

WHITEFISH BAY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Parent Curriculum Overview
Grade 2



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WHITEFISH BAY
1200 E. FAIRMOUNT AVE
WHITEFISH BAY, WISCONSIN
www.wfbschools.com

Parents/Guardians of Whitefish Bay Elementary School Students,

Education in Whitefish Bay Schools is a partnership that includes the school, the family and the community. As partners in the education of your children, we want you to be informed about what your child will be learning during this school year. The purpose of this Curriculum Overview is to provide families with a general overview of the core instructional program at each grade level.



Curriculum in the elementary level is designed to provide students with a strong foundation in basic knowledge and skills that will make it possible for them to think creatively and critically as they progress through the K-12 system. To these ends, district curriculum is carefully established by committees composed of the professional staff and community representatives. All curricula undergo comprehensive review and are formally updated every six years through the district curriculum cycle. Student performance data on a variety of classroom, local, state and national assessments are analyzed on an annual basis to ensure students are progressing toward the district's academic standards.

These standards challenge students to learn a broad range of content knowledge and skills while developing their ability to process that knowledge and use those skills. This balance between content (information and knowledge) and process (problem solving and real-world application) may be a shift in approach to the education you received when you were in primary school, yet should set the foundation for future learning in the 21st century.

The methods and instructional strategies in our classrooms bring the curriculum to life. First, we embrace Flippen's saying, "Once you capture a child's heart, you have his mind." Teachers develop trusting relationships with students, and amongst the students in the classrooms, in order to maintain a nurturing climate wherein learning will flourish. Reading and mathematics instruction are offered in flexible, large and small group settings. Hands-on learning activities develop conceptual understanding of mathematics, science and social studies. Students in grades first through fourth will have an hour of foreign language instruction each week. Strong programs for art, music, physical education and guidance, along with the integration of technology as a learning tool, are other important components that contribute to the vitality of the elementary-level program.

While teachers strive to meet the needs of all students in the classroom, some students benefit from additional assistance or challenge. Academic support programs are available in reading and math. Similarly, *Beyond* programming exists for students whose need for academic challenge far exceeds that of the regular classroom.

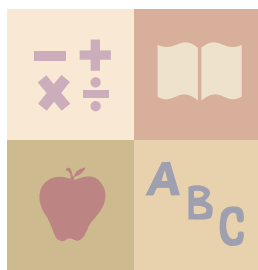
If you would like more information about the district curriculum, log on to www.wfbschools.com and select the district office link and then select director of instruction. On this website you will find links to curriculum overview documents, learning standards, and resources for parents. After you have reviewed these resources, if you wish to obtain additional information, please contact your child's teacher, your child's principal, or by contacting the Instruction Office at 963-3927.

As you support your child's academic and intellectual growth this year, encourage him or her to enjoy learning, take risks, confront misunderstandings, put forth diligent effort to develop new skills, and ask an abundance of questions. A tenacious curiosity, willingness to confront the unknown, and an ability to see challenge as an opportunity for growth will provide rewards for a lifetime.

Sincerely,

Laura Myrah
Director of Instruction
School District of Whitefish Bay

Grade 2 Mathematics



The purpose of mathematics education is to build the high levels of mathematical skills, processes, thinking, and problem solving necessary to meet the challenge of a changing technological society.

The second grade study of mathematics is designed to develop understandings of mathematical processes, and includes problem-solving, comparison, and estimation, as well as basic skills and computation.

Learning with Everyday Math, by the University of Chicago, students will explore exciting mathematical concepts throughout the school year. Students record their work in the consumable student Journal. This will involve teacher-led study, group work with teacher guidance, and hands-on learning activities done in pairs or individually. Materials include the textbook, an array of mathematical tools and manipulatives, as well as games.

For resources to support your child's learning of mathematics using the Everyday Mathematics curriculum, see the Everyday Mathematics parent handbook that was distributed to your family when your child was in first grade. Additionally, all 3-5th grade students are provided with a Student Reference Book with information on key skills and strategies that are used throughout the curriculum.

Starting with the 2006-07 school year, the Everyday Mathematics curriculum is augmented with resources from *Problem Solvers* and *Thinking with Numbers*. These programs are designed to assist students in their efforts to understand and use basic facts and apply their mathematical understanding to solve complex word problems.

