# Whitewater Unified School District

Elementary Curriculum Brochures

Grade Five

http://www.wwusd.org/page/3113

WHITEWATER
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

K 1 2 3 4 5

# Literacy

Students in fourth and fifth grade are immersed in at least 60 minutes of daily literacy instruction. This provides a focused time to develop skills in reading, writing, and word study.

Through a balanced literacy framework our elementary schools conduct standards based instruction through various instructional methods and programs. These include: guided reading, shared reading, independent reading, guided writing, independent writing, and word study. Classroom teachers utilize *Words Their Way*, *Making Meaning*, and *Calkins Units of Study* to guide their instruction. All students are supported as they learn to apply new skills and strategies in authentic reading and writing tasks.

## *Words Their Way*

In fifth grade, students utilize *Words Their Way* developmental spelling curriculum. This research-based model aligns students to their specific developmental spelling stage. These five stages include:

- Emergent
- Letter name
- Word patterns
- Syllables and affixes
- Derivational relationships

The *Words Their Way* program recognizes that reading, writing, and spelling are interconnected. *Words Their Way* utilized that knowledge to develop this program for classroom instruction.

## *Making Meaning (Lincoln and Lakeview)*

The *Making Meaning* reading program provides research based instruction for teaching comprehension and vocabulary. Lessons begin with a read-aloud of an engaging text, followed by a whole-class discussion about the text. On subsequent days, students revisit the text to learn and practice specific comprehension strategies. Students also practice the strategies independently by reading books they've selected from the classroom library. The program teaches the following comprehension strategies:

- Using schema/Making connections
- Retelling
- Visualizing
- Wondering/Questioning
- Using text features
- Making inferences
- Determining important ideas
- Analyzing text structure
- Summarizing
- Synthesizing

## *Writing*

The district uses *Units of Study in Opinion, Information and Narrative Writing*, developed by Lucy Calkins and her colleagues from the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project. Each year teachers deliver "units of study" lasting four to six weeks. Fifth grade writing emphasizes the following content:

- Narrative craft
  - Generating personal narratives
  - Moving through the writing process: Rehearsing, drafting, revising and editing
  - Writing a second piece
  - Revising and editing for publication
- The lens of history: Research reports
  - Writing flash-drafts about westward expansion
  - Writing research well
- Shaping texts from essay and narrative to memoir
  - Generating ideas about our lives and finding depth in the moments we choose
  - Structuring, drafting, and revising a memoir
  - Transferring and extending knowledge: Planning a second memoir
- The research-based argument essay
  - Building arguments
  - Building powerful positions
  - Writing for real-life purposes and audiences

## *Handwriting*

Lincoln Elementary utilizes the *Zaner-Bloser* handwriting program, while Washington and Lakeview Elementary utilize the *Handwriting Without Tears* program. The readiness and writing materials in this program are hands-on and include multisensory activities. The earlier we teach children to master handwriting, the more likely they are to succeed in school, and write with speed and ease in all subjects. When a child writes well, they're doing so many things simultaneously. There are eight key components of handwriting instruction embedded in this program: memory, orientation, placement, size, start, sequence, control, and spacing.

# Math

Children's experiences shape their attitude toward mathematics for a lifetime. The Math Expressions curriculum is engaging and designed to build children's understanding over time. Math Expressions combines elements of standards-based instruction with the best of traditional instructional approaches. Through drawings, conceptual language, and real-world examples, it helps students make sense of mathematics.

The Fifth Grade program emphasizes the following content:

- Addition and Subtraction with Fractions
  - use number lines to represent equivalent fractions
  - express fractions with unlike denominators in terms of the same unit fraction so they can be added or subtracted
  - use bar models to visualize a sum or difference
  - use equations and models to solve real world problems
  - use estimation to determine whether answers are reasonable
- Addition and Subtraction with Decimals
  - extend their understanding of the relationship between adjacent place values to compare and round decimals to thousandths
  - use the same place value understanding for adding and subtracting decimals that they used for adding and subtracting whole numbers
  - use concrete models, number lines, or drawings to represent decimals
  - use different methods to add and subtract decimals
- Multiplication and Division with Fractions
  - use comparison bars to solve multiplicative comparison problems involving fractions
  - use number lines to solve problems involving non-unit fractions
  - use area models to solve problems involving fractions
  - use bar models to multiply, compare, and divide fractions
- Multiplication with Whole Numbers and Decimals
  - Represent multiplying decimals with money and drawings
  - Use strategies based on place value and properties to multiply decimal numbers
  - Write equations to represent multiplication situations
- Division with Whole Numbers and Decimals
  - connect the methods for whole numbers to computing with decimals
  - explain patterns in the number of zeros of the product when dividing by powers of 10
  - decompose factors into base-ten units and apply the Distributive Property
  - use strategies based on place value, the properties of operations, and/or the relationship between multiplication and division
  - illustrate and explain the calculation by using equations, rectangular arrays, and/or area models
- Operations and Word Problems
  - draw a model to solve comparison problems
  - draw visual fraction models or write equations to represent the problem
  - use benchmark fractions and number sense of fractions to estimate mentally and assess the reasonableness of answers
  - use strategies based on the relationship between addition and subtraction

