



# Whitewater Unified School District

Elementary Curriculum Brochures

Grade One

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



K

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# Literacy

Students in kindergarten through third grade are immersed in at least 90 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, shared writing, independent writing, and word study. All students are supported as they learn to apply new skills and strategies in authentic reading and writing tasks.

## ***Fountas and Pinnell Phonics*** (*Washington and Lakeview*)

At the first grade level, students are introduced to emergent literacy strategies. *Fountas and Pinnell Phonics* is a research-based phonics program designed to teach children the building blocks of literacy. “As readers and writers build their word solving competencies, they develop a repertoire for solving words that they use in powerful and flexible ways.” (Fountas and Pinnell, p 11).

## ***Superkids*** – *Reading, Writing and Handwriting*

(*Lincoln*)

*Superkids* is a core reading program designed for kindergarten through second grade students with a cast of characters that children love. It provides a clear sequential path of instruction that leads to reading mastery, while it simultaneously teaches students to write and spell. It is a powerful and engaging combination of rigor and fun. This program integrates reading with spelling, handwriting, grammar, and written expression.

In first grade, students learn more complex letter sound relationships. They continue to develop their decoding and encoding skills and read longer stories where comprehension and fluency are emphasized.

## ***Handwriting*** (*Washington and Lakeview*)

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.

## ***Writing*** (*Washington and Lakeview*)

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. First grade writing emphasizes the following content:

- Small moments writing with focus, detail, and dialogue
  - Writing small moment stories with independence
  - Bringing small moment stories to life
  - Studying other writers’ craft
  - Fixing and fancying up our best work
- Nonfiction chapter books
  - Writing teaching books with independence
  - Nonfiction writers can write chapter books!
  - Writing chapter books with greater independence
- Writing reviews
  - Best in show: judging our collections
  - Writing persuasive reviews
  - Writing persuasive book review
- From scenes to series
  - Fiction writers set out to write realistic fiction!
  - Fiction writers set out to write series
  - Becoming more powerful at realistic fiction
  - Getting ready to publish our second series

# 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 First Grade program emphasizes the following content:

- Partners and Numbers Patterns Through 10
  - Represent a situation or numerical problem with groups of objects, a drawing, or fingers
  - Model the situation by composing two addend groups or decomposing a total group
  - Use subitizing with 5-groups to omit the counting of one addend
  - Work toward fluency for addition and subtraction within 10
- Addition and Subtraction Strategies
  - Model the situation by composing two addend groups or decomposing a total group
  - Model an addition or subtraction involving an unknown addend
  - Use circle drawings, Math Mountains, and equations to represent an unknown addend problem
  - Work toward fluency for addition and subtraction within 10
- Place Value Concepts
  - Represent 2-digit numbers using concrete objects, place value cards, or drawings
  - Compare 2-digit numbers using place value cards and drawings
  - Model 2-digit addition using concrete models or drawings and strategies based on place value, properties of operations, and/or the relationship between addition and subtraction
- Place Value Situations
  - Represent 2-digit numbers using concrete objects, place value cards, or drawings.
  - Use reasoning to mentally find 10 more or 10 less.
  - Model adding and subtracting multiples of 10 using concrete models or drawings and strategies based on place value, and/or the relationship between addition and subtraction
- Comparisons and Data
  - Use objects, drawings, and equations with a symbol for the unknown number to represent a problem.
  - Make matching drawings or draw comparison bars to represent comparison situations
- Geometry, Measurement, and Equal Share
  - Understand that the length measurement of an object is the number of same-size length units that span it with no gaps or overlaps
  - Use both analog and digital clocks
  - Understand that decomposing into more equal shares creates smaller shares
- Two-Digit Addition
  - Use concrete models or drawings and strategies based on place value, properties of operations, and/or the relationship between addition and subtraction; relate the strategy to a written method



# 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 First Grade:***

## **Plant & Animal Structure and Survival**

This unit about plant and animal survival helps students develop the idea that, just like a superhero has special powers, every animal and plant has special parts and behaviors that help them to grow and meet their needs.

## **Sun, Moon, & Stars**

This unit helps students develop the idea that the sun, moon, and stars change position in the sky in ways that are fun to watch and predict.

## **Properties of Light & Sound**

This unit helps students develop the idea that by exploring the properties of light and sound, human beings create fun and useful things.

# 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 First Grade, the scope and the social studies curriculum includes:

- Rules & Laws
- Neighborhood Helpers
- Maps & Globes
- Where We Live
- Holidays

# 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 1st Grade, music students will:

- Create and perform musical ideas to demonstrate grade level concepts in a Tuneful, Beatful and Artful way.
- Respond to music by demonstrating the expressive qualities of the musical examples provided.
- Connect musical knowledge with other subjects and their daily life.

# 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.

# 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
  - Flexibility
  - Body Composition
- Physical fitness pre & post test
- Heart Health
  - Nutrition – Food Identity/MyPlate
  - Heart Health
- Motor Skills
  - Walking mastery point
  - Running mastery point
  - Galloping mastery point
- Non-Locomotor Skills
  - Forward bend mastery point
  - Twist mastery point
- Manipulative Skills
  - Underhand roll 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 (Colors, shapes, letters, numbers, patterns)

# 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)

# 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 First Grade level our keyboarding curriculum encompasses: My Keying Board uses game-based lessons to develop finger dexterity and finger-key association for typing letters and words. As familiarity with the keyboard grows, children type word parts, frequently used words, and short sentences. Students practice these skills with engaging and changing themes: Let's Play, Wild About Animals, and Art Start. Spot Checks are used to gauge student understanding of specific skills. Each Spot Check measures a student's speed and accuracy.