

WHITEFISH BAY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Parent Curriculum Overview
Senior Kindergarten (K5)



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

K5 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 senior kindergarten, students will know and understand at a grade-appropriate level:

Print Concepts:

- Print and illustrations convey meaning
- Labels front and back of book
- Distinguishes between letters and words
- Reads text from left to right, top to bottom

Phonemic Awareness- Ability to play with words and sounds through:

- Rhyming
- Isolating sounds
- Blending sounds
- Segmenting sounds

Phonics:

- Names upper/lower case letters
- Knows sounds of letters
- Reads CVC pattern words
- Applies knowledge of letters and sounds when writing using a combination of temporary and contemporary spelling

Sight Words:

- Knows 20+ sight words

Comprehension:

- Identifies parts of a story
- Sequences a story (first/next/last)
- Understands theme of a fiction text and main idea of nonfiction text
- Makes predictions, connections and asks questions to understand text

Handwriting:

- Writes first/last name legibly
- Forms upper/lower case letters correctly

Writing:

- Writes words on a page from left to right, top to bottom
- Frequently places spaces between words
- Beginning to use upper/lower case letters appropriately in extended writing
- Draws a picture to match a story

Speaking/Listening:

- Follows oral directions

- Follows rules of conversation and makes contributions to discussions

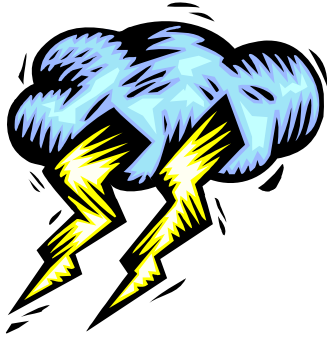


K5 Mathematics

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

- Counts to 110
- Counts by 5's to 110
- Counts by 10's to 110
- Counts by 2's to 30
- Identifies and forms groups of 0-5+
- Recognizes geometric shapes: circle, square, triangle, and rectangle
- Recognizes coins: penny, nickel, and dime
- Understands concepts of first and last
- Sorts (groups) objects; shares strategies
- Counts backwards 20 to 0
- Writes dictated numbers 0-20
- Makes and describes a two-part pattern
- Sort objects using various attributes; shares strategies
- Participates in solving oral number strategies
- Tells time to the hour (analog and digital)
- Problem solving strategies
- Basic understanding of graphs



Science

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

In senior kindergarten, students will engage in a variety of scientific investigations to further their understanding of scientific inquiry and how observation and evidence can be used to learn more about how the world works.

- Students will observe the process of evaporation through water painting in sun and shade.
- Students will sort items and name connections (ex. Animals/birds, magnetic/non-magnetic...)
- Students will practice making comparisons of animals, bendable materials, and wheeled vs. non-wheeled loads.
- Students will make various types of measurements including temperature, length, and strength.
- Students will use various tools to complete investigations.
- Students will record information and communicate it to others through lists, models, graphs, charts and diagrams.
- Students will adopt a schoolyard tree for observation and comparison.
- Students will help plant and care for a tree.
- Students will observe and communicate about size, shape, texture, and color of leaves and trees.
- Students will identify parts of tree through tree part card and booklets.
- Students will compare and contrast various fabrics.
- Students will go on a multisensory fabric hunt.
- Students will investigate structure of fabric through collage and disassembly.
- Students will weave and sew their own fabric.
- Students will test fabrics to find out why they react to water, cleaning products and dye.

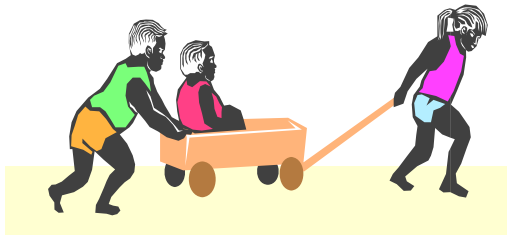


Social Studies

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

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

- Characteristics of rules and laws; participation in forming classroom rules
- Some of the responsibilities of citizens such as voting, participation in voting on classroom decisions and cooperating and carrying out classroom duties
- Nature of communities and families at home and around the world
- Neighborhood businesses and the goods and services they provide
- The celebration of individual differences, family differences and cultural differences
- Location of their school, home, neighborhood, community, state and country
- The introductory use of maps and globes and classification of places by dominant characteristics
- Roles of community helpers
- Safety awareness at home and school



Guidance

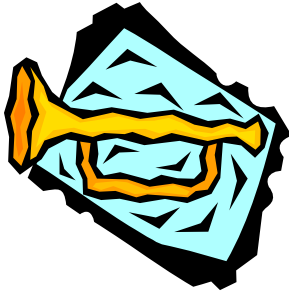
The guidance program teaches and supports the students in skills and strategies for developing healthy self concept, emotional awareness, successful relationships, decision making, and conflict resolutions.

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

- Awareness of self, personal interests, strengths and abilities; that we are all “one of a kind”
- Listening skills and “I care” language
- Skills needed to make and keep friends
- Cooperative behavior
- Awareness of others’ feelings; respect for, and appreciation of, individual differences
- Recognizing and accepting responsibility for one’s own feelings and actions
- Ways of asking for/offering help; identifying steps in a decision making process
- Feelings and emotion-producing situations; healthy ways to cope with unpleasant feelings and situations
- Conflict resolution skills based on positive choices such as sharing, taking turns, apologizing
- Knowledge of rules at school and understanding of rights and responsibilities in the school environment

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.

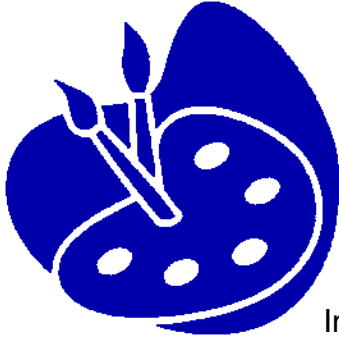
Beginning at the earliest level, students sing, chant, move, and dance to music composed by others while they are encouraged to alter, modify, expand, and improvise upon that music, later creating and composing music on their own. Throughout the elementary school years the children build skills of listening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

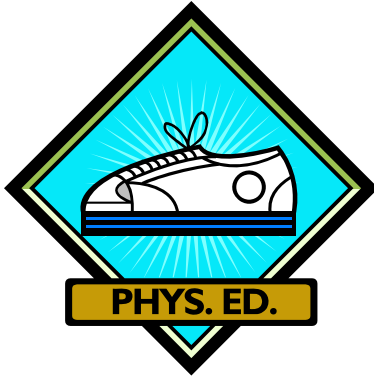
The Principals of Design

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.