

Whitefish Bay School District

Parent Curriculum Overview

Junior Kindergarten (K4)



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 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.

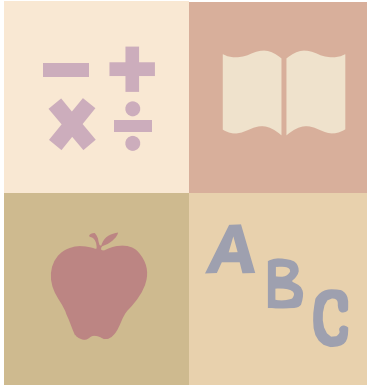
If you would like more information about the district curriculum, log on to www.wfbschools.com and select the district office link and then select director of instruction. On this webpage you will find links to curriculum overview documents, learning standards, and resources for parents. After you have 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

School District of Whitefish Bay Junior Kindergarten Overview



MATHEMATICS

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

In junior kindergarten, students will know, understand or demonstrate some awareness of at a grade appropriate level:

- How to identify basic colors
- How to identify basic shapes
- How to identify numerals 0-10
- How to rote count by ones 1-20
- How to accurately count 10 objects
- How to identify simple patterns
- How to sort objects by single attributes (color, shape, etc.)
- How to use/understand terms more, less
- Graphs
- Problem solving strategies
- Basic money concepts
- Some beginning concepts of time
- Introduction to addition and subtraction



LANGUAGE ARTS

The purpose of language arts instruction is to develop learners who will become proficient and confident readers, writers, speakers and listeners.

In junior kindergarten, students will know, understand or demonstrate an awareness of skills and concepts at a grade level appropriate level:

- Enjoyment of being read to in a large group setting and one/one
- How to recognize first and last name
- How to respond and participate in songs, rhymes and finger plays
- How to name upper case and lower case letters
- Begin to produce letter sounds
- Match pictures of rhymes
- Identify beginning sounds in words
- Reading of environmental print, pattern books, names of classmates and family members, etc.
- Writing or drawing a picture to tell a story (may attempt scribbling, copying, temporary spelling, etc.)
- How to write own first name beginning with a capital letter followed by lower case letters
- Print concepts
 - *How to handle a book appropriately,
 - *Cover/back of book
 - *Turning pages
 - *Understand that text gives meaning
- Story Elements
 - *Author/illustrator
 - *Books have characters
 - *Sequence of a story



SOCIAL STUDIES

The Whitefish Bay Social Studies curriculum will nurture attributes, knowledge, and skills through which young people become socially active and informed citizens who understand the structure and processes of society and have the ability to adapt in a changing social, political, and economic environment.

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

- The ways in which he/she is unique
- That they are part of a community in which they live
- The importance of the family and their role in it; the importance of family heritage and celebrations
- The difference between individuals and between families
- Respect for the American flag
- The roles that community helpers play in daily life
- The need for rules and the importance of voting to make class decisions
- Safety awareness for school and home



SCIENCE

Through science education, students will develop the scientific knowledge, skills and attitudes that enable them to make informed use of science in their lives.

In junior kindergarten, students will know and understand at a developmentally appropriate level:

- Weather conditions (ex. temperature, rain, snow) can change daily and that patterns change over the seasons
- Animals have features that help them live in different environments
- Animals change as they grow and develop
- Animals in their growth and development require air, water, food and shelter
- The identity of the five senses and what each sense allows the body to do
- The five senses work together to find out about the world
- Learning can come from observation and simple experiments
- Pollution, forces of nature and humans have an effect on the environment



GUIDANCE COUNSELING

Through Guidance, students will acquire knowledge and skills that help them function successfully in the classroom, a caring community of learners where all children and adults feel accepted and respected, as well as society.

In junior kindergarten, the students will know and understand at a developmentally appropriate level:

- The importance of listening while others are speaking
- Each child is one-of-a-kind
- The skills needed for making friends
- His/Her own strengths and abilities
- Ways of asking for/offering help
- All people have feelings and each child should be aware of the feelings of others
- The effect of one's actions upon others
- Each child accepts responsibility for one's own feelings and actions
- The importance of verbal and non-verbal communication
- Disagreements or conflicts between friends and family members are common
- Some ways of dealing with conflicts work better than others and that people not involved in the argument may be helpful in solving it



Elementary Specials Overview

General Music

Mission of the K – 12 Music Education Program:
Students will begin a lifelong relationship with music through listening, describing, creating, and performing.

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.

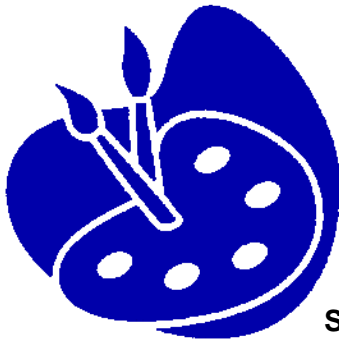
Beginning at the earliest level, students sing, chant, move, and dance to music composed by others while they are encouraged to alter, modify, expand, and improvise upon that music, later creating and composing music on their own. Throughout the elementary school years the children build skills of listening 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
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

The mission of the K – 12 Visual Art program:

Students will gain the ability to manipulate a variety of media, and develop creative problem-solving skills. Students will build and expand their understanding of art and themselves, as well as establish a life-long relationship with the visual world.

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

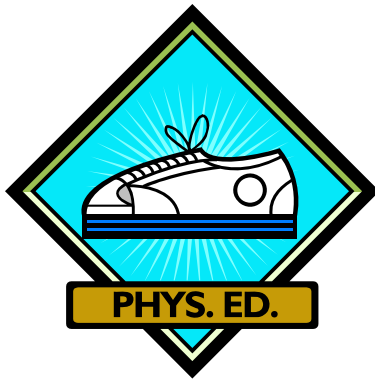
color
value
line
texture
shape
form
space

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
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

The district’s mission for instructional technology is to prepare all students for a global society by empowering them with the 21st century skills necessary for lifelong success.

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.