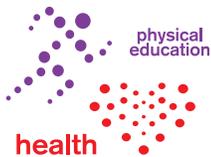




What Will Your Child Remember About Kindergarten?

Cornerstones are powerful classroom lessons taught as a part of the DCPS curriculum—the lessons students will remember years from now. For the first time this year, every student in every grade experienced Cornerstones in Art, Health, Math, Music, Physical Education, Reading, Science, Social Studies, and World Languages. Cornerstones help students make real-world connections through hands-on activities and engaging ideas.

Here are some of the Cornerstones that DCPS kindergarteners experienced this year. Have a conversation with your student about these projects:



“Growing Vegetable Soup”

Students tasted new fruits and vegetables, while learning how to sort foods according to their food groups and sources. They created a drawing of foods they enjoyed and identified whether each was a fruit or a vegetable.



reading

“Community Workers”

Students researched and interviewed local professionals in their communities. They practiced how to ask interview questions, how to record notes, and how to share what they learned about the worker.



math

“More Than, Less Than, or Equal To?”

Students learned how to compare numerals from 1–10 as more than, less than, or equal to another numeral from 1–10. They then practiced using their new knowledge by playing two games: “The Marble Bag” and “Compare.”



science

“Thinking Inside the Box: Designing Plant Packages”

Students read the storybook, *A Gift from Fadil*, about two children in Jordan who want to give their older sister a plant from their garden as a wedding gift. They then applied their knowledge of plants, problem-solving skills, and creativity to design a package that can keep a plant alive and healthy for several days.

Want to continue Cornerstones learning at home? Check out ideas here:
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What Will Your Child Remember About 1st Grade?

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Here are some of the Cornerstones that DCPS 1st graders experienced this year. Have a conversation with your student about these projects:



reading

“Never Give Up: Spotlight on Perseverance”

Students read multiple books about literary characters and real people who persevered in a variety of ways. Each student chose one of the characters or people and created a page about that person for a “People Who Persevere” classroom book.



science

“Just Passing Through: Designing Model Membranes”

Students learned how membranes function, and then used their knowledge of the basic needs of living organisms to design a membrane for a frog habitat that delivers just the right amount of water for the frog.



math

“Pan Balance Equations”

Students used equally weighted items and a scale to better understand the concept of “equal.” They then designed a game about equations using their new understanding of “equal.”



reading

“American Symbols and Contributions”

Students researched an American historical icon and prepared an oral presentation. Students became displays in a “wax museum,” pretending to be their chosen historical icon in wax figure form. When the student’s finger was “tapped,” they came to life, sharing their speeches and learning with an audience.

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What Will Your Child Remember About 2nd Grade?

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Here are some of the Cornerstones that DCPS 2nd graders experienced this year. Have a conversation with your student about these projects:



science

“The Best of Bugs: Designing Hand Pollinators”

Students became agricultural engineers when they applied their knowledge of insect life cycles, pollination, and natural systems to design their own methods to pollinate plants by hand.



health

physical
education

“Biking in the Park”

Students learned how to ride a bicycle, and practiced their skills during a group ride to the park. To prepare, they learned basic bike safety, including the ability to correctly fit their helmet, perform a standard bicycle check, use hand signals, and identify road signs.



reading

“Then and Now”

Students created exhibits and served as tour guides in a school-wide “technology over time” museum. Students created a timeline that showed the changes in technology over the years.



math

“Map Quest”

Students created a number line to practice adding and subtracting. Then, they used their number line to solve math problems. The answers gave students clues leading to a hidden treasure!

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What Will Your Child Remember About 3rd Grade?

