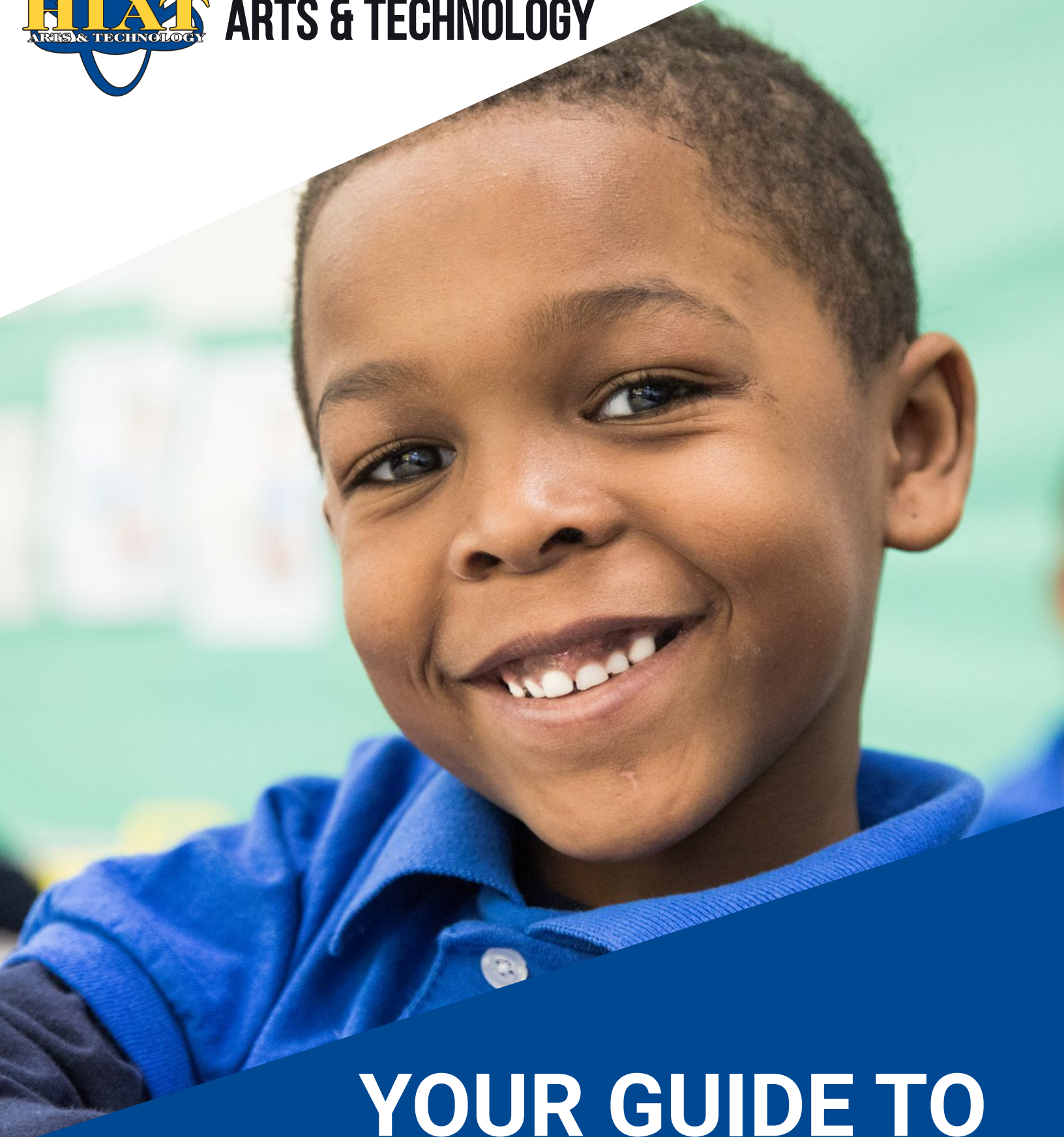




**THE HIGHER INSTITUTE OF
ARTS & TECHNOLOGY**



**YOUR GUIDE TO
KINDERGARTEN READINESS**

ABOUT HIAT

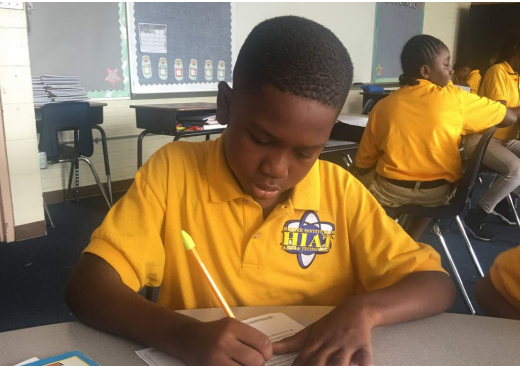
The Higher Institute of Arts and Technology (HIAT) is Merrillville's first and only charter school.

