

Special Instructional and Support Programs

The Edgewood staff is comprised of many talented and highly trained educators. In addition to classroom teachers, students receive instruction and support from teachers who specialize in particular disciplines.

Art with Mr. Matt Fitzpatrick: All students participate in art class at least once in a six day cycle. Art in the elementary schools fosters the development of individual ability by increasing artistic skills, improving visual sensitivity, and teaching the academic language of art. Elementary students develop confidence in making personal aesthetic choices as they are introduced to the study of art history. Students learn to respect and value the efforts of others as they explore a variety of media.

Computer with Mr. Tomizawa: Students in Kindergarten through fifth grades receive computer instruction. Students will learn computer and research skills that enhance their understanding of other curriculum content and assist them in presenting the information they have learned.

ENL (English as a New Language) with Ms. Malula Gonzalez: Children whose home language is other than English are screened for E.N.L. services under the guidelines set by New York State. Additionally, students meeting language requirements, who are referred by classroom teachers, staff, or parents are also screened. Students who qualify for support services under state mandates receive supplemental instruction in English reading, writing, listening and speaking. Students continue to receive support services until they have met the exit criteria set by the state and district. On occasion, advanced students may receive supplemental support as they transition into a mainstream classroom.

Foreign Language in Elementary Schools (F.L.E.S.) with Ms. Lisa Houston: Second, third, fourth and fifth graders will learn Spanish this year as part of the District's F.L.E.S. program. They will receive 95 minutes of instruction in each six day cycle from Ms. Lisa Houston, Edgewood's elementary Spanish teacher. Ms. Houston will collaborate with grade level teachers to integrate her instruction with the English language arts, social studies, math and science lessons. The goals of the F.L.E.S. program are to help children: (1) become proficient in listening and speaking, (2) develop a sense of cultural awareness, and (3) acquire some proficiency in reading and writing.

Instrumental Music with Ms. Connie Leviatin and Mr. Enrique Orengo: Instrumental music begins for all students in third grade. During the first trimester, third graders receive two lessons on each of four instruments: violin, cello, clarinet and baritone horn. After that exploratory period, the students select one of the four instruments. They continue with that instrument for the remainder of third grade and receive one lesson a week on that instrument.

In fourth and fifth grades students are encouraged, but not required, to continue with the instrument they chose in third grade. Small group instruction is available, and the teaching utilizes an ensemble approach. Students receive weekly group lessons during the regular school day. Each school's band and orchestra rehearses before school one day a week. Bands, orchestras and choruses perform two concerts during the school year.

Although music exists as an independent discipline with its own curriculum, it is also integrated into the entire educational program, providing an additional dimension to the students' view of life and all the aspects by which it is interpreted and affected.

Library – Media Center with Ms. Alison Turner: All students attend library class at least once a week. Here they are introduced to literature, research, library skills, and the use of multiple media equipment. In addition, the library is open for student use throughout the day. The librarian, assistant and many parent volunteers process and maintain our holdings and assist students with book selections.

Learning Center with Mrs. Bevin Pagel and Mrs. Julie Abbe: The Learning Resource Center ("LRC") provides supplemental and remedial support for those children who meet district criteria to receive assistance with reading, writing, mathematics and organizational skills. The LRC teachers provide an effective, supportive, collaborative program for students in need of academic support. In addition, the LRC teachers conduct both formal and informal educational evaluations to determine student strengths and weaknesses so that appropriate remedial support or intervention may be provided. LRC teachers work closely with classroom teachers and parents. Services are provided on the building level through the Committee of Special Education.

Physical Education with Mr. Jeffrey Weigel / Ms. Kaitlin Nolan. All students attend physical education classes. Individual and group activities are used at all levels to develop individual physical skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Cooperative rather

than competitive activities are stressed. Classes are conducted both in the gym and on the playing field.

Psychologist – Dr. Janelle Brown: The school psychologist works closely with teachers, parents, and students to give support to them with all aspects of developmental growth. The psychologist meets with and screens all children as they enter kindergarten. She is available for consultation with all parents. You may call the main office for an appointment.

Speech and Language with Mrs. Jill Rappaport: The speech and language specialist provides evaluation and remediation of speech, voice, fluency, language, and communication skills. All students in Grades K-3 as well as all students who are new to the district are screened annually to identify students with special language needs. All students who are referred by classroom teachers, staff, parents, and private practitioners are also screened. Priority services are given to qualifying students whose language difficulties fall within New York State regulations. Services are provided at the building level through the Committee of Special Education. The speech and language therapist may be reached through the main office.

Vocal Music with Ms. Jennifer Guistano: The music program follows a sequential format based on the musical elements of rhythm, harmony, melody, structure, and musical expression. In the primary grades, the focus is on rhythm and melody. Children are actively engaged in listening, singing, moving, composing, and playing classroom instruments. Examples, taken from the music of many cultures, provide opportunities for expression and increase knowledge about music in various parts of the world. Although music exists as an independent discipline with its own curriculum, it is also integrated into the entire educational program, providing an additional dimension to the student's view of life and all of the various aspects by which it is interpreted and affected.

Students in Grades K through 4 receive vocal music instruction for two periods in each six day cycle. Students in Grades 4 and 5 participate in a grade-level chorus. Several musical performances are held during the school year.