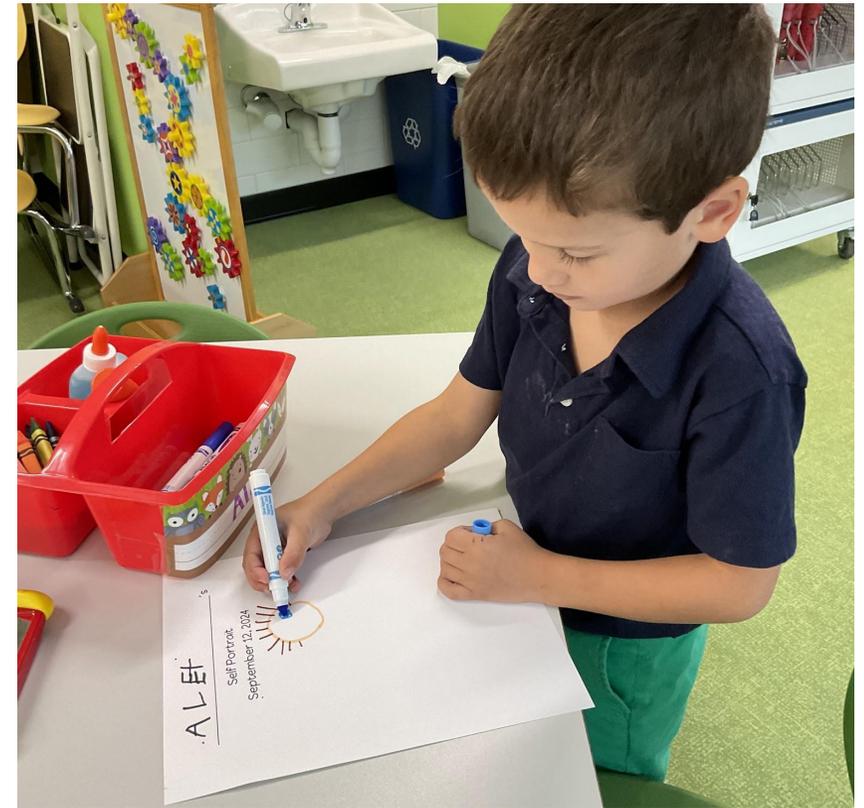
RESPONSIBILITY KINDNESS HONESTY RESPECT

Literacy



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- Handwriting
 - proper grip
 - building letters and shapes
 - prewriting stroke instruction
 - name writing practice
 - letter writing practice



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Math



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- HMHMath Expressions Pre-K
- Understanding Numbers 1-10
 - count and show
 - number recognition
 - subitizing
- Compare numbers 1-10
- Add numbers through 5
- Subtract numbers to 5



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Math



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- Shapes
 - recognize, describe, and match shapes
 - compose shapes with corners
 - flat and 3-dimensional shapes
- Patterns
 - repeating patterns ABAB, ABCABC, AABAAB...
- Measure lengths with non-standard units



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Science



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- Five Senses
- Categorizing Between Living and Non-Living things
- Life Cycles
 - Turtles
 - Mammals (humans and animals)
 - Trees and Flowering Plants
- Sorting and Classifying



RESPONSIBILITY KINDNESS HONESTY RESPECT

Social Studies



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- All About Me
- Families
- Community and School Helpers
- Holidays
- Important People in American History
 - Native Americans and Pilgrims
 - Martin Luther King Jr.
 - Barack Obama
 - Abraham Lincoln
 - Sally Ride



RESPONSIBILITY KINDNESS HONESTY RESPECT

Technology



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- iPads
 - Wet, Dry, Try App
 - iXL for Math and Language Arts
- Smartboard
 - Show and Tell photos
 - Video sharing
 - Sorting, literacy, and math games



RESPONSIBILITY KINDNESS HONESTY RESPECT

JK Specials



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- Specials- one hour for each per week
 - Music
 - Art
 - World Language
 - Library (20 minutes)
 - PE



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Sample Schedule



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8:15-8:45	PE and Recess
8:45-9:00	Morning Meeting
9:00-9:20	Amplify ELA Whole Group
9:20-10:00	HUB (Free Play)
10:00-10:25	Math
10:25-10:40	PATHS (SEL)
10:40-11:00	Special
11:00-11:30	Lunch
11:30-11:55	Quiet Time
11:55-12:05	Movement Break

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Sample Schedule



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12:00-12:30	Centers
12:30-12:45	Social Studies or Science
12:45-1:05	Playtime
1:05-1:25	Amplify Skills Groups
1:25-1:30	Closing Circle
1:30-1:55	Recess/Dismissal

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Junior Kindergarten Calendar 2024-2025



Junior Kindergarten 2024-2025 Calendar

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Resources Available



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- Speech and Language Pathologist
- School Psychologist
- Social Worker

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Parties and Extra Events



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- Four class parties
 - Halloween
 - Holiday
 - Valentine's Day
 - End of Year
- Kohl Story Bus Visit
- Animal Quest visit



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JK Program Hours

- Full Day
 - Arrival 8:15
 - Dismissal 1:55
 - Begins Tuesday after Labor Day

- Half Day
 - Arrival 8:15
 - Dismissal 11:30? (after lunch, time dependent on 2025-2026 schedule)
 - Begins Tuesday after Labor Day

Registration for 2025-2026



Registration Information

- 11/4: Pre-Registration is open
- 11/4 - 11/18: Pre-Registration Window
- Week of 11/25: Lottery (if needed) Parent emails are sent letting families know if they have a spot in the program.
- 12/2: Parents who have been offered a spot will receive Snapcodes to complete online registration through PowerSchool
- 12/4: Families have 48 hours to register before their spot is offered to the next person on the waiting list.

RESPONSIBILITY KINDNESS HONESTY RESPECT

Registration for 2025-2026



- Birthdate must be between September 1, 2020 and September 1, 2021 (4 years old at start of school)
- Tuition for full day is \$14,000; payment required at registration.
- Tuition for half day is \$8,000 payment required at registration.
 - Half day includes lunch.

Questions?



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- Program Questions? Contact Tracey McDowell, JK teacher
 - tmcdowell@kenilworth38.org
- Registration Questions? Contact Dr. Stephanie Helfand
 - shelfand@kenilworth38.org
- Please share contact information on sign in sheet