

WHITEFISH BAY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Parent Curriculum Overview

Grade 4



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.



Whitefish Bay
SCHOOL DISTRICT
An Exceptional Place to Learn

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 (WFB Seven Thriving Dispositions) may be a shift in approach to the education you received when you were in elementary 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 their 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. Inquiry 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 global digital literacy skills, are other important components that contribute to the vitality of the elementary-level program.

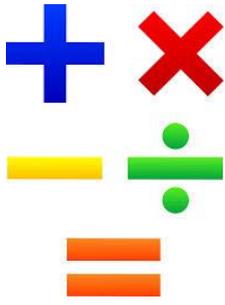
While teachers strive to meet the needs of all students in the classroom, some students benefit from additional assistance or challenge. Academic support programs are available in reading and math. Similarly, talent development identification and programming exists for students whose need for academic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

If you would like more information about the district curriculum, log on to www.wfbschools.com, select the district link and then select Teaching and Learning. On this webpage you will find links to curriculum documents, assessments, schedules, educational options, summer school, 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 and 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 and Learning Services
School District of Whitefish Bay



Grade 4 Mathematics

When today's students become adults, they will face new demands for mathematical proficiency. All young Americans must learn to think mathematically, and they must think mathematically to learn (Adding It Up, National Research Council, 2001).

In *Math Expressions Common Core*, teachers create an inquiry environment and encourage constructive discussion. Students invent, question, model, represent and explore, but also learn and practice important math strategies. Through daily Math Talk, students construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others. Mathematics content and models connect and build across the grade levels to provide a progression of teaching and learning that aligns precisely with the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics.

In fourth grade, instructional time will focus on three critical areas within a Common Core Curriculum; (1) developing understanding and fluency with multi-digit multiplication, and developing understanding of dividing to find quotients involving multi-digit dividends; (2) developing an understanding of fraction equivalence, addition and subtraction of fractions by whole numbers; (3) understanding that geometric figures can be analyzed and classified based on their properties, such as having parallel sides, perpendicular sides, particular angle measures, and symmetry.

In addition to the critical areas listed above, in fourth grade students will know and understand at a grade appropriate level:

- how to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
- how to model with mathematics and attend to precision.
- uses appropriate tools strategically.
- Uses place value understanding to read, write and compare using whole numbers, fractions, and decimals (to hundredths).
- fluently adds and subtracts multi-digit whole numbers using the standard algorithm.
- appropriate methods and tools for computation and estimation in all four operations.
- finds all factor pairs for a whole number in the range of 1-100.
- generates a number pattern that follows a given rule.
- solves problems involving measurement and conversion of measurement from a larger unit to a smaller unit.
- uses the four operations to solve problems involving distances, intervals of time, liquid volumes, masses of objects, and money.
- applies the area and perimeter formulas for rectangles in real world and mathematical problems.
- draws points, lines, line segments, rays, angles (right, acute, obtuse), and perpendicular and parallel lines.
- the design, exploration and use of geometrical and number patterns.
- measures angles in whole-number degrees.
- addition and subtraction to proficiency; developing multiplication and division skills.
- explore mathematical data by collecting, organizing, and interpreting information.



Grade 4 Social Studies

Mission Statement:

The Whitefish Bay Social Studies K-12 Learning Pathway (found in the C3 Framework) will foster knowledge, skills and the seven thriving dispositions; as a result young people become informed and engaged citizens with an understanding of societal structures, and the changing social, political and global economic environment.

What are the social sciences? Examine “artifacts” gathered from around their homes to determine which social scientist—a geographer, a historian, an economist, or a political scientist—would be most interested in studying the artifact.

Exploring regions of the United States- Actively develop key mapping skills as they analyze colorful maps of the United States. The maps reveal information about the five regions of the United States as well as population density, rainfall, elevation, and political boundaries.

The peopling of the United States- Create a colorful classroom quilt filled with symbols and images representing the settlement experiences and contributions of five American racial and ethnic groups

A train tour of the northeast- Take a simulated tour of nine key sites in the Northeast region. Students learn about democracy at Plymouth, mass production in Hershey, Pennsylvania, and urbanization while “climbing” the stairs of the Empire State Building.

Population density and life in the northeast- Experience the population density of New York City by using students and desks to represent the land area and population in the city. Afterward, students explore and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of urban and rural settings.

A boat and bus tour of the southeast- Take a simulated tour of nine key locations in the Southeast region. Students learn about English settlement at Jamestown, American musical traditions in Memphis, and civil rights in Montgomery.

The effects of geography on life in the southeast- Answer “Geography Investigation” questions on such topics as climate, elevation, natural resources, and bodies of water in the Southeast before hypothesizing and learning about these key geographical influences.

A crop duster tour of the midwest - Take a simulated tour of nine key locations in the Midwest region. Students learn about ranching in Dodge City, Kansas, the assembly line in Detroit, and American consumerism at the Mall of America.

Agricultural changes in the nation’s breadbasket Use investigative skills to compare and contrast farm life in the 1800s with farm life today.

