

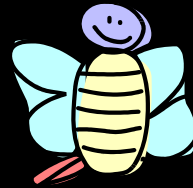
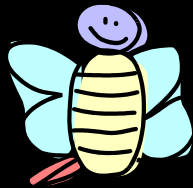
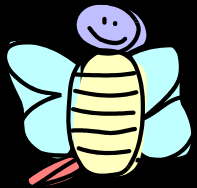
Welcome to Kindergarten Orientation



Mr. Ritchie's and
Mrs. Wagner's Class



Sometimes looking into a classroom is a bit like looking into a beehive the uninformed visitor might see lots of bees moving in many directions with no apparent logic, but the beekeeper knows what each bee is doing and how an activity fits within the overall pattern.



A little about myself...

My name is Scott Ritchie and I will be your child's teacher for the next year. I have been teaching since 1994 in the areas of kindergarten –second grade. My wife Betsy is the speech therapist here at school. We have two girls, Kylee and Alicia. When I am not at school I am coaching soccer, softball and gymnastics. Our evenings and weekends are spent traveling for Kylee's games around the state and working around the house.



Mrs. Wagner is our education assistant.

Mrs. Wagner graduated from Tri-Valley 100 years ago. She is married to Todd and has 2 sons, Cody and Seth. She spends most of her time traveling for sports, volunteering, and working around the house. You will soon find out that she is the perfect balance for the classroom. She has quickly learned teaching strategies that promote an optimal learning environment. Long story short...I take on the father role and she is the mother of the classroom.

A few thoughts on teaching...



1. All children can learn but they do so at different rates.
2. Work with each child at his/her individual level and take them as far as I can.
3. Hold high expectations in a fun and safe learning environment.

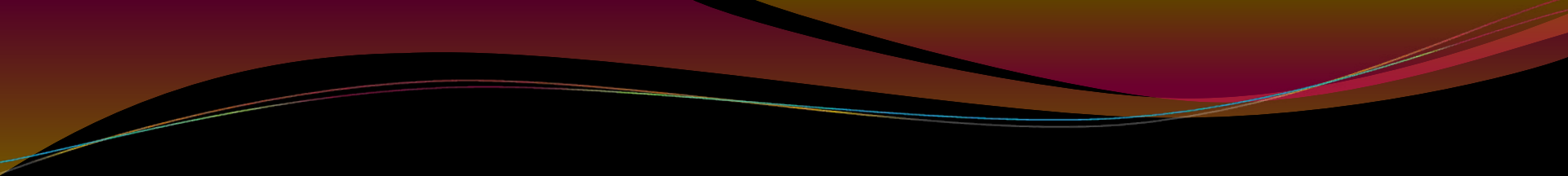
Components of a Developmental Classroom

1. Empowering Students
2. Developmental Curriculum
3. Learning Styles
4. Holistic Learning
5. Continuous Progress
6. Authentic Assessment
7. Process Learning
8. Real-Life Experiences
9. Integration
10. Choice
11. Mobility
12. Flexible Grouping
13. Shared Decision Making
14. Collaboration
15. Risk-Taking
16. Parent Involvement

Parent Involvement...



1. Student teacher ratio is lowered.
2. Individualize activities to meet student needs.
3. Parents are able to see the different ways children learn.
4. Opportunities are provided for children to learn from other adults.
5. Diversity is added to the class as parents share.
6. Parents observe positive discipline techniques.
7. An informal, relaxed relationship is built between home and school.
8. Parents are better able to understand their child's abilities.
9. Parents can better help at home after seeing what is happening in the classroom.



“Teachers must allow
parents to become involved
in every aspect of their
children’s education.”

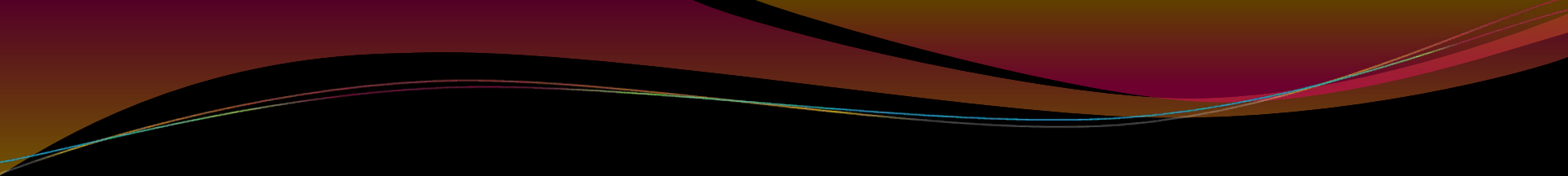
Classroom Rules

We keep it simple...

