



RCNS

CURRICULUM BROCHURE

5s, Kindergarten and 1st Grade

Beginning in Fall 2020

RCNS 5s, Kindergarten and 1st Grade

ABOUT OUR CURRICULUM

Over the past year, we have spent much time researching different curriculum choices for our school, with focus on our 5s (formerly Junior-K), Kindergarten & 1st Grade. After speaking with local school districts and private schools, we have created a curriculum that emphasizes the importance of play and research-based instruction.

Teachers College Reading and Writing Project (TCRWP)

Drawing on learning gleaned from decades of research, curriculum development, and working shoulder-to-shoulder with students, teachers, and school leaders, Lucy Calkins and her colleagues at the Columbia University Teachers College Reading and Writing Project have developed the Units of Study for teaching Reading, Writing and Phonics. Designed to meet ambitious 21st century global standards, this series offers grade-by-grade curricula rooted in the Project's best practices and newest thinking. It includes state-of-the-art tools and methods for teaching reading skills and strategies, grounded in the Project's learning progressions in reading, writing, and phonics.

(www.readingandwritingproject.org)

Think! Mathematics

Think! Mathematics is designed for teachers to unfold lessons that are consistent with the idea that mathematics is about thinking and figuring things out for ourselves. The recommended structure of learning through collaborative activities includes concrete materials, talking with friends, listening to ideas, reading mathematics books, and writing ideas in journals. This framework will help students develop a positive perception of math and a healthy perception of themselves as learners of the subject. (<https://www.think-mathematics.com/>)

Be3: The RCNS Values Curriculum

Character education is a core component of our instructional program; Be3 is just one aspect of that. Be3 (Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe) follows the PBIS framework (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) that is a researched-based, positive discipline model that has

been used successfully to create a positive school culture in many districts nationwide. Be3 is implemented specifically for improving behavior in our common areas in order to ensure a culture of respect for all of our students. We continue to teach character values, including respect, responsibility, and kindness, along with engaged citizenship and leadership. Much of the teaching of character involves discussions and dialogue around thought-provoking literature, class meetings, and role-playing. (<https://www.pbis.org/>)

Handwriting Without Tears

Handwriting Without Tears provides fun, engaging, and developmentally appropriate instructional methods to enable children to master handwriting as an automatic and comfortable skill. Handwriting Without Tears curriculum draws from years of innovative research to provide developmentally appropriate, multisensory strategies for early writing. The program follows research on how children learn best and includes multisensory activities and materials that address all styles of learning. (<https://www.lwtears.com/>)

Social Studies

With the help of the New York State guidelines for Social Studies, we have designed the framework for fun and engaging units for students in the 5s, Kindergarten and 1st Grade to learn about their community and world, while also learning more about what it means to be a citizen. Students will learn about our schools town by creating maps, exploring the meaning and history of families by studying “then and now”, learning about American symbols and history, immersing themselves in the study of culture by learning how holidays are spent around the world, and understanding the difference between needs and wants through engaging units about communities and economics.

Science

At RCNS, we know that children learn best through hands-on experiences and interactions. Students will participate in experiments and group lessons to learn about their senses, weather patterns, Earth & outer space, and plants and animals.

RCNS 5s

Half-day program is offered Monday-Friday from 8:45AM-12:15PM

Full-day program is offered Monday-Friday from 8:45AM-2:15PM

- Teacher-child ratio is 1:12.
- Children must be 5 by December 31st.
- RCNS reserves the right to assess each child and determine the best fit for his/her program placement.

The 5s program is designed for children who have completed their 4s year, but who may need the additional gift of time before entering Kindergarten. During this year, children will build on all they learned in their 4s year, as they continue to get ready for kindergarten.

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In the 5s, children enjoy various thematic units which encourage them to actively listen to one another, peacefully resolve conflicts, navigate difficult situations, and develop citizenship within the class community. The children will also engage in a series of mindfulness activities, which will help them continue to gain self-confidence, develop self-help skills and shape self-trust throughout the year.

WORK & PLAY HABITS

In the 5s, children develop skills to foster independence and perseverance in both work and play. Through interactive read alouds and play, children will learn strategies to support positive peer interactions and turn-taking. Throughout the year, children will become more comfortable taking risks in their learning and trying new things.