A big rig tour of the southwest- Take a simulated tour of nine key locations in the Southwest region. Students learn about engineering at the Hoover Dam, U.S.—Mexico border relations in El Paso, and westward movement in Guthrie, Oklahoma.

A case study in water use- The Colorado River Role play various water users in the Colorado River basin in four different time periods to understand how the river’s water is used and shared—and why it must be conserved.

A van and airplane tour of the west- Take a simulated tour of nine key locations in the West region. Students learn about mining life in Leadville, Colorado, declining salmon populations along the Columbia River, and tourism in Hawaii

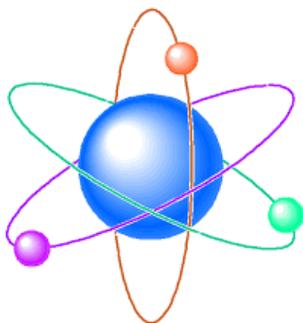
Connecting to our state’s story- Learn how historians use artifacts, primary and secondary documents to interpret and write history.

Settlement in Wisconsin Describe the roles and lives of early Indians, Explorers and Missionaries in Wisconsin.

State History, Immigration and Important People Research and articulate how individuals have made important impacts on the state of Wisconsin.

Economy in Wisconsin Participate in a job fair simulation to learn about Wisconsin’s economy, industries, natural resources and related supply and demand concepts.

Wisconsin Government Understand the role of each branch of government through mini-government activity.



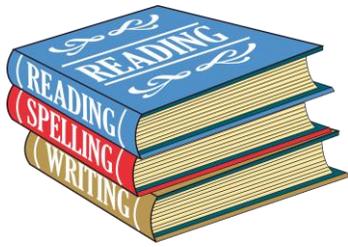
Grade 4 Science

Mission Statement:

The mission of science education in Whitefish Bay schools is to provide all students with opportunities to critically engage with scientific knowledge and processes in order to become empowered citizens of a global community.

In the fourth grade, students will engage in investigations to develop important understandings. Students will:

- be introduced to levers as devices that help us lift weight or overcome resistance. Students investigate the fulcrum, effort and load of one kind of level (class-1) and conduct experiments with a spring scale to discover the relationships between the parts of lever systems. Students draw and graph their results.
- investigate and diagram class-1, class-2 and class-3 level systems. They investigate common tools to determine how the tools apply levers.
- be introduced to a second simple machine and discover how to set of single-fixed and single-movable pulleys to lift a load. They use a scale to quantify effort with single pulleys. They go on to set up and diagram multiple-pulley systems.
- describe characteristics of an ocean (ocean water, density of salt water, people and the ocean, and protecting the ocean).
- examine environmental changes and their effects.
- understand different ways in which living things are grouped.
- understand properties of matter (identifying matter, solids, liquids, gases, senses, and properties).
- develop and understanding of electricity and magnetism.
- explore conductors vs. insulators, circuits, fuses, switches, generators, and electroscopes.
- understand the organization of a simple electrical circuit.
- explore how magnets attract and repel each other and attract certain kinds of other materials.
- will observe how organisms respond to environmental conditions and how they change their environment.
- further their understanding of scientific inquiry and how to use simple equipment and tools to gather data and extend the senses.
- gain experience with living and non-living environmental factors in terrestrial and aquatic systems.
- develop the concepts of environmental factor, range of tolerance, and optimum conditions for survival of populations through investigations.
- understand that scientific investigations involve asking and answering a question and comparing the answer to what scientists already know about the world.
- understand that scientists use different kinds of investigations.
- know how to plan and conduct simple investigations.
- use simple equipment and tools to gather data and extend the senses.
- know how to record careful observations of science experiments.



Grade 4 English Language Arts (ELA)

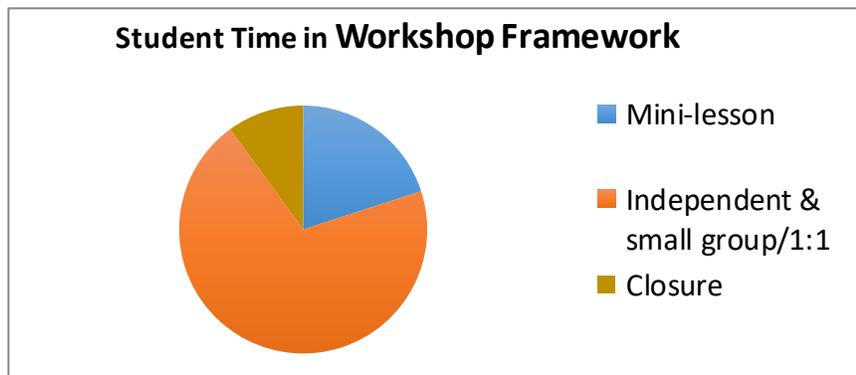
Mission Statement:

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.*

A balanced literacy program includes:

Read Aloud	Independent Reading	Shared Reading
Guided Reading	Literature Discussions	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 fourth grade 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:

Building a Positive Community	Traditional Literature	Natural Disasters
Empathy: Walking in Someone's Shoes	Those Who Inspire Others	There's a Whole Other World Out There



Grade 4 World Language

Mission Statement:

Language and communication are at the heart of the human experience. The Whitefish Bay World Language Program will prepare students for meaningful interactions with people around the world. Our program will help our students understand the link between language and culture. We envision a future in which ALL students will develop and maintain proficiency in English and at least one other language.