1. You are here to learn.
2. You are here to help others learn.

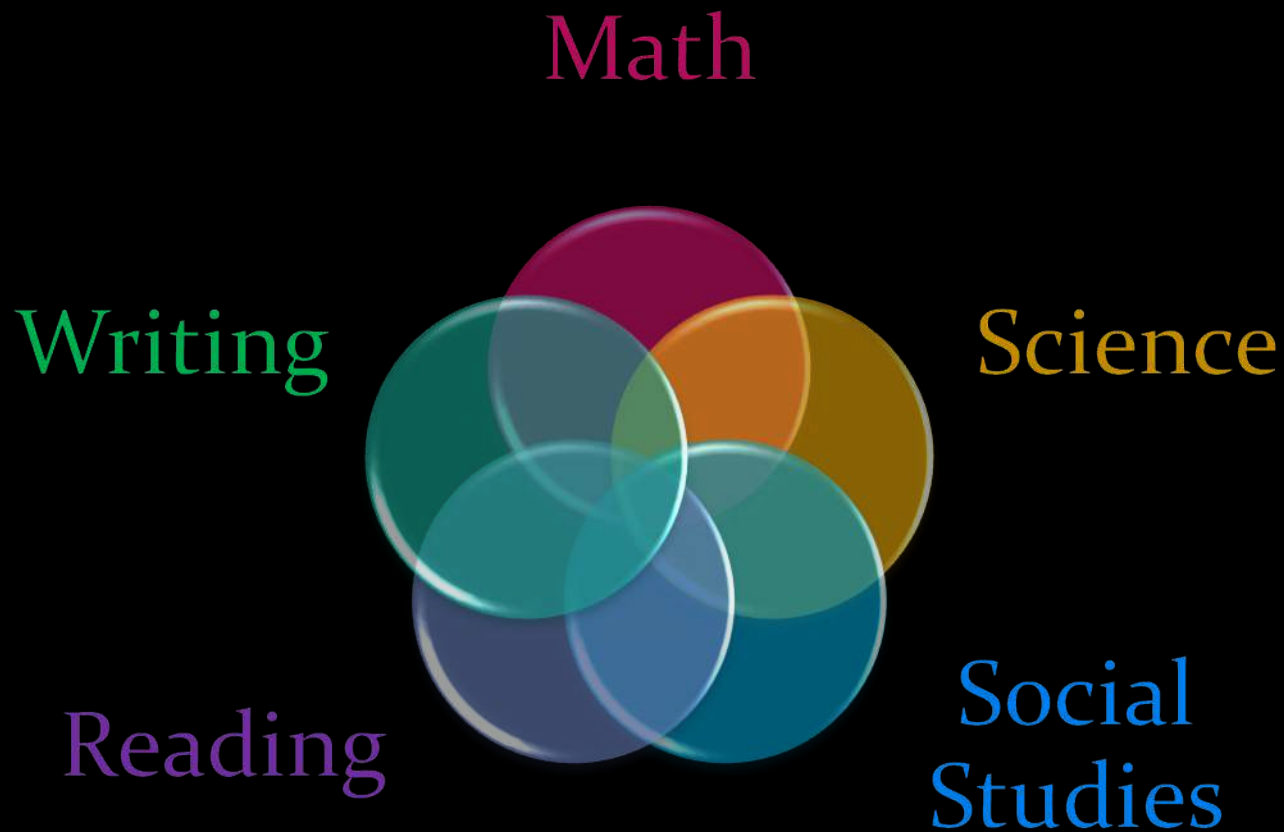
If you are not doing one of those two items then we will sit down and have a talk. Students learn this quickly and it helps them to be more productive.

