



# Whitewater Unified School District

Elementary Curriculum Brochures

Grade Three

<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 third grade level, students begin to apply and manipulate the emergent literacy skills developed in kindergarten through second grade. *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).

### *Words Their Way*

In third 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* utilizes that knowledge to develop this program for classroom instruction.

### *Making Meaning (Lincoln)*

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. Third grade writing emphasizes the following content:

- Crafting true stories
  - Writing personal narratives with independence
  - Becoming a storyteller of the page
  - Writing with new independence on a second piece
  - Fixing up and fancying up our best work: revision and editing
- The art of information writing
  - Organizing information
  - Reaching to write well
  - Moving toward publication, moving toward readers
  - Transferring learning from long projects to short ones
- Changing the world persuasive speeches, petitions, and editorials
  - Launching work on persuasive speeches
  - Raising the level of persuasive writing
  - From persuasive speeches to petitions, editorials, and persuasive letters
  - Forming cause groups
- Once upon a time adapting and writing fairy tales
  - Learning about adaptations by writing in the footsteps of classics
  - Follow the path: Adapting fairy tales with independence

## 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 Third Grade program emphasizes the following content:

- Multiplication and Division with 0-5, 9, and 10
  - Use properties of multiplication and division and patterns to multiply and divide within 100
  - Reach fluency with finding products of single digit numbers and their related quotients
  - Solve two-step word problems involving the four operations using a letter for the unknown quantity

## Math (Cont.)

- Multiplication and Division with 6, 7, 8 and Multiply with Multiples of 10
  - Use properties of multiplication and division and patterns to multiply and divide within 100
  - Reach fluency with finding products of single digit numbers and their related quotients
  - Solve two-step word problems involving the four operations using a letter for the unknown quantity
- Measurement, Time, and Graphs
  - Draw scaled picture graphs and bar graphs
  - Use number lines to represent time intervals
  - Use drawings to represent a problem involving liquid volume and mass
  - Make a line plot to record data
- Multidigit Addition and Subtraction
  - Use place value drawings to represent numbers
  - Use place value drawings to add and subtract whole numbers
  - Explore different methods to add and subtract whole numbers
  - Use strategies based on place value, properties, and the relationship between addition and subtraction
- Write Equations to Solve Word Problems
  - Use drawings and equations with a symbol for the unknown number to represent the problem
  - Use information presented in scaled bar graphs to solve comparison problems
  - Use properties of operations to explain patterns
- Polygons, Perimeter, and Area
  - Recognize attributes of triangles, quadrilaterals, and other polygons
  - Decompose polygons into triangles and compose polygons from triangles
  - Recognize perimeter and area as attributes of plane figures and find ways to measure both attributes
  - Investigate the relationship between perimeter and area
  - Solve real world problems involving area, perimeter, and unknown side lengths
- Explore Fractions
  - Understand the meaning of fractions and see that fractions must be equal parts of the same whole
  - Build non-unit fractions from unit fractions
  - Represent fractions in various ways, including fraction bars, number lines, and fraction strips
  - Compare unit fractions and compare fractions with either the same numerator or the same denominator
  - Find equivalent fractions

# 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 Third Grade:***

## **Animal Survival & Heredity**

In this unit students will develop an appreciation for how animals and the places they live (their habitats) are not constant—they have changed over time. Fossils give us a window to the animals and habitats of the past. Selective breeding shows us not only how some animals of the past became domesticated, but allows us to imagine how they might look in the future.

## **Plant Life Cycle & Heredity**

This unit develops the idea that by studying how plants reproduce and pass on their traits, we human beings have figured out how to make food plants even more useful to us. Students first discover how plants reproduce by exploring the process of pollination and fruiting. Then students are introduced to the process of plant domestication (selection of traits based on inheritance and variation).

## **Weather & Climate**

This unit develops the idea that by paying careful attention to clouds, wind, and other weather clues around us, we can predict the daily weather and make sense of why places on earth look and feel the way they do.

## **Forces, Motion, & Magnets**

This introductory forces unit will give students a new understanding of the invisible pushes and pulls that operate in the world around them. They will realize that understanding forces will let them do surprising things — from building a sturdy bridge from paper to using the pull of a rubber band to send a cardboard “hopper” flying. What students learn in this unit will connect to the world around them, leading them to think about such things as the force of friction as they slide down a playground slide or the invisible force that makes magnets cling to the refrigerator. Hands-on activities focus on engineering, investigation, and discovery.

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

- Mapping Our World
- U.S. Geography
- People & the Environment
- Amazing Inventions
- The First People
- Settling the Land

# 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 3rd Grade, music students will:

- Create and perform musical ideas to demonstrate grade level concepts in a Tuneful, Beatful and Artful way.
  - Expanding the Solfege and Rhythmic syllables to read and write music.
- Respond to music by demonstrating the expressive qualities of the musical examples provided.
  - Utilizing voice, 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 Third Grade level our keyboarding curriculum encompasses: Keyboarding uses activities to sharpen accuracy and fluency skills. With basic keyboarding well in hand, children practice with frequently rotating themes: Sing & Play, Famous Faces, Greek & Latin, Bones & Bodies, and Great Grammar. 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
- Health
  - Nutrition – Food Identity/MyPlate/Build balanced meals
  - Body Parts
  - Heart Health
- Motor Skills
  - Hopping mastery point
  - Jumping mastery point
  - Skipping mastery point
- Manipulative Skills
  - Striking with foot mastery point
  - Hand dribble mastery point
  - Underhand throw mastery point
- Complex Skills
  - Tag (space awareness) 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.