LITERACY DEVELOPMENT

In the 5s, children develop literacy skills in the areas of reading, writing, phonics, and handwriting. Using Handwriting Without Tears, students will practice using proper pencil grip and adequate pressure when writing uppercase letters. Students will use writing, drawing, and dictating to create their own stories. Additionally, students in the 5s will be exposed to Teachers College Reading & Writing Project (TCRWP) Units of Study in Reading, Writing and Phonics. Children will learn to identify uppercase and lowercase letters, and recognize letter sounds through interactive play-based lessons and small group activities. Children will learn to recognize their own name and repetitive words in their classroom

environment. Students in the 5s will develop an understanding of basic features of print and print concepts by engaging with a variety of texts and genres.

MATHEMATICS

In the 5s, children learn to identify numbers and count sequentially to 20 and above. Students will have exposure to Think! Math curriculum to develop early mathematical skills including one-to-one counting, patterning, and number sense. In the 5s, children will also explore shapes and early math concepts with the use of manipulatives and ten frames.

SOCIAL STUDIES & SCIENCE

In the 5s, children “visit” various countries, explore cultures and traditions, enjoy special classroom visitors, learn about the United States, and participate in a student-driven, project-based learning experience. Children will explore the ecosystem during a field trip to the Beczak Center and learn how to protect their environment with a trip to the Recycling Center.

RELIGION

In the 5s, children will have weekly chapel services led by Reformed Church Senior Minister, Rev. Dr. Matt Waterstone. Children will also have exposure to Godly Play curriculum which includes the general topics of God's love, friendship, caring and sharing.

RCNS KINDERGARTEN

Full-day program is offered Monday-Friday from 8:15AM-2:45PM

- Teacher-child ratio is 1:12.
- Children must be 5 by December 31st.
- RCNS reserves the right to assess each child and determine the best fit for his/her program placement.

The RCNS Kindergarten is a program designed for children who have completed their 4s year. During this year, children will engage their natural curiosities and cultivate a love of learning as they gain skills in the areas of language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, music and art.

WORK & PLAY HABITS

During the kindergarten year, children will continue to build independence and perseverance as they face new challenges. With daily choice time and free play, children will have the opportunity to develop strategies to support positive peer interactions, turn-taking, and group activities. Children will learn to work in partnerships and small groups during workshop lessons.

LITERACY DEVELOPMENT

In Kindergarten, students will participate in a balanced literacy program that includes reading, writing, phonics, and handwriting. Students will complete Units of Study in Reading, Writing, and Phonics from the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project (TCRWP). Children will begin to establish their identities as readers and writers while they build the foundational skills for reading. Children will approximate writing by drawing and labeling first in their own all-about books and then in stories, as they learn to write opinion, informative, and narrative writing with increased complexity using high-leverage phonics concepts and strategies. Using Handwriting Without Tears, children will engage in multisensory activities to reinforce their knowledge of uppercase letter formation and develop strong lowercase letter formation skills.

MATHEMATICS

Kindergarteners will explore and discuss both concrete and abstract mathematical concepts as they follow Think! Math, a Singapore Math-based program that utilizes guided and independent practice. Students will document and reflect upon their thinking through descriptive, investigative, evaluative, and creative journalizing as they gain an understanding of various concepts. In Kindergarten, students will learn to count to 100 by ones and ten; write numbers 0 to 20; analyze shapes; and develop a strong number sense to add and subtract within ten and to complete word problems within ten. Students will learn to decompose numbers from 11 to 20 into tens and ones. Children will use manipulatives and work in small groups and partnerships to solidify these math skills.

SOCIAL STUDIES

In Kindergarten, children will engage in thematic units to gain a better understanding of our world and community. Students will learn about citizenship, America then and now, Native Americans & Pilgrims, folktales & legends, and their own community. Children will have the opportunity to visit with local community helpers and take walking visits of Bronxville to explore the parts of our village.

SCIENCE

In Kindergarten, children will engage in thematic units to learn about the world around them. Students will learn about their five senses, the seasons and weather patterns, plants, animals, properties, and force & motion. Children will engage in investigations and experiments to get hands on experience within each unit.

RELIGION

In Kindergarten, children will have weekly chapel services led by Reformed Church Senior Minister, Rev. Dr. Matt Waterstone. Children will also have exposure to Godly Play curriculum which includes the general topics of God's love, friendship, caring and sharing.

