

Gouverneur Central School Young Fives Program



Class of 2022

Who are the “Young Fives”?



They are kindergarten students with fall birthdays. This makes them younger than most of their peers starting kindergarten. They have been roaming the earth anywhere from 360 to 270 days less than other kindergarteners.

Young Fives Eligibility Requirements

- Any student turning 5 years old in September, October, or November is eligible.
- Students with August birthdays will be considered if there are any open slots left to fill.



Parents of children with fall birthdays have this unique opportunity of choosing regular Kindergarten or Young Fives for their child.

Young Fives is a full-day educational program provided by Gouverneur Central School. It is not your typical kindergarten and it is not Pre-K. It is a unique combination of the two. Transportation is provided by the school district. Free breakfast and lunch are available to the students. The Young Five students also enjoy the benefits of Art, Music, Library, and Gym classes.



Kindergarten

- Over the years, kindergarten has become more academic with less time for exploration and play.
- Kindergarteners are expected to be able to sit and attend for greater lengths of time.
- Kindergarteners learn to write. By the end of kindergarten, they are expected to generate original ideas, spell many words correctly, use capital letters, space between words, and use punctuation at the end of their sentences. Many kindergarteners create little books by the end of the year, writing multiple sentences across the pages.
- Kindergarteners learn to read. They are expected to reach specific reading levels by the end of the school year and recognize at least 25 sight words.

What do Young Fives do?



• Play



Play is the work of childhood.

- Explore
Math and Science Concepts



• Write



- Read



• Develop Sensory-motor Skills

(fine and gross motor, visual processing, sensory integration)



• Develop Social-emotional Skills



• Develop Organizational Skills



Why choose Young Fives?

- Many parents do not want their child to have to try and keep up with kids that are older and maybe struggle just because they are younger. Instead, they choose to give their child the "gift of time" so that they can have a smooth, enjoyable, stress free transition into the world of school.



- The older your child is when he/she takes the elementary state tests in math, reading, science, and social studies, the better he/she is likely to perform.



- Brain research has shown that the part of the brain that matures last is the part that controls decision-making. Most parents, given the choice, would rather their child have every advantage of good decision-making skills when they get to middle and high school. The pressures today are so great, children need all the advantages possible to help them through.



- If children have passed through the critical pubescent growth spurt when they start participating in modified sports, their bodies will be stronger and less likely to be injured. They may perform better as well.
- Most parents would rather their child not be the youngest in the group when it comes time to start driving or take off for college.

- Childhood should be a journey and not a race. Your child doesn't have to follow the path that is more traveled, but can instead take one that would give them the solid foundation needed to make the rest of the journey a better, more successful one.



Quotes from Parents of Young Fives

“Choosing the Young Fives Program for my son was the right decision. Knowing the expectations that are placed on even our youngest students, I did not want him entering Kindergarten with his age as a disadvantage. Young Fives allowed him more time to mature, establish stronger foundational skills and build confidence. The curriculum was engaging and age appropriate, and best of all- he had fun! Young Fives provided him a positive start to what ended up being a successful academic experience at GCS.” - Beth Siebels

“My son was a graduate of the Young Five's program and I am here to highly recommend this program for Gouverneur. He has actually just graduated high school and Young Fives started him out in the right direction! As a parents, we were nervous about sending our young child to Kindergarten before they were fully prepared. The program fully alleviated that. As parents we loved the experience, but most importantly our son loved the experience as well. He left with a positive attitude about school in general and we felt he entered Kindergarten better prepared and a step ahead of his peers. Choosing to put our son in Young Fives was the best decision we ever did!” - Josh Hayden

Quotes from Parents of Young Fives

“The Young Fives program provided my son with the gift of time to grow physically, emotionally, and academically all while having fun! My son is now 16 and entering his junior year of high school and is able to verbalize how thankful he is that we were able to give him this extra time and feels that he is in the exact cohort where he belongs. We are proud of the success in both school and athletics that he has experienced thus far.” - Erin Gates

“Young fives was a wonderful program for my son. This program gave him the chance to be in school and begin the process of learning about how to be a student socializing with other students as well as introducing the building blocks to all of the other subjects. The following year when he attended Kindergarten he had so much confidence and it really set him up for a great year. The benefits of young fives can be seen for many years as students progress through Middle and High school! I would highly recommend this program to anyone who is given the opportunity to be a part of it!!!” - Betty Hall

Contact Information

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