In second grade, students will know and understand at a grade appropriate level:

- how to add and subtract basic facts and two and three digit numbers.
- how to apply basic facts to everyday problems.
- how to skip count.
- place value of ones, tens, hundreds and thousands in numbers in a variety of math activities.
- how to read, write and compare numbers to 999.
- basic geometry including shapes, spatial sense, patterns, and area.
- simple fractions and fraction notation.
- how to tell time accurately to the minute, time comparisons, sequence, units of time, and calendar skills.
- coin names and values, make change from \$1.00, \$10.00 and \$20.00, compare and estimate amounts of money and determine equivalent amounts of money.
- how to use linear, volume and weight measures in standard and non-standard units, as well as estimate with appropriate units of measurements.
- the basic concepts of multiplication and division through use of arrays and equal grouping activities.
- how to apply problem solving strategies in a variety of ways to math in their daily lives.
- how to communicate thought processes used in problem solving in both oral and written forms.

- how to gather, record and graph information from their own experiences.



Grade 2 Social Studies

Students will acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to become informed, decision-making citizens of local, national, and global societies.

What Is a Community?	Design a community showing different places to live, work, and play.
How Are Different Communities Different?	Analyze images of urban, rural, and suburban communities in order to understand their differences.
What Does a Map Show?	Discover how to use a compass rose and map grid to locate important places in a community.
What Is Geography?	Play a game as they learn the names of important geographic features found in a community.
How Do People Use the Environment?	Become survivors on a deserted island and propose ways to use their environment for food, shelter, and clothing.
How Are Goods Made and Brought to Us?	Become members of an assembly line and participate in a relay race to learn about the production and distribution of goods.
Who Provides Services in a Community?	Create puppets of service occupations to use in a mock career day.
How Can I Be a Good Shopper?	Experience shopping with limited funds and play a game in order to discover how to be a wise shopper.
Why Do Communities Change?	Design an urban renewal plan after learning why communities grow and decline.
How Did One Community Change?	View images of San Francisco from 1846–1906 to learn about factors that caused the city to change.
How Can One Person Make a Difference in a Community?	Discover how single individuals made significant contributions to their community.
How Do Leaders Help Their Community?	Become concerned citizens as they participate in a demonstration at a mock city council meeting.
What Should a Good Citizen Do?	Practice being good citizens as they distribute coupons from “Good Citizen” coupon books they have made.
What do Communities Share?	Experience the interdependence of communities as they exchange cards for goods they need or want.



Grade 2 Science

Students will develop the ability to observe, inquire and investigate to better understand, explain and apply scientific principles and processes in

meaningful ways.

In second grade, students engage in a variety of investigations to develop important skills and understandings.

Students will:

- investigate interactions between solids and water and liquids and water. They observe, describe, record, and organize the results. In a culminating activity, students test toothpaste to determine if it is a solid or a liquid.
- explore solid objects, such as pieces of wood, plastic and metal. They observe, describe and sort the objects according to properties. Finally, they create various structures using the properties inherent in the materials to accomplish the tasks.
- work with beans, rice and cornmeal to find out how solids function when the pieces are small.
- investigate liquids in a variety of settings to become familiar with their properties. Students use representational materials to enhance their understanding of the unique behavior of liquids.
- experience the diversity of life in the plant kingdom.
- observe the structures of flowering plants and discover ways to propagate new plants from mature plants (from seeds, bulbs, roots, cuttings).
- describe changes that occur as plants grow and develop, and organize observations on a calendar and in a journal.
- label/diagram insect body parts.
- examine behaviors of animals and determine which organisms are food plants, prey animals and predator animals based on a relative population.
- set up experiments that show how a population of an organism changes.
- examine and compare different animals that use camouflage as an adaptation for survival.
- predict whether various objects will be buoyant.
- conduct experiments to determine what affects the buoyancy of an object.
- compare the capacities of boats with different shapes, materials and sizes.
- create a boat that holds the maximum amount of cargo.
- further their understanding of the nature of scientific inquiry.



Grade 2 Language Arts

Through the Reading/Language Arts Program, all students will read, write, speak and listen to acquire, clarify, apply and communicate knowledge and ideas as life-long learners.

