

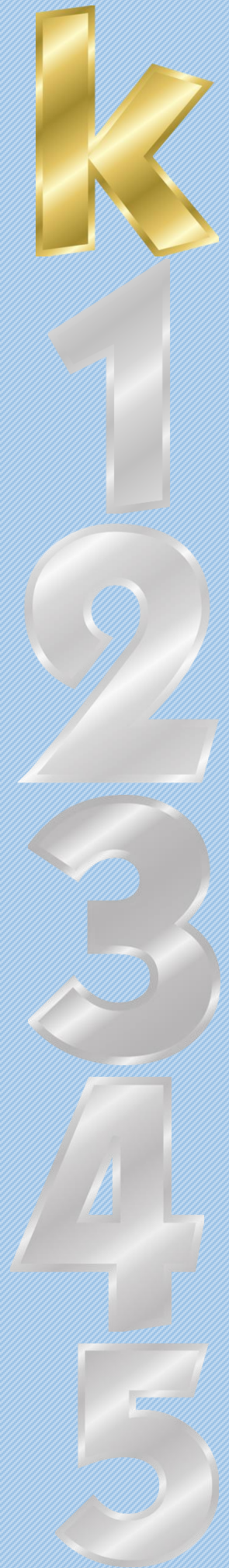


Whitewater Unified School District

Elementary Curriculum Brochures

Kindergarten

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



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 kindergarten 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.

Kindergarten focuses on the 26 letters of the alphabet. Students systematically learn to read and write letters, to associate letters with sounds, to blend letter sounds to form words and sentences, and to read and write phonetically regular words as well as memory words.

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. Kindergarten writing emphasizes the following content:

- Launching the writing workshop
 - We are all writers
 - Writing teaching books
 - Writing stories
 - Preparing for publication
- Writing for readers
 - Writing stories that people can read
 - Tools give writers extra power
 - Partnering for revision: Making stories fun
 - Preparing for publication
- How-to books, writing to teach others
 - Writing how-to books, step by step
 - Using mentor texts for inspiration to lift the level of all your work
 - Keeping your readers in mind
 - Giving how-to books as gifts
- Persuasive writing of all kinds
 - Exploring opinion writing making our school a better place
 - Sending our words out into the world: Writing letters to make a change
 - Persuasive writing projects

Math

Children's experiences shape their attitude toward mathematics for a lifetime. The Math Expressions curriculum is engaging and designed to build a child'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 Kindergarten program emphasizes the following content:

- Introduce Number and Counting Routines
 - Become fluent in saying the count sequence and count out a given number of objects.
 - Recognize the cardinality of small groups
 - Understand that the last number name said in counting tells the number of objects counted.
 - Compare by matching.
 - Act out adding and subtracting situations with objects, their fingers, and math drawings.
- 5-Groups in Numbers 6-10
 - Use subitizing to see that numbers from 6-10 are composed of a 5-group and more ones
 - Order and identify numbers from 1-10 and use the information to create and answer questions about objects
 - Understand that a number is 1 greater than the number before it and 1 less than the number after it.
- Teen Numbers as Tens and Ones
 - Recognize that a collection of objects is composed of two sub collections and combine their cardinalities to find the cardinality of the collection.
 - Identify which of two groups has more than (or fewer than, or the same amount as) the other.
 - Act out adding and subtracting situations by representing quantities with objects, their fingers, and math drawings.
 - Compose and decompose numbers from 11 to 19 into ten ones and some further ones (the first step in understanding base-ten notation.)
 - Classify objects into categories and compare the categories to determine which has more or fewer.
- Partners, Problem Drawings, and Tens
 - Recognize that a collection of objects is composed of two subcollections and combine their cardinalities to find the cardinality of the collection.
 - Identify which of two groups has more than (or fewer than, or the same amount as) the other.
 - Act out adding and subtracting situations by representing quantities with objects, their fingers, and math drawings
 - Compose and decompose numbers from 11 to 19 into ten ones and some further ones (the first step in understanding base-ten notation.)
- Consolidation of Concepts
 - Create and solve story problems and make drawings or write equations to represent problem situations
 - Identify all partners of numbers from 2-10 and teen numbers and write addition equations to represent the partners
 - Achieve fluency adding and subtracting within 5

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 Kindergarten:

Plant & Animal Needs

This unit helps students develop the concept that animals and plants need things in order to survive, and their lives are all about meeting those needs... it's the secret to why they do the many strange and wonderful things that they do! Knowing how they meet their needs can even help students find plants and animals near them.

Weather & Seasons

This unit helps students develop the habit of becoming weather watchers who take pleasure in noticing weather patterns and predicting changes.

Forces, Machines, and Engineering

This unit helps students develop their first concept of "force," and the idea that by playing with forces and thinking about them, we can accomplish surprisingly big 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 Kindergarten, the scope and the social studies curriculum includes:

- Being a Good Citizen
- Flags & Other Symbols
- Jobs
- Neighborhoods

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 kindergarten, 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 Kindergarten level our keyboarding curriculum encompasses: Keys for Me - introduces the keyboard and mouse functions while making sure young children use correct habits from the beginning. Activities support reading and handwriting skills, with a strong focus on letter recognition, blends, digraphs, and rhymes. Students practice these skills with engaging and changing themes: Let's Eat, Off to Work, and On the Go. Spot Checks are used to gauge student understanding of specific skills. Each Spot Check measures speed and accuracy.