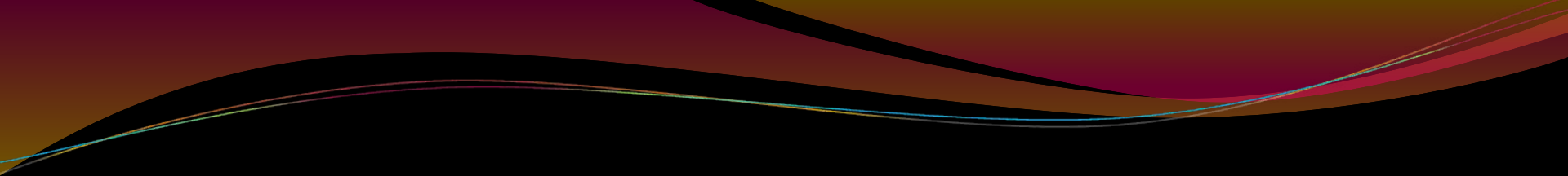




*If this is your first child
coming to
kindergarten...prepare to be
amazed.*

Kindergarten is not what it used to be.





Your child will learn to read this year...most likely beyond a kindergarten level.

Your child will learn how to write a variety of stories.

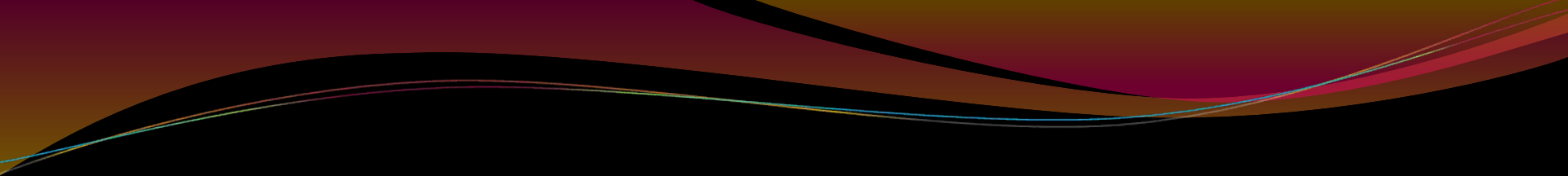
Your child will learn how to add, subtract, count money, tell time, along with many other math skills most of us did not learn until later in school.

Your child will learn about plants, animals, along with many other science topics.

Your child will learn basic concepts of personal life history, government, community helpers, geography, along with continent and state locations.

Schedule Our day begins at 8:45. If your child does not ride a bus please try to get him/her here before 9:00. If your child arrives late, you need to check them in at the office. We will eat lunch at 11:30. We do not have a scheduled snack time. You may send in a snack for your child until they get used to our schedule. Please try to send healthy snacks. Snacks need to be things that they can open/prepare themselves. Dismissal for walkers and parent pick-ups will be at 3:25.

Money School breakfast cost \$.80, lunch is \$1.70, extra milk \$.30. If you wish to send a check for any amount it will be put on your child's account. When the account gets down to \$5.00 we will send you a notice. Please send all money/checks in a small zip-lock with your child's name and 4 digit i.d. number.



Busing Please discuss bus safety with your child. If, at any time your child is to get off at a different stop, ride a different bus, or not ride a bus, you must send a note. Without a note I HAVE to send him/her home as normal. The first week is very hectic for kids getting on buses. Please make sure they know their driver's name and bus number. In addition, if your child normally walks or is picked up, a note will also be required for any changes.

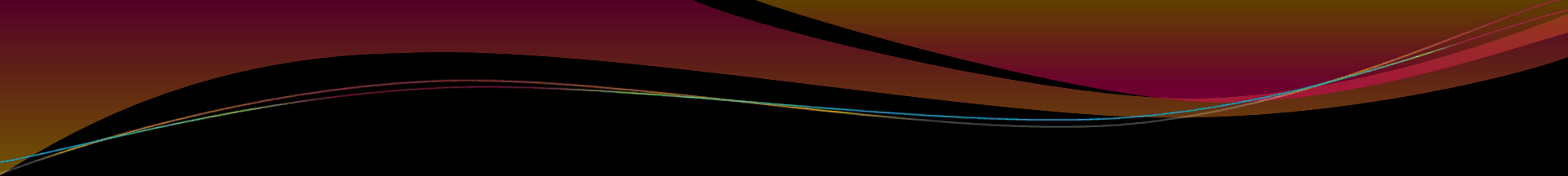
Supplies Please make sure your child has their name on their back pack, folders, journals, scissors and coats etc. Crayons, pencils and glue will be “community” material in tubs at each table. This helps with time management and noise in the room while reducing other problems created with person pencil boxes.