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Here are some of the Cornerstones that DCPS 3rd graders experienced this year. Have a conversation with your student about these projects:



reading

“Unlocking DC”

Students used their research skills to learn about the historical significance of their neighborhood or ward. Student practiced informational writing by creating a travel guide or webpage to encourage people to visit their community.



science

“A Stick in the Mud: Evaluating a Landscape”

Students dug into the role of geotechnical engineers, selecting a safe, flood-proof, and erosion-proof location for a new TarPul (a kind of cable bridge used in Nepal). Working with a model riverbank, they studied soil properties, examined maps to assess potential erosion, and considered villagers’ preferences for a TarPul location.



world
languages

“Friends and Family Scrapbook”

Students explored the important role that family and friends play in their lives by creating a scrapbook with drawings, pictures, and mementos that reflected activities or celebrations. Students used their world language vocabulary to label their scrapbooks.



math

“Zoo Graphing”

Students worked in groups to create a tally chart, bar graph, and a picture graph that showed data about a type of animal. Students then took a field trip to the National Zoo in order to answer statistical questions about the different animal exhibits.

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What Will Your Child Remember About 4th Grade?

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Here are some of the Cornerstones that DCPS 4th graders experienced this year. Have a conversation with your student about these projects:



math

“Marigolds on the Mall”

Students used their knowledge of area and perimeter to act as landscape designers for restoration of the National Mall. Using the dimensions of areas of the National Mall, students determined how many marigolds they would have to purchase to fill the total square footage.



reading

“Speaking Revolution”

Students learned about different perspectives on the American Revolution. They performed a dramatic interpretation of a poem or an excerpt from a short story, nonfiction text, or a play that captures a perspective of the American Revolution, and wrote a 100-word preview about the significance of their text and performance.



music

“Creating a Folk Dance”

Students learned about various folk dances by incorporating multiple movements and formations, and practiced some of the dances themselves. Students then composed their own folk dances in small groups and performed them for the class.



science

“Designing Windmills”

Students learned how wind turbines generate renewable energy after reading the storybook, *Leif Catches the Wind*. Students studied how common machines such as mechanical pencils and egg-beaters work, and used their mechanical engineering skills to design sailboats and windmills that catch the wind.

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What Will Your Child Remember About 5th Grade?

Cornerstones are powerful classroom lessons taught as a part of the DCPS curriculum—the lessons students will remember years from now. For the first time this year, every student in every grade experienced Cornerstones in Art, Health, Math, Music, Physical Education, Reading, Science, Social Studies, and World Languages. Cornerstones help students make real-world connections through hands-on activities and engaging ideas.

Here are some of the Cornerstones that DCPS 5th graders experienced this year. Have a conversation with your student about these projects:



math

“Basketball Shootout”

Students competed in 30-second, in-class basketball-shooting competitions to determine the number of shots they could make out of the total attempted. The class then applied their math skills to determine the overall fraction of shots made, as well as the class average.



science

“Teyha’s Pollution Solution”

Students learned about a spill on the Elwha River in the Pacific Northwest through the storybook *Teyha’s Pollution Solution*. Applying their knowledge of ecosystems and food webs, students tested the oil-absorbing properties of different materials to design a process for cleaning up an oil spill.



reading

“Civil Rights Movement”

Students used several different sources to research information about the Civil Rights Movement, with a specific focus on topics around education. Students then worked in groups to present their analysis of the impact the Civil Rights Movement had on this nation’s education system.



world
languages

“The Three Little Pigs Skits”

Students used their creativity and world language knowledge to create their own interpretations of the story of the *Three Little Pigs*. They worked in groups to write and perform their own *Three Little Pigs* skits using the target language.

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What Will Your Child Remember About 6th Grade?

Cornerstones are powerful classroom lessons taught as a part of the DCPS curriculum—the lessons students will remember years from now. For the first time this year, every student in every grade experienced Cornerstones in Art, Health, Math, Music, Physical Education, Reading, Science, Social Studies, and World Languages. Cornerstones help students make real-world connections through hands-on activities and engaging ideas.

Here are some of the Cornerstones that DCPS 6th graders experienced this year. Have a conversation with your student about these projects:



reading

“From the Eyes of the Monster”

Students chose and read a classic tale featuring a monster, paying special attention to how the monster responds and changes during the story. Students analyzed the story’s characters, plot, and point of view to rewrite the classic tale from the perspective of the monster. Students then researched the social history behind the story and versions of the story in different cultures.



