

Responsive Classroom: Kindergarten through Fourth Grade

Character education and supporting the growth of the whole child is a cornerstone of East Woods School. The teachers in Kindergarten through Fourth Grade employ the Responsive Classroom educational philosophy. Responsive Classroom is a research-based learning program that emphasizes social, emotional, and academic growth. The approach consists of a set of classroom practices including: starting each day with a morning meeting, ending the day with a closing circle, and using interactive modeling, positive teacher language, and logical consequences. Depending on the day, teachers may incorporate “energizers” to help students transition from one activity to another, either to bring the energy up or to calm the energy down. “Quiet Time” is another favorite, when students are given just a few minutes to remain quiet with choices such as resting their heads, reading quietly or drawing quietly. These daily routines and teaching strategies build both academic and social-emotional competencies in children.

Physical Education: Kindergarten through Fourth Grade

Students in Kindergarten through Third Grade participate in Physical Education classes three times per week. In Fourth Grade, the students participate in Physical Education twice per week. The central goal of the East Woods Physical Education program is to promote a lifelong

healthy and physically active lifestyle. Through explicit instruction and participation in a wide variety of games, activities, and physical challenges, students develop important skills such as teamwork, coordination, strength, endurance, balance, fair play, and sportsmanship.

Art: Kindergarten through Fourth Grade

Students in Kindergarten through Fourth Grade participate in the art making process once a week throughout the school year. Students are exposed to lessons on the basics of art through a hands-on process inspired by their surrounding world in conjunction with art history and contemporary art. As they learn about different elements of design and design principles such as balance and proportion, students complete projects involving drawing with a variety of tools, painting with a variety of media and tools, printmaking, sculpture, and collage. The art curriculum on each grade level is linked to various classroom topics and themes, and children gain insights and perspective from these interdisciplinary projects.

Library: Kindergarten through Fourth Grade

The program of the Rousmaniere Library at East Woods School promotes information literacy, and the ability to effectively use and communicate information, and it fosters an understanding and appreciation of literature across genres. Students in Kindergarten through Fourth Grade visit the library once a week for forty-minute classes. At each grade level,



the library curriculum builds in complexity in teaching information management skills and literature appreciation skills. Guided practice helps students develop their writing, speaking and visual literacy skills to communicate information. The students learn to locate materials for personal interests in a variety of formats, and they learn to collaborate with others to demonstrate their learning.



Technology: Kindergarten through Fourth Grade

Students in Kindergarten through Fourth Grade have formal technology instruction two times per week for thirty minutes in the technology lab. While working on projects tied to the grade level curriculum, students build proficiency in standard tools such as word processing, spreadsheets, presentation programs (both online and offline), 3D design and printing, photo manipulation, and databases. Additionally, digital citizenship, keyboarding, and coding are covered in depth at different times during the year. The technology concepts and skills are taught with increasing complexity as students move from grade to grade.

Science Lab Experiences: Kindergarten through Fourth Grade

Students in Kindergarten through Fourth Grade participate in in-depth science labs linked to the curriculum every other week throughout the year. The labs are planned and run by Jane Powel, CEO of OmniLearn, and her staff, in concert with the classroom teachers. While



hands-on science experiments are already part of the East Woods classroom curriculum, the labs run by professional scientists allow students to delve deeper into the concepts by having lab experiences such as making hail in a test tube and cricket habitats in Kindergarten, creating giant models of spinal cords and replicating chromatophores in First Grade, creating a composting bin using redworms in Second Grade, dissecting sheep hearts in Third Grade, and simulating earthquakes in Fourth Grade.

Music: Kindergarten through Third Grade

Students in Kindergarten through Third Grade attend music class twice per week. Music classes include three dimensions - music literacy, music appreciation, and music application. Students learn music literacy through activities involving singing, listening, reading, writing, dictation, improvisation, composition, and evaluation. Through lessons focusing on music history, music terminology, evaluation of music and music performances, and how music relates to other areas, students

learn music appreciation. When students are actively participating in music and applying their learning, they are moving, listening, expressing, developing their voices, or working on instrument technique. In addition to a full assortment of classroom instruments available to all grade levels (pitched and non-pitched percussion), Second Grade students learn to play the song flute and Third Grade students study the recorder. The students also participate in several musical performances throughout the year.

Music: Fourth Grade

All Fourth Grade students attend General Music once a week. The goal of this class is for students to build lifelong and meaningful connections with music. The program focuses on Western Classical Music as well as American



Popular Music and World Music. Musicianship is developed through lessons that emphasize singing, playing, moving, listening, and creating through the use of digital technology. In addition to one weekly period of General Music, Fourth Grade students have the opportunity to choose a band instrument and have an additional period of instruction with either their instrument lesson group or the Fourth Grade Band. Fourth Grade students also participate in Lower School Chorus once a week.

Industrial Arts: Third and Fourth Grade

Starting in Third Grade, students participate in Industrial Arts once a week. The goals of the program are for students to learn how to safely use basic hand tools for woodworking, how to think creatively and solve design problems, and how to cooperate and work effectively with others. Students complete both theme projects such as carving the initials of a U.S. state studied in Third Grade and free projects that involve using imagination and experimentation in construction using wood scraps.

Athletics: Fourth Grade

All Fourth Grade students have the opportunity to participate in the athletic program in addition to attending the regular physical education classes in order to fulfill the physical education requirement for East Woods School. The purpose of allowing Fourth Graders to participate in the athletic program is to help these students develop the skills, strategies, attitudes, and knowl-



edge to be successful participants in future years. There are generally teams in soccer, basketball, baseball, softball, cross country, and lacrosse. For an additional fee, any boy or girl in Fourth Grade who would like to play ice hockey is permitted to do so, pending parent approval. A dance class is also offered to boys and girls during the Winter Season.