Parties If you wish we can have a birthday party usually in the afternoon. Cookies and punch work best. Cupcakes are just too messy.

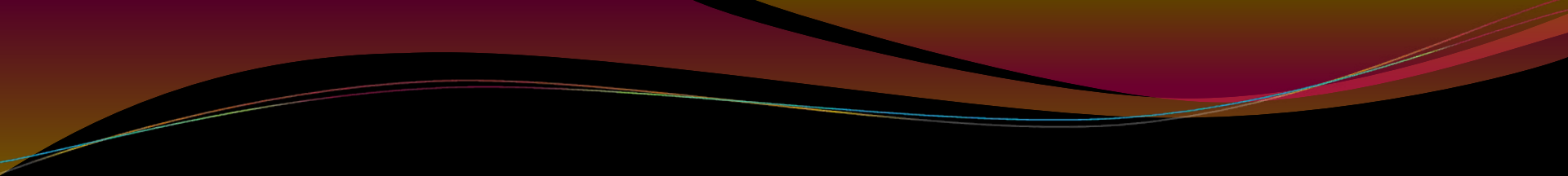
We will follow the PTO schedule for all other parties. Harvest Day and Valentine's Day will be organized parties put on by parent volunteers. There will not be a Christmas party or one for Easter. Mrs. Wagner and I will do small activities related to each. It will not be a big blow out party as we are trying to teach and reach our goals during the year.





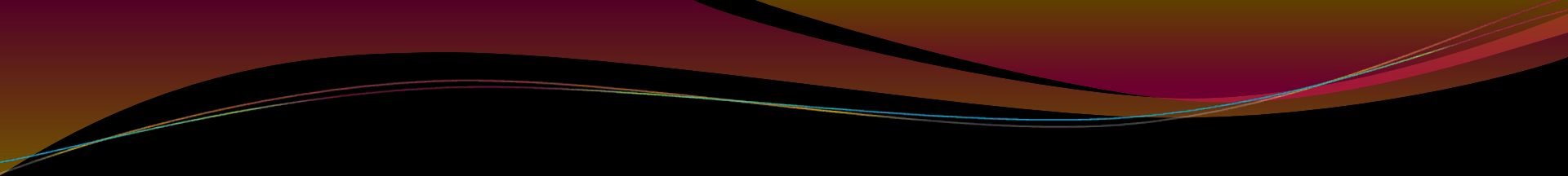
Dress Dress your child for comfort. We are very active. Fancy clothes and slippery shoes can cause major problems. Be sure that your child has tennis shoes on for gym days.

Visitation Due to a few issues last year we will be making a few changes. First...I want you to feel welcome at all times as always. However, I can't have a parent come in and just blow kisses etc. or gather gossip about families/students and then go out in the community and share. Volunteers will have a scheduled time to come in that may change at times with student needs. Volunteers may be asked to work with children or run copies. When you enter the building you must stop by the office to get a name tag.



Illness Please do not send your child to school if they are not feeling well. When in doubt, keep them home a little later after further assessment. You can always bring them in late.

Communication Please help me keep an open line of communication with you. Please do not rely on your child to tell me important information. Send a note. If there are any problems, let me know as soon as possible. Sometimes there are things going on between students of which I am unaware. No concern is too small to express. You can send in notes, call 754-4001, or e-mail me at sritchie@tvschools.org



Progress Reports We have four quarters in the school year. Your child will receive progress reports four times a year and interim reports four times. Interims are issued halfway through each quarter.

New school...New things...

Security, all doors will be locked after the tardy bell rings. The only way in is the front door and through the office.

The Education Connection, this is a “one call” system. I can call a computer and it will send a message to all of you. I will use this a lot.

Progress Reports, Kindergarten reports will be computer generated, you may access info online. If you have older children you may already be used to this. It is new to me so I will educate you as soon as someone educates me!