

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 basic 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 general 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-seven years through the district curriculum renewal and design 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 for college and career readiness.

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 fifth will participate in an exposure to world language program (Spanish). Strong programs for art, music, physical education, library-media 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, gifted and talented programming exists for students whose need for academic challenge far exceeds that of the regular classroom.

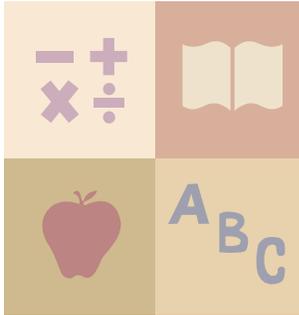
If you would like more information about the district curriculum, log on to www.wfbschools.com and select the district office link and then select Director of Teaching & Learning Services. On this webpage you will find links to curriculum overview documents, learning standards, and resources for parents. 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 Teaching & Learning 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 and an ability to see challenge as an opportunity for growth will provide rewards for a lifetime.

Sincerely,

Maria Kucharski
Director of Teaching & Learning Services
School District of Whitefish Bay

School District of Whitefish Bay Junior Kindergarten Overview



MATHEMATICS

The mission of mathematics education in our district:
Students will be empowered with the mathematical reasoning and strategies necessary to meet the challenges of an advancing, global 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 2D and 3D shapes
- How to identify numerals 0-10
- How to rote count by ones 1-20
- How to accurately count 10 objects
- How to write numerals 0-9
- 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
- Beginning concepts of time
- Beginning concepts of measurement
- Introduction to addition and subtraction



K4 English Language Arts

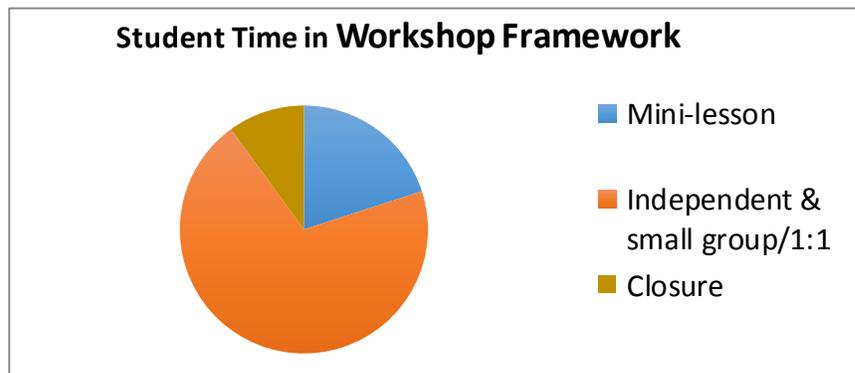
The Whitefish Bay School District strives to foster a culture of literacy by providing students with a **cognitive apprenticeship** environment that would enable them to grow into successful readers, writers, listeners and speakers.

Starting in the fall of 2016, the WFB School District will begin a staggered implementation of a balanced literacy program that will be completed by the end of the 2017-2018 school year.

A balanced literacy program includes:

Read Aloud	Independent Reading	Shared Reading
Guided Reading	Interactive Writing	Writing Process
Independent Writing	Phonics and Word Study	Language Investigation

The main instructional strategy that is utilized in our balanced literacy program is the workshop framework. Specifically, within each ELA block, which includes Language Studied, Writing Workshop and Reading Workshop, students participate in lessons that include: teacher instruction (modeling, teaching), guided/collaborative practice, independent practice, small group or conferring, and debriefing or closure.



Our District develops our own units of study through an integrated thematic approach. At the junior kindergarten level, your child will study the following integrated literacy units within our overarching themes of: community and relationships, literacy tradition, living things, sense of self, inspired by true stories and genre studies:

Being Good Friends	Storytelling	The Deep Dark Blue
It's All About Me!	Neighborhoods	Author Anna Dewdney



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
- Weather and seasonal changes affect their lives
- How to dress appropriately for different kinds of weather
- Understand the concepts of clouds and wind
- Plants and animals live in different environments within the ocean
- Learn the differences and similarities of ocean animals
- Simple characteristics of the ocean environment
- 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
- Simple knowledge about their main body parts (muscles, bones, etc..)
- Learning can come from observation and simple experiments



GUIDANCE COUNSELING

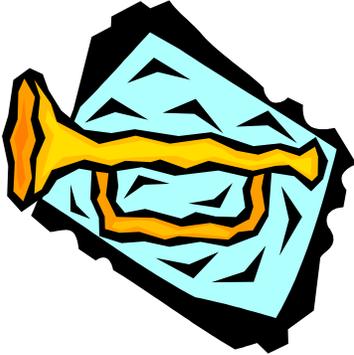
Through Guidance, students will acquire knowledge and skills that help them function successfully in the classroom, a caring community of learners where all children and adults feel accepted and respected, as well as society.

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:

The mission of the Whitefish Bay School District music program is to promote music development through the active study and making of music by all.

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.

General Music Time Allotments:

Senior kindergarten through 5 th grade:	30 minute classes twice per week
5 th grade Band and Orchestra:	30 minute lesson once per week
5 th grade Band and Orchestra Assemble:	Scheduled as needed second semester



Art

The mission of the K – 12 Visual Art program:

The visual arts program promotes opportunities for students to question, make decisions, think, look, understand themselves, change and grow at their own developmental levels. Through the freedom of expression students will develop 21st century skills such as critical thinking, visual literacy and problem solving.

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

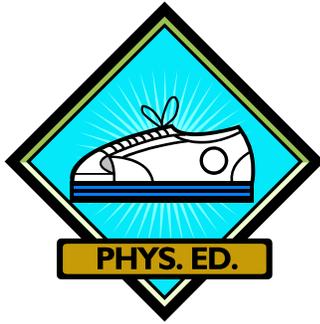
Color
Value
Line
Texture
Shape
Form
Space

The Principals of Design

Balance
Emphasis
Harmony
Variety
Movement
Rhythm
Proportion
Unity

Art Time Allotments:

Junior Kindergarten: 30 minute class once per week
Senior Kindergarten – 5th grades: 60 minute classes once per 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:

Junior kindergarten:	30 minute class once per week
Senior kindergarten through 5 th grade:	30 minute classes three times per week



Technology

The district’s mission for instructional technology:

Students will be self-directed learners who can access, evaluate and apply the most effective tools and resources to communicate and compete globally. In order to meet this vision, students need meaningful, dialing integration of technology.

Teachers design and implement technology experiences which allow students to access technology at developmentally appropriate stages.

Integrated technology instruction allows 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.