Whitefish Bay
SCHOOL DISTRICT
An Exceptional Place to Learn

Curriculum Overview: Junior Kindergarten (K4)

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

School Year 2026-2027

Whitefish Bay
SCHOOL DISTRICT

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 at 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, the 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 to seven years through the district curriculum renewal and design process. 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.

Our state-adopted academic 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. The balance between content and process sets the foundation for future learning for college, career, and life readiness.

The methods and instructional strategies in our classrooms bring the curriculum to life. Teachers develop trusting relationships with students, and among the students in the classrooms, to maintain a nurturing climate where learning can 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 first through fifth grade 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. 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,

Mike O'Connor
Director of Teaching and Learning Services, School District of Whitefish Bay

Junior Kindergarten Mathematics

Mission Statement:
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 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.

Junior Kindergarten 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.

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.

Junior Kindergarten Science

<u>Mission Statement</u>:
Whitefish Bay Schools will create individual and collaborative conditions for all students to be provided with authentic opportunities to critically engage, understand, and apply scientific knowledge and processes to have the skills to enter careers of their choice, including potential careers in science, engineering, and technology.

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.

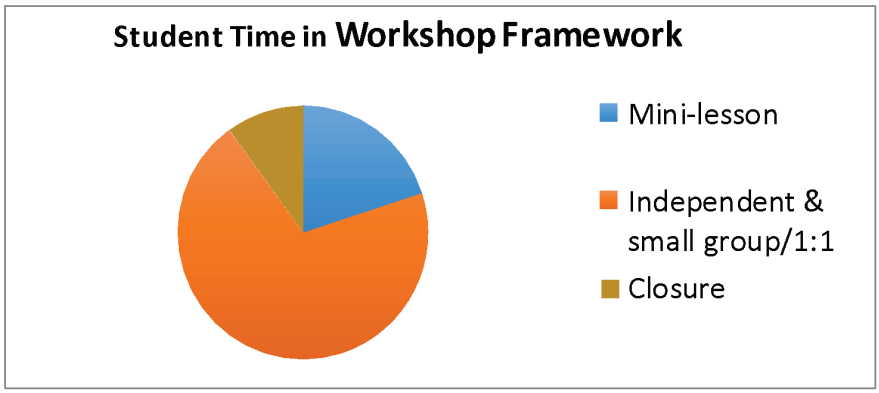
Junior Kindergarten English Language Arts (ELA)

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 comprehensive early 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 comprehensive literacy program is the workshop framework. Specifically, within each ELA block, which includes Language Studies, 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, Folklore and Literary 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

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 - 5th grade	30 minute classes twice per week
5th grade Band and Orchestra	30 minute lesson once per week
5th 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	**The Principles of Design**
Color	Balance
Value	Emphasis
Line	Harmony
Texture	Variety
Shape	Movement
Form	Rhythm
Space	Proportion
	Unity

Art Time Allotments:

Junior Kindergarten:	30 minute class once per week
Senior Kindergarten – 5th grade	60 minute classes 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 - 5th 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 the media conveys, 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.

Key areas of focus for primary students:

- explore a variety of digital tools to create and communicate ideas or to share learning.
- use technology to communicate with classrooms and/or experts outside the district.
- understand and operate a variety of digital tools, and experience the basic concepts of programming.
- understand the acceptable use of physical and online technology resources.