“The Grid”

Students learned how to use a compass and to read and create a map. They applied that knowledge by navigating the city on an orienteering field trip. During the adventure, students recorded a range of data, including steps, individual physical responses, duration, route, and visual observations.



social studies

“United Nations Simulation”

Students participated in a United Nations simulation, investigating the impact of the 2013 Typhoon Haiyan on the Philippines and engaging in writing and speaking exercises to simulate how the United Nations responds to natural disasters.

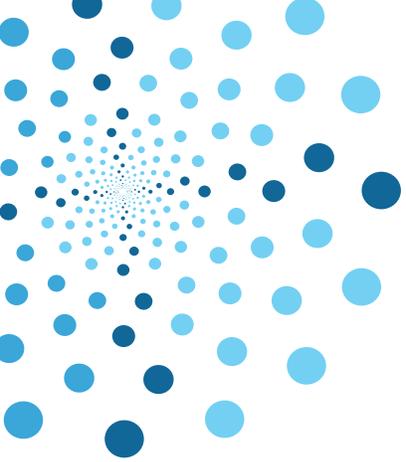


math

“Designing Miniature Golf”

Students used an interactive website to build complex polygons, which they then incorporated into their designs for a hole of miniature golf. Students revised their designs based on feedback from classmates.

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What Will Your Child Remember About 7th Grade?

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Here are some of the Cornerstones that DCPS 7th graders experienced this year. Have a conversation with your student about these projects:



reading

“Real World Warriors”

Students defined what a “warrior” is and selected a person from their community who they see as an “everyday warrior.” They then compared and contrasted this warrior to Melba Patillo Beals, author of the memoir, *Warriors Don’t Cry*. Students presented their findings to their classmates and community.



science

“Mystery Cell Lab”

Students studied the ways that electrochemical impulses are transmitted through a neuron. Then, students used their knowledge about cells to determine how the structure of an unknown neuron cell contributes to its function.



“Fitness Plan”

Students developed a two-week physical fitness plan that focused on building cardiovascular fitness, muscular endurance, muscular strength, and flexibility. They then put their plan into action and tracked their results.



math

“Giant Pencil”

Students used their imaginations to picture a giant stopping by their class overnight and leaving its pencil behind. Using the size of the pencil and their knowledge of proportion, students worked to figure out the height of the giant and whether the pencil the giant left behind is proportional to their pencils.

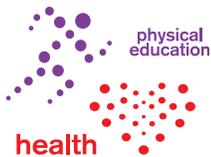
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What Will Your Child Remember About 8th Grade?

Cornerstones are powerful classroom lessons taught as a part of the DCPS curriculum—the lessons students will remember years from now. For the first time this year, every student in every grade experienced Cornerstones in Art, Health, Math, Music, Physical Education, Reading, Science, Social Studies, and World Languages. Cornerstones help students make real-world connections through hands-on activities and engaging ideas.

Here are some of the Cornerstones that DCPS 8th graders experienced this year. Have a conversation with your student about these projects:



health

physical
education

“Place Matters”

Students examined how the built environment impacts the health of individuals and communities. They analyzed the relationship between various health resources and pollutants within a community and the health of its members. Students then developed a documentary on an environmental issue within their community and proposed a solution.



science

“Changing States: Evaporation”

Students used their knowledge of thermal energy and vaporization to design a desalination device that can be used to convert ocean water into safe drinking water.



reading

“Talking About the American Dream”

Students wrote, practiced, and delivered a TED Talk or spoken-word performance answering the question, “What is the American Dream and how is it achievable for all Americans?” Students studied effective narratives by analyzing structural and language techniques used by powerful TED speakers, and presented their own talks to peers and the community.



math

“Comparing Fuel Consumption”

Students applied their knowledge of mathematical functions to real-world scenarios by analyzing the fuel efficiency of several different vehicles.

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