We work to provide students grades K-8 with an outstanding educational experience in the arts, humanities, and sciences. At HIAT, each student is loved and encouraged to reach their maximum potential, and all of our students are scholars.

We utilize a strong researched-based educational curriculum that connects our scholars with the arts, computer technology and STEM while also working to equip them with the skills they need to not only master their academics but to also demonstrate strong character, as exhibited by honesty, service to others, a superior work ethic, and a strong vision for and belief in their futures.



WHY CHOOSE HIAT?



**Tuition-Free,
A-Rated
School**



**Free iPads &
Chromebooks***

**available while supplies last*



**Dedicated
Teachers &
Staff**



**Weekly Meal
Distribution
for Families**



**Free Summer
Learning
Program**



WAYS TO PREPARE

Children learn many new skills during the kindergarten experience. Below is a list of activities and tactics that you and your child can work on together to better prepare them for when they start school.

- + Say body parts
- + Learn names of immediate family
- + Count from 0-10
- + Recognize basic shapes
- + Encourage physical activity everyday
- + Read to them & discuss the story
- + Establish reasonable limits on behavior
- + Encourage social values (helpfulness, cooperation, sharing)
- + Say (not sing) the ABC's
- + Talk positively about school
- + Say phone number & address
- + Visit public places like parks & libraries
- + Initiate frequent social interaction
- + Play that teaches hand-eye coordination
- + Teach acceptable ways to disagree
- + Encourage work values (effort, persistence, initiative)

ESSENTIAL SKILLS CHECKLIST

INTELLECTUAL: Does your child..

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hold a book upright and turn pages left to right? | <input type="checkbox"/> Recognize at least ten letters of the alphabet? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tell and retell familiar stories? | <input type="checkbox"/> Know colors, shapes, and sizes? |

SOCIAL: Can your child..

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Listen to an adult & follow simple instructions? | <input type="checkbox"/> Play with other children without hitting or biting? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sit for short periods of time? | <input type="checkbox"/> Cooperate with other children? |

PERSONAL: Without help, can your child..

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tie their own shoes? | <input type="checkbox"/> Eat with silverware unassisted? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Snap, button, zip, & buckle? | <input type="checkbox"/> Wash their hands? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recognize their own possessions? | <input type="checkbox"/> Blow their nose & cover a sneeze? |

HEALTH: Has your child..

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Had all required immunizations? | <input type="checkbox"/> Developed a regular meal schedule? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Had a recent health check-up? | <input type="checkbox"/> Learned to run, skip, jump, climb? |

READING


Prior to kindergarten, children typically learn the concepts of reading through games and activities. Many of these skills are learned through modeling.


MATH


The development of number concepts—classifying, ordering, counting and time and space relationships – is directly related to children’s ability to perform mathematical tasks throughout their school years and the rest of their life

SCIENCE

As children mature, they become more curious about their environment and begin to interact with their surroundings. This is the best time to introduce them to science. Rich sensory experiences (seeing, tasting, touching, hearing, and smelling) can help children become even more observant about the world around them.


 Recognize spaces between words


 Identify the different types of punctuation


 Recognize upper and lower case letters


 Observe page numbers

 Compare sizes: big, little, middle

 Observe position in space: up/down, under/over, in/out, beside/between

 Observe what is happening

 Predict what might happen

 Try to make sense of observations

THE BASICS

Set your child up for academic growth and success before they start kindergarten by discussing and reviewing the basic principles of reading, math and science listed above.





TESTIMONIALS



“When you invest in scholars and create great schools and great opportunities, it changes generations.”

Earl Martin Phalen

*Founder & CEO,
Phalen Leadership Academies*

"My son started kindergarten here and he loves it. He really loves his teacher... I just want to say I love this school and couldn't have chosen a better school."

Parent Testimonial



“We use so much data because it makes the learning concrete. The students can see exactly what they know and what areas they need to work. Their parents are able to see exactly what they know and what they need to work on. It makes it so much clearer for us to plan our instruction.”

Teacher Testimonial

"We had a bumpy start because my children were behind from bouncing from school to school (it's hard to find a good school!) I almost gave up until HIAT said bring them in and they've been working with my children ever since. They have remarkably improved and gained confidence. No school is perfect, but I'm amazed with this school and their efforts."

Parent Testimonial



DEAR PARENTS,

Kindergarten is a major turning point in the lives of children and parents alike. Early school experiences have lasting effects on a child's attitude about school, their self-esteem and future achievements. Fortunately, the best person to ensure that your children arrive at school ready to succeed is you! Allow us to partner with you on this new journey at the Higher Institute of Arts & Technology. We truly love our scholars and we believe in their ability to achieve. We hope that you find this information helpful and that you will locate the PLA school nearest you. We look forward to welcoming you!

Sincerely,

Earl Martin Phalen

*Earl Martin Phalen, Founder & CEO,
Phalen Leadership
Academies*

**TO KINDERGARTEN AND BEYOND AT THE
HIGHER INSTITUTE OF ARTS & TECHNOLOGY**



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