In second grade, students will know and understand at a grade-appropriate level:

Phonics:

- Uses sounds, including vowels, consonants, blends, consonant and vowel patterns, blending and inflectional endings for decoding words

Spelling:

- Employs useful spelling strategies
- Transfers spelling strategies to written work
- Correctly spells frequently used words
- Uses reliable English spelling patterns/generalizations

Vocabulary/Word Study:

- Relates words and concepts to aid in spelling and word knowledge by using:
 - Synonyms/antonyms
 - Homophones/homographs
 - Specialized vocabulary
 - Multiple meaning words
 - Figurative language
 - Prefixes/Suffixes
- Determines the meaning of words using a glossary, dictionary and thesaurus

Reading/Comprehension:

- Selects reading material based on his/her personal criteria and interests
- Uses text and graphic organizers to increase comprehension
- Applies strategies to monitor comprehension such as:
 - Uses schema to make connections to activate relevant prior knowledge
 - Previews, predicts, confirms or revises predictions
 - Visualizes
 - Asks questions
 - Infers
 - Determines most important ideas including the main idea
 - Uses fix it strategies when meaning is impaired
- Retells a story including characters, setting and main events.
- Shows awareness of different types of fiction/nonfiction

Writing/Handwriting:

- Writes sentence with subject/predicate
- Uses nouns, pronouns, verbs and adjectives in writing
- Uses correct end punctuation (. ! ?)
- Uses comma between city/state and date/year
- Capitalizes first word in sentence, names/titles and days/months/holidays
- Uses steps in the writing process: prewriting, drafting, revising, editing and publishing

Speaking/Listening:

- Communicates and expands ideas through speaking and listening
- Follows rules of conversation and makes contributions to discussions
- Listens to classmates and responds to a variety of media
- Makes oral presentations that are clear and concise

World Language – Grade 2



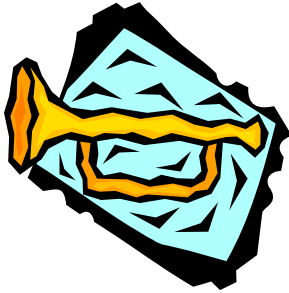
The purpose of the world language program in Whitefish Bay schools is to give students the opportunity to listen to, interact with, and begin to speak another language. Students receive an hour of instruction each week. At Richards, students are taught French. At Cumberland, students are taught Spanish.

The second grade World Language student will begin to learn to:

- Use salutations
- Count from 1 to 100, by 10's – 100, and practice simple math problems
- Identify group vocabulary
 - Colors and shapes
 - Calendar (days, months, seasons and weather)
 - Telling time to the nearest five minutes
 - Clothing
 - Body parts
 - Family
 - Animals
 - Classroom objects
 - Sports
 - Directional words and prepositions
- Demonstrate understanding of simple commands
- Understand various aspects of culture
 - Food
 - Music
 - Holidays
 - Dances

Elementary Specials Overview

General Music



The kindergarten through fifth grade music program offers a broad spectrum of opportunities designed to promote development on each child's musical potential. It is our goal to provide each student with the skills necessary to both create and enjoy music while understanding it as a universal means of expression. Lessons are designed to convey the joy of music that will encourage each child to seek musical opportunities later in life.

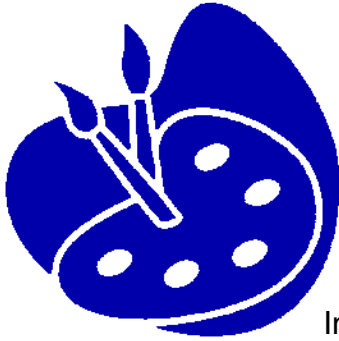
Beginning at the earliest level, students sing, chant, move, and dance to music composed by others while they are encouraged to alter, modify, expand, and improvise upon that music, later creating and composing music on their own. Throughout the elementary school years the children build skills of listening and responding, reading and writing music. The student's own voice is nurtured and good choral habits are stressed throughout the grades. Classroom instruments, both rhythmic and tonal, are used along with recorders at the third grade level and electric keyboards in the upper elementary classes.

The music literature in the classroom is chosen to reflect the backgrounds of our students as well as to expose them to the wide diversity of music created by the peoples of the world.

