

Weekly Specialist Updates 2021-2022

Specialist News/Announcements

Elective letters are posted on the Underwood website:

<https://sites.google.com/a/wcpss.net/elective-communication/>

Breaking News!

Art (updated 8/26/2021)

G'Day to you, artists!

- **Mrs. Bryson-Jacobs/ Mrs. Goldberg Grade 4** has been focusing on symmetry, asymmetry, and radial symmetry with origami.
- **Ms. Bunemann's Grade 2** has been learning how they can make fruits come to life. We used Letterland's Curious Cat to complete some realistic pumpkins. We also learned a lot about pumpkins this week.
- **Mrs. Snyder's ECS 2** class has been learning about shapes, and we created teddy bear puppets.
- **Mrs. Fisher's Grade 1** class has just started their animal unit on the fox. We, like Mrs. Bottom's class has learned interesting facts about the fox, whilst learning how to draw them.

Please scroll down for some items from my **wishlist**.

Wishlist items for the art room:

Clorox wipes, paper towels, baby wipes, styrofoam meat trays, (please wash in the upper rack of dishwasher) non-coated paper plates, google eyes, glitter glue, ribbon, tulle, glitter, water jugs, styrofoam egg cartons, large yogurt containers with plastic lids, plastic lids, (different sizes) yarn, fabric, foam letter, shapes, cardstock, or other art and craft items that you may have on hand that you no longer need.

Band: (updated 8/30/21)

Hello Unicorns!! Welcome back!!

I am still enjoying visiting and having specials with our 2nd and 3rd graders. If I have not seen you yet, don't worry. We will get together in the next week before electives begin and we will begin our journey through the band special. We are having a great time and will continue to do so as the year progresses.

And if you are a 3rd, 4th or 5th grader, it is STILL not too late to sign up for the band electives that I will offer daily in the cafeteria. So if you would like to join us, just get a

schedule change and join all the fun. And remember the word of the day: BAND BAND BAND!!! Hope you will join us and be part of the fun all year!!

PLEASE NOTE: Beginning Band for the 2nd quarter was left off the elective brochure. Please contact Ashley Cooper, Magnet Coordinator, for potential problems and class changes.

Mr. Richardson

Dance: (updated 9/2/21)

Dance specials are up and running! This week:

- Mrs. Oke's 4th graders will finish their Chance Dance unit, then Ms. Craft's 5th graders will begin their first choreography project.
- Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Williams' 2nd graders will use the processes of mirroring and shadowing to develop their understanding of the use of body shapes.
- Mrs. Fox's kindergartners and Mrs. Loflin's 1st graders will practice freezing on cue and keeping it safe while dancing through space with others.

Drama: (updated 9/2/21)

We have been focusing on the skill of listening. Listening is a skill that everyone can get better at doing. I have designed some activities that help the students accentuate and develop this skill. Part of the nuance of communication is being aware. Only 7% of communication uses words. The rest is comprised of body language, facial expression and tone. We have been using fun and insightful games utilizing all these communication traits.

The first few weeks have also been important in establishing procedures. When we are creative it can be a lot of fun with a lot of laughter. However it is sometimes difficult to bring the students down once they are so excited. We are working on discipline in listening. Not only am I trying to teach them skills with being better speakers and actors, I'm also trying to help them become better listeners and a better audience.

Here are the drama electives for this quarter:

4th/5th Grades: Movie/Theater Production.

Because of the continuing threat of covid we decided to mix things up a little this year. With the threat of not being allowed to perform in front of audiences we are producing a hybrid theater/movie experience. We will be producing a movie this year which was my background while I worked in Hollywood. It should be different, fun, exciting and challenging.

3rd/4th/5th Grades: Scriptwriting

This is one of my favorite classes to teach. We will deconstruct the process of storytelling and learn how to create our own scripts in script format. Pixar recently

teamed up with Khan Academy to create a wonderful series of how to create characters and the structure that makes up great stories. Each of the students will write their very own movie script.

2nd/3rd Grades: Creative Drama

We will practice and play a lot of improvisational games to stretch the creativity of all the students. This class is a lot of fun and often times students are having so much fun they won't realize that they are having fun and building important life skills.

1st/2nd Grades: Intro to Acting

Student will develop important communication skills by interacting with partners in developing stories and speaking in front of each other. This class (as with all my classes I think) is a lot fun. Why, because drama and creating is fun.

Media/Tech: (updated 8/31/21)

Welcome back Unicorns!