The fourth grade World Language student will continue Spanish instruction to learn how to:

- Use salutations
- Count from 1 to 50, and practice math problems
- Recite the alphabet
- Identify group vocabulary
 - Emotions
 - Weather
 - Season
 - Clothing
 - Body parts and Dia de los Muertos
 - Family
- Demonstrate understanding of simple commands
- Learn new vocabulary that is connected to the grade-level core curriculum
- Understand various aspects of culture, such as:
 - Food
 - Music
 - Holidays
 - Dances
 - Money

World Language Time Allotments:

First Grade-Fifth Grade Face-to-Face
Second-Fifth Grade: Language Lab

Average of 30 minutes per week
Average of 30 minutes per week



Health and Human Growth & Development

Mission Statement:

Mission Statement: Through the sequential K-12 health education curriculum, students will develop knowledge of various age-appropriate contemporary health issues, become health-literate people who are critical thinkers, creative problem solvers, effective communicators, and ultimately responsible and productive citizens.

In fourth grade, students will understand health promotion through instructional concepts such as:

- My needs and feelings
- Living and growing
- Health and fitness
- Food and health
- Guarding against disease
- Medicines, drugs and your health
- Staying safe
- Life cycles

The Mission of the K-12 Human Growth & Development (HGD) Education Program:

The curriculum will complement the home by providing students with the knowledge, skills, and support necessary to understand their social, mental/emotional, and physical development in order to make responsible decision about health and age-appropriate sexual behavior throughout their lifetimes.

** HGD is an elective program. Parents may opt-out their students from participating in identified lessons.*

In fourth grade, students will understand healthy decision-making, and social, mental/emotional, and physical development through instructional concepts such as:

- Examining and comparing emotions during puberty.
- Discussing respect for self and others.
- Examining own understanding and acceptance of a multicultural and diverse society (various races and persons with disabilities).
- Reviewing importance of acceptance of one's person growth patterns.
- Applying a decision-making model to situations.
- Defining puberty and examining the interaction of physical, mental/emotional, and social development.
- * Comparing similarities of male and female growth.
- * Identifying body parts and systems affected by puberty.
- * Explaining the changes in females; explaining the changes in males.
- Defining types of abuse, identifying ways to respond to potential danger which may prevent abuse, and explaining the difference between abuse and discipline.
- Discussing different approaches to use in reporting abuse.
- Identifying supportive help in the home, school and community.
- Recognizing and examining rights that are protected by law.



Elementary ENCORE Overview

General Music- Performing Arts

Mission Statement:

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:

Junior Kindergarten	30 minute class once a week
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



Visual Arts

Mission Statement:

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.

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
Movement
Rhythm
Proportion
Unity

Art Time Allotments:

Junior Kindergarten

30 minute class once per week

Senior kindergarten through 5th grade:

60 minute class once per week



Physical Education

Mission Statement:

The goal of physical education is to develop physically literate individuals who have the knowledge, skills, and confidence to enjoy a lifetime of healthy physical activity. We believe through a comprehensive, standards-based K-12 physical education program, including the seven thriving dispositions, our students will develop into individuals who value physical activity, maintain physically active lifestyles, and become knowledgeable and proficient in a variety of 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 for Global Education

Mission Statement:

The District's mission for instructional technology is for students to 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 mission, students need meaningful integration of technology.

Our students want to be creative and collaborate, utilize technology for learning, connect with their peers in other countries, understand the messages that media convey, and solve real-world problems. It is about providing our students with knowledge, skills and confidence to succeed in college, careers, and jobs that have not even been created yet. This is accomplished by allowing students to use real-world tools to apply what they learn and construct new knowledge. As we grow our integration of technology and skills, through the purposeful integration of technology with the grade- banded **WFB Global, Media, and Digital Competencies**, our hope is to transform our learning with the support of technology. By focusing on how specific technologies that can be used to engage students, teachers begin to establish a foundation for learning that will help lead us in the implementation of **WFB's Seven Thriving Dispositions** (Resource-Curriculum 21, The New Literacies, NET/ISTE Standards, A World Class Education).

Key areas of focus for intermediate students:

- Evaluate and utilize the features and functions of a variety of digital tools to create, share, and communicate work effectively.
- Use technology to communicate with classrooms and/or experts outside the district to experience multiple viewpoints and perspectives.
- Explore and select digital tools to customize personalized learning needs.
- Understand the acceptable use of physical and online technology resources as laid out by the district's acceptable use policies and guidelines.