All children receive General Music instruction as per the time allotments shown below. In addition, fourth and fifth grade students may choose to be involved in the string program. Fifth grade students may choose to be involved in the band program. All fifth grade students are included in the fifth grade choir program.

General Music Time Allotments:

4-year-old kindergarten:	15 minute class once a week
half day 5-year-old kindergarten:	20 minute class twice a week
full day 5-year-old kindergarten:	20 minute class twice a week
first grade through fourth grade:	25 minute class 3 times per week
fifth grade:	50 minutes per week (either two 25 minute classes or one 50 minute class)
	PLUS
	One 40 minute choir period



Art

In the elementary art program, students will develop creativity and problem-solving skills, build and expand their understanding of art, and successfully manipulate a variety of media.

The elementary art curriculum allows students to begin to:

- Demonstrate understanding of artistic principles through effective use of media, tools, vocabulary and processes.
- Manipulate various media, materials and/or images to be expressive.
- Develop and relate his or her knowledge of art to themselves and others.
- Understand, discuss and respond to works of art.

Students experience a wide variety of materials and media in the elementary art program. They are shown proper techniques for creative use of materials. Projects are assigned with specific goals and criteria in mind, but allow for personal creativity and problem solving. When possible, art experiences link to school-wide as well as classroom learning themes and activities.

Learning experiences center around:

The Elements of Art

color
value
line
texture
shape
form
space

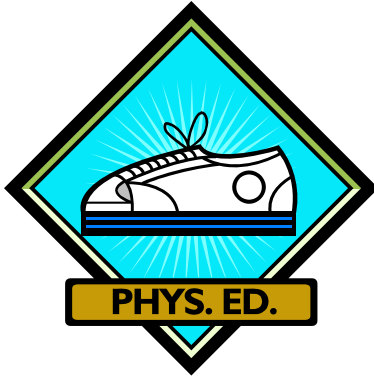
The Principals of Design

Balance
Emphasis
Harmony
Variety
Graduation
Rhythm
Proportion

Art Time Allotments:

Kindergarten: 30 minute class once a week
Grades 1-5 60 minute class once a week

Physical Education



Physical Education will enable each student to acquire the knowledge and skills to pursue and enjoy a lifetime of healthful activities.

Elementary physical education offers a wide variety of physical activities to our students. Our theme of “children learning to move and moving to learn” guides us to teach not only physical skills, but also movement concepts and principles needed for their development.

Optimal fitness for students ages 4 to 11 is the priority. Building healthy lifestyles through physical activity is discussed and practiced in every class. Good sportsmanship, teamwork, respect, and establishing positive attitudes and self-confidence are also common threads in each lesson. Students will learn responsible social and personal behavior in the gym while fitness and physical skills are practiced, and aerobic and sport-specific games are played.

We hope that children will wholeheartedly enjoy physical activity so it will become an integral part of their daily lives and carry over into adulthood.

Physical Education Time Allotments:

4-year-old kindergarten:	30 minute class once a week
half day 5-year-old kindergarten:	30 minute class once a week
full day 5-year-old kindergarten:	30 minute class twice a week
first grade through fourth grade:	25 minute class 3 times per week
fifth grade:	40 minute class 3 times per week



Technology

Students in Whitefish Bay utilize technology to enhance and extend their learning throughout the curriculum. Technology available includes classroom computers and computer labs with server and Internet access, classroom monitor/tv/vcr units, portable word processors, and a variety of peripheral equipment. Teachers design and implement technology experiences which allow students to access technology at developmentally appropriate stages. Technology application integrated with district standards enable students to:

- Use a variety of technology tools in order to facilitate and demonstrate learning across the curriculum.
- Use technology to communicate in various ways.
- Understand and operate computer systems and other technologies.
- Understand, respect and apply rules of ethics to be responsible users of technology.

Technology applications are integrated as appropriate throughout the elementary curriculum. Integrated word processing instruction is introduced in first grade, with new elements added each year through grade five. Word processing is integrated with other curricular areas such as reading, language arts, science, and social studies. Formal keyboarding instruction begins in third grade and builds through grade five. Efficient, safe, and ethical use of varied technologies is taught at all grade levels.