- We have completed our Chromebook distribution! Yea! Keep in mind, if you have declined to receive a Chromebook, these devices are free and replaceable one time. They are also secure and protected by Wake County Tech experts. We are unable to support personal devices and cannot guarantee a Chromebook later in the year if your personal device breaks.
- While we are awaiting library orientation. Students are welcome to continue reserving books in Destiny. [E Book directions](#) [Library book directions](#)
- We are building a bulletin board with Leo the Library Dog's friends and family. **Please send in a photo of your child with their pets or favorite stuffed animals to add to our board.**
- We are updating the [website](#) as needs arise, please let us know how we can support your media technology needs.

Music: (updated 9/2/21)

It has been wonderful to see students this week!

Craft, Hamelin, and Dunston reviewed so, mi and do pitches. Students started learning the song "Pajarito Tan Bonito" and played the game. We learned about Tito Puente and his background. We played small percussion instruments with music composed by Puente.

Kindergarten students are learning to find the beat in music through movement and singing. Students experimented with triangles in partners and played triangles with "The Aquarium" by Camille Saint Seans.

I enjoy working with each class.

Please let me know if you have any questions at any time. Thank You for all that you do!

Sincerely,
Dawn Spiggle
Music Specialist - dspiggle@wcpss.net

PE: (updated 9/2/21)

Greetings Underwood Unicorns!

Recruiting New Safety Patrol Team: We will meet this week to address where our school needs more support as a team and confirm emails etc. All information will get sent out via email with assigned training date, assigned duties, and contact list. Students will train next week and will be ready to assist in keeping Underwood safe mid September. Stay tuned!

Specials & Electives: It is great to see classes in person. We are reviewing procedures, expectations, and moving in PE! We are social distancing and exercising in our personal space, playing different games to focus on cooperative learning, and reviewing the importance of sportsmanship. We are also preparing for Unicorn Trot by training to improve our endurance with walking and jogging. Practice makes progress!

1st Quarter Electives: Options for PE

4th/5th: International Games

3rd/4th/5th: Track & Field (on campus meet)

2nd/3rd: Racquet Sports

1st/2nd: Rhythms, Ropes, Hoops, and Chutes

2nd Quarter Electives: Options for PE

4th/5th: Rhythms, Ropes, Hoops & Chutes

3rd/4th/5th: Team Sports

2nd/3rd: PE Variety

1st/2nd: Ready, Set, Move

Wellness Tip of the Week: Be Sure to Get Sleep

Even though most of us have eight-hour jobs during the day or night, it is crucial to get enough sleep to recharge the body's batteries. Six to eight hours of sleep will keep the body going throughout the day, but if you happen to feel tired at any point after coming home from work, by all means take a small nap before exercising. You should only nap for about a half hour. This will prevent you from staying up later in the night.

Cited: Active.gov, 2021

Need Coaches, Girls on the Run at Underwood (GOTR): Girls on the Run is returning to Underwood this fall and we need your support!

Who is GOTR for: The program is for students in grades 3-5.

What is GOTR?: Girls on the Run uses the power of being active to change the way 3rd to 5th grade girls see themselves and their futures. The innovative curriculum combines training for a fun 5k event with leadership-building lessons that boost confidence, self-love and connection with others. The goal of the program is to unleash confidence through accomplishment, while establishing a lifetime appreciation of health and fitness.

When are the Season Dates?: Tuesday and Thursday 4pm-5:15pm at Underwood. Our season starts officially the week of Oct 11th - December 11th.

The 5K is on Dec 11, 2021 , which ends the season.

If you are interested in coaching our students grades 3th-5th students with Girls on the Run: You may get more information and complete application here: [Girls on the Run Coach Application](#) or https://www.gotrtriangle.org/Coach?utm_source=fall_21&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=coach_recruitment&utm_term=coach_this_fall

Registration for Students: Go to www.GOTRTriangle.org
Cost \$170 per girl - Financial assistance and payment plans available

Spanish: (updated 9/2/21)

Saludos a las Familias,
Electives start Monday 9/13! Looking forward to a Fabuloso Fall!
Continuing Spanish and Beginning Spanish for grades 1-5 are offered first and second quarters. If you have any questions about the Spanish Elective please email me at mmckenna@wcpss.net I would love to hear from you.

2nd and 3rd Grade Spanish Specials

Students in 2nd and 3rd grade are practicing basic Salutations and learning our PRIDE expectations in Spanish. Students had fun playing charades with their classmates to review our “Cinco Amigos” or Active Listening friends that help us learn in the Spanish Classroom.

¡Gracias!

Strings: (updated 9/2/21)

Hello,

Specials: Students are learning about Hