MUSIC

The music program provides the knowledge base for students to understand, discuss, think, write and create. It teaches the role of music in today's society and the relationship of the arts to students' personal, social, cultural, civic, and intellectual lives. The music program supports and reinforces the recommendations of the Massachusetts Performing Arts Curriculum Frameworks.

Program Goals:

- Sing and play instruments, learning a repertoire of traditional, folk, patriotic and other songs and pieces.
- Move to music, exploring creative and structured movement.
- Read music, using music reading skills learned in music classes.
- Listen to music, exploring the purpose, expression, and composers of a variety of musical styles.
- Think about, evaluate, and write about music and drama performance, style, and expression.
- Make connections between music and other arts and subject areas.
- Provide in-depth opportunities for students to explore singing and playing instruments in band classes.

Director: Heather Cote

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Westwood elementary Physical Education program is designed to teach students movement concepts and motor skills that provide a solid foundation for children to live healthy and active lives. Developmentally appropriate skills and concepts are taught and ample opportunities are provided over time in an enjoyable and supportive environment to learn and practice skills. This is key to creating an atmosphere where students are motivated and successful in Physical Education.

The program focuses primarily on three areas: Movement concepts, Motor skills, and Fitness concepts. Ball skills, gymnastics, fitness, and dance are also core to the curriculum. Individual units may vary slightly from school to school, however the basic concepts are the same and are aligned with national and state standards.

Cooperative and social skills are implemented and woven throughout the curriculum. When students leave elementary school, they understand what it takes to be a good sport and teammate and have an appreciation for the satisfaction that results from involvement in physical activity.

Director: Judith Wine

Special Area Subjects K-5

WESTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Special Areas
K-5

INTRODUCTION

Westwood students in kindergarten through grade five participate in the special area subjects of Art, Library Media, Performing Arts, and Physical Education. In special area classes, students share a broad spectrum of experiences that are interactive, challenging, and rewarding.

THE SCHEDULE

Students in grades 1-5 attend each special subject for at least one forty-five minute period weekly. Kindergarten classes meet for thirty minutes. Grade one has an additional period of Physical Education and grade three an additional period of Art each week. Grade two has two periods of Physical Education weekly for half the year and two periods of Art for half the year. Grade four has two periods of Performing Arts throughout the year, one dedicated to general music and one to instrumental lessons. Grade five has an additional period of general music for half the year and an additional period for drama the other half.

In addition to weekly scheduled classes, students are encouraged to use the library throughout the year to work on projects planned by the library media staff and teachers. These projects may take place over a series of periods or days. Depending on availability, students may use the library independently as well.

ART

The art curriculum is designed to nurture and sustain the process of visual communication through experiences that encourage self-expression and the analysis of works of art. Original and authentic expression is achieved through activities that develop and sustain a child's natural curiosity, encourage the acquisition and use of visual language tools, and foster a creative and self-reflective attitude.

Experimentation with a wide variety of artistic materials and techniques, exploration of various modes of expression from observation to abstraction, exposure to the artistic heritage of different world cultures, and cultivation of imaginative, reflective and analytical thinking are all essential components of the program.

The art curriculum is designed as a sequential and spiraling program. Essential elements and principles are covered in each grade, with progressive intensification and complexity added in successive years. The curriculum is tied to the Massachusetts Visual Arts Curriculum Frameworks, incorporating all ten standards.

Director: Diane Kaiser

LIBRARY MEDIA

The mission of the library program in the Westwood Public Schools is to provide students with the skills and resources to become independent critical readers, thinkers, and information users. The program is designed to support and enhance the Westwood Public Schools' curriculum and its goals.

"A library is a place where wonder lives."

Julius Lester

Program Goals:

- Encourage students to develop an appreciation for reading and lifelong learning
- Provide a learning environment that encourages intellectual exploration and active learning
- Provide equitable access to resources for a variety of learning styles
- Serve as the school information center for students and teachers
- Provide resources and activities that support school curriculum and represent a diverse range of experiences and perspectives
- Provide a program that teaches students to use ethically and understand a variety of information, sources, technologies and formats
- Assess and adjust programs to support District initiatives and best practices

Director: Mary Braney