

CURRICULUM

PROGRAM OF LEARNING

Three-Year Old Program

Our school district currently offers a three-year old program at three sites within our district: Tussey Learning Center (TLC) at the high school, Defiance Learning Center (DLC) at the Defiance Elementary building and Robertsdale Learning Center (RLC) at the Robertsdale Elementary building. Our program at TLC operates on a five-day schedule from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Our program at DLC also operates on a five-day schedule from 12:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Our program at RLC operates five days per week, 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. A child must be three years old on or before September 1 in order to participate. Any four year old currently not attending preschool may also participate. Our three-year old program provides a ‘hands-on’, actively engaging environment to build competencies in the areas of social and emotional development, physical development, cognitive development and language development. These competencies lay the foundation that will help educators build the intellectual skills that support long-term academic success.

Pre-School - The school district offers a pre-school program. The objectives of the program include helping students to acquire an interest in learning; a willingness to try new things and to trust adults; a sense of independence; an ability to respond properly to adult requests; and the socialization and readiness skills needed for a positive kindergarten experience. A child must be four (4) years old on or before September 1 in order to participate. Any five year old child not attending kindergarten may also attend the program. The program will operate on a five day (1/2 day session) schedule.

Kindergarten - The school district currently operates a full day, everyday kindergarten program at each elementary center. The major thrust of the program is to provide introductory learning experiences for children that will promote positive self-concepts and readiness for skill involvement and development in the primary years. A child who is five years of age on or before September 1 is eligible to enter kindergarten.

Primary - Grades 1-3 - The learning activities of the primary grades are designed to introduce basic skills and concepts on a simple to a more complex continuum. Skills and concepts are introduced in the areas of reading, mathematics, and related areas. Classroom activities emphasize approaches that utilize individual and group learning experiences. Music, art, library and physical education are also essential experiences for children. The learning environment presented at the primary level represents a concern for skill and concept development, motivation, self-concept and interest in learning.

Intermediate - Grades 4-6 - The intermediate program emphasizes the extension of skill and

concept development and provides a variety of learning experiences appropriate to students on each grade level. A balanced program of both individual and group activities is provided through staff planning and implementation. Reading and mathematics continue to be emphasized. Science, social studies, and language arts are extended areas of student learning. Activities and experiences attempt to stimulate positive attitudes toward self and the learning process.

Junior High - Grades 7-9 - A common program of learning is offered to all 7th graders, including courses in math, science, reading, geography, English, technology education, physical education, home economics, music and art. During the latter part of the 7th grade, pupils formulate plans for selection of 8th grade courses. Likewise, during the 8th grade year, plans are formulated for the selection of 9th grade courses, which include seven curricular areas: academic/business emphasis, academic/math science emphasis, academic/arts-communication emphasis, business vocational, production industries, home economics occupations and building construction occupations. Students are encouraged to discuss course selection with their parents on the basis of past achievements and manifested interests.

Senior High - Grades 10-12 - The Senior High School offers seven curricular areas: academic/business emphasis, academic/math science emphasis, academic/arts-communication emphasis, business vocational, production industries, home economics occupations and building construction occupations. All seven curricula programs offered to senior high students have specific purposes. It is important that each student selects wisely according to his or her interests, aptitudes, abilities and needs. The overall curriculum provides for both required and elective courses.

AIDS INSTRUCTION TO CONTINUE IN 2011-2012

During 2011-2012, the Tussey Mountain School District will provide instruction concerning AIDS to students in grades 4, 6, 8, 11, and 12. Updates on the AIDS curriculum will be made during the month of September. The curriculum will be available for parent review at each of the elementary offices and the high school office during the month of October.

During the first semester, the instruction on AIDS at the elementary and secondary, takes place during the first week in December. At the secondary school for those students having Health during the second semester, the instruction on AIDS takes place during the first week in April. If a parent/guardian does not desire his or her child to receive this instruction, the parent/guardian must notify the elementary or secondary principals in writing by October 14, 2011.

HOMEWORK POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

Philosophy and Purpose - The Tussey Mountain School District believes homework to be beneficial to a student's total educational experience. Homework increases and reinforces