## *Math (cont.)*

- Algebra, Patterns, and Coordinate Graphs
  - simplify an expression using the Order of Operations
  - interpret expressions without simplifying them
  - identify relationships between corresponding terms in two patterns
  - represent points in a coordinate plane
- Measurement and Geometry
  - understand the concepts of volume
  - use unit cubes to pack a right rectangular prism
  - relate volume to the operations of multiplication and division
  - classify two-dimensional figures in a hierarchy

# Science

The Whitewater Unified School District elementary science curriculum has been developed to leverage the inquisitive nature of our students, leading them through exciting, inspirational and motivating learning activities. The program has been developed in accordance with the Next Generation Science Standards, with foundational units from the Mystery Science program providing a framework from which our teachers springboard their program.

The Following units are taught in Fifth Grade:

Ecosystems & the Food Web
This unit on ecology helps students develop the idea that plants, animals, and fungi form a system of interdependent parts, with each part dependent on the other parts for its material nourishment. By the end of the unit, teachers will be able to guide their students to the conclusion that organic matter is cycling through the living world.

Water Cycle & Earth's Systems
This unit helps students develop the idea that water is a profoundly important natural resource, but one which requires surprising ingenuity to find and maintain.

Sun, Moon, Stars, & Planets
This astronomy unit helps students develop a new perspective on the world they're standing on. They will be given evidence that the Earth beneath our feet is actually moving through space, both spinning on its axis, and traveling in a great orbit around the Sun. They will see how these movements account for the patterns we see in our sky (the paths of our Sun across the sky, the changing seasons, and the changing constellations). Accompanying us on this journey are the Moon and planets, which the students will observe have their own patterns of movement in the sky. Throughout this investigation, students will engage in actual and simulated observations of the sky, and they will engage in the process of inquiry: beginning with observations, debating a range of possible causes, and reasoning to possible conclusions.

Chemical Reactions & Properties of Matter
This unit helps students develop the concepts of "substances" and "chemical reactions." Students see that chemical reactions enable us to make new materials by transforming the ones we have. The results of these reactions are interesting and

# Social Studies

It is the mission of the WUSD Social Studies department to develop participatory, civic minded, culturally literate citizens, who are empowered to make informed and responsible decisions in a diverse and interdependent world.

The WUSD elementary social studies curriculum is based on Wisconsin Standards for Social Studies, which has its foundational philosophy in the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) framework for Social Studies. Across all grades, K-12, the Wisconsin Standards for Social Studies encompass the integrated study of geography, history, economics, political science, and the behavioral sciences. Our elementary program uses content and materials from the ***Into Social Studies*** program to provide a framework for a high quality social studies foundation.

In Fifth Grade, the scope and the social studies curriculum includes:

- Map Skills
- Explorers
- The Colonies and the Revolution
- American Government
- Civil War
- Late 1800s – early 1900s

# Visual Arts

Art is a way of understanding ourselves and our relationship with the world around us. Throughout the K-5 Art program, Art Educators teach students visual arts instruction twice per six-day cycle. Our art curriculum is based from the National Art Standards. Artistic Processes are the cognitive and physical actions by which arts learning and making are realized. National Core Arts Standards are based on the artistic processes of Creating; Performing/Producing/Presenting; Responding; and Connecting, which include the following:

- Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work
- Organize and develop artistic ideas and work
- Refine and complete artistic work
- Select, analyze and interpret artistic work for presentation
- Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation
- Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work
- Perceive and analyze artistic work
- Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work
- Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work
- Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art
- Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding

# Music

Music education at the elementary level develops the creative capacities for lifelong musical enjoyment and success. The WUSD Music Standards and Curriculum reflects the actual processes in which musicians engage. The standards cultivate a student's ability to carry out the four areas of Creating, Performing, Responding and Connecting. Through music, students learn to connect to themselves and society. In 5th Grade, music students will:

- Create and perform musical ideas to demonstrate grade level concepts in a Tuneful, Beatful and Artful way.
  - Continuing to expand the Solfege and Rhythmic syllables to read and write music to better prepare students for continuing their musical development on voice, classroom instruments and through middle school orchestra, band and/or choir.
- Respond to music by demonstrating the expressive qualities of the musical examples provided.
  - Utilizing movement, musical instruments, writing using grade level vocabulary and drawing/mapping.
- Connect musical knowledge with other subjects and their daily life.

# Keyboarding

Introducing students to keyboarding in the elementary grades ensures that they develop efficient techniques instead of acquiring self-taught, and sometimes hard-to-break, habits. These efficient keyboarding skills allow students to concentrate on the quality of what they are composing or producing. We cannot create an educational environment that requires keyboarding skills and not explicitly and systematically *teach* keyboarding to students. Whitewater Unified School District supports and encourages keyboarding as a key computer technology core subject with formal keyboarding instruction beginning at Kindergarten. The Keyboarding Without Tears program is the research-based curriculum used in the Whitewater Unified School District. This effective, game-based curriculum for students in grades K–5 fits perfectly into the developmental progression of writing. It teaches pre-keyboarding and keyboarding skills, alongside computer readiness, digital citizenship, and digital literacy.

At the Fifth Grade level our keyboarding curriculum encompasses: Can-Do Keyboarding develops the accuracy and speed necessary to handle the demands of schoolwork and testing in higher grades. Formatting and typing skills are reinforced with engaging and changing themes: Start the Music, Super Words, People Power, and Water, Water! Spot Checks are used to gauge student understanding of specific skills. Each Spot Check measures speed and accuracy.

# Physical Education

The Whitewater Health and Physical Education Program provides a quality K-12 student-centered program that instills a variety of values, skills and knowledge. The program prepares and allows all students to take ownership of leading a health and active life now and into adulthood.

- Physical Fitness – 5 Components of Fitness
  - Cardiorespiratory endurance
  - Muscular Strength
  - Muscular Endurance
  - Flexibility
  - Body Composition
- Physical fitness pre & post test
- Goal setting fitness measurements
- 5 for Life Summative pre & post test
- Variety of circuit training
- Health
  - Heart Health
  - Fuel up on Nutrition pre & post test
  - Skeletal system (every other year)
  - Muscular system (every other year)
- Motor Skills – Applies skills
- Manipulative Skills
  - Overhand throw mastery point
  - Catch mastery point
- Combination Skills
  - Dribbling while moving mastery point
  - Striking while moving mastery point
- Character Education Traits – Applies safe practices, adherence to rules and procedures, etiquette, cooperation and teamwork, ethical behavior, and positive social interaction.
- Integrated Core Curriculum (Literacy, Spelling, Math, Technology)

# Technology

In order to prepare students for a world filled with ever-changing technology, our teachers integrate various technology tools and resources into their classrooms. The focus, however, is on the digital literacy skills that students need to excel in any environment where technology plays a role.

Students learn lessons in the context of their class projects and during their library time. A Digital Literacy Curriculum has just been completed, assuring that all important technology skills are covered at the appropriate grade levels.

Throughout the elementary grades, students receive instruction and practice in:

- Basic technology fluency (including navigating on all devices, handling files and documents, and keyboarding skills)
- Internet safety (protecting personal information and passwords, being safe online)
- Digital citizenship (cyberbullying, respect others, using information responsibly)
- Collaborating and communicating online (document sharing, email, publishing online)

# Library

The role and functioning of the school library has changed significantly over the years. It is still the hub of the school for encouraging literacy and finding appropriate and engaging reading materials. Students still come to the library to learn about the new and exciting books that are available for checkout, but it is also the place for a variety of other learning.

The library staff provides instruction on some of the digital literacy skills that students need now and in their future. Each class meets in the library once every six days to learn about how to find and use information (both for projects and for their own interests.) They also learn skills and tools for creating, problem-solving, organizing, and sharing their learning. Some of the internet safety and digital citizenship lessons are taught in the library, and they learn how to use online resources, databases, and eBook collections.