RCNS 1ST GRADE

Full-day program is offered Monday-Friday from 8:15AM-2:45PM

- Teacher-child ratio is 1:12.
- Children must be 6 by December 31st.

The RCNS 1st Grade is a program designed for children who have completed their Kindergarten year. In first grade, our curriculum is designed using play as a center for each learning experience. During the 1st Grade year, students learn within the areas of language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, music and art.

LITERACY DEVELOPMENT

In 1st grade, students will participate in a balanced literacy program that includes reading, writing, phonics, and handwriting. Students will complete Units of Study in Reading, Writing, and Phonics from the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project (TCRWP). Children will build strong reading habits and work together in partnerships to become more strategic in their reading of increasingly complex texts. Students will develop and refine their writing of opinion, information, and narrative pieces with greater independence and fluency. Students will be introduced to high-leverage phonics concepts and will learn how to transfer these skills to their reading and writing. Using Handwriting Without Tears, children will engage in multisensory activities to reinforce their knowledge of both uppercase and lowercase letters.

MATHEMATICS

First-grade students will explore and discuss both concrete and abstract mathematical concepts as they follow Think! Math, a Singapore math-based program that utilizes guided and independent practice. Students will document and reflect upon their thinking through descriptive, investigative, evaluative, and creative journaling as they gain an understanding of various concepts. Students will solve equations within 20; represent and solve word problems involving addition and subtraction within 20; extend the counting sequence to 120; understand place value and use this understanding and properties of operations to add and subtract; tell and write time; measure lengths indirectly and by iterating length units; organize, represent, and interpret data; and reason with shapes and their attributes.

SOCIAL STUDIES

First graders will explore the characteristics of responsible citizenship, research holidays around the world, learn about America and its government, gain an understanding of community economics, and study geography concepts.

SCIENCE

In first grade, students will explore various scientific topics such as light and sound; space; earth's surface; the survival of living things; and weather. Children will engage in investigations and experiments to enhance their understanding of scientific concepts.

RELIGION

In 1st Grade, children will have weekly chapel services led by Reformed Church Senior Minister, Rev. Dr. Matt Waterstone. Children will also have exposure to Godly Play curriculum which includes the general topics of God's love, friendship, caring, and sharing.

RCNS - WHAT DOES OUR DAY LOOK LIKE?

HALF DAY 5S	FULL DAY 5S	KINDERGARTEN	FIRST GRADE
8:45AM-12:15PM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Be3 Values Curriculum ● Choice Time ● Exposure to TCRWP curriculum ● Handwriting Without Tears 5-year-old Curriculum ● Indoor & Outdoor Play ● Lunch ● Math concepts using Think! Mathematics ● Music ● Specials ● Thursday Chapel ● Science ● Social Studies ● Weekly Library 	8:45AM-2:15PM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Be3 Values Curriculum ● Choice Time ● Community Projects ● Exposure to TCRWP curriculum ● Friday Afternoon Choice ● Gardening ● Handwriting Without Tears 5-year-old Curriculum ● Indoor & Outdoor Play ● Lunch ● Math concepts using Think! Mathematics ● Music ● Science ● Social Studies ● Specials ● Thursday Chapel ● Visiting Artists ● Weekly Library ● Yoga & Dance 	8:15AM-2:45PM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Be3 Values Curriculum ● Choice Time ● Friday Afternoon Choice ● Handwriting Without Tears instruction in uppercase & lowercase letters ● Indoor & Outdoor Play ● Lunch ● Science ● Social Studies ● TCRWP Instruction in Reading, Writing & Phonics ● Think! Math Instruction ● Thursday Chapel ● Weekly specials* <p>* Weekly specials will change throughout the year and will include yoga, gardening, visiting artists, music, library, art, and more.</p>	8:15AM-2:45PM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Be3 Values Curriculum ● Choice Time ● Friday Afternoon Choice ● Handwriting Without Tears instruction in uppercase & lowercase letters ● Indoor & Outdoor Play ● Lunch ● Science ● Social Studies ● TCRWP Instruction in Reading, Writing & Phonics ● Think! Math Instruction ● Thursday Chapel ● Weekly specials* <p>* Weekly specials will change throughout the year and will include yoga, gardening, visiting artists, music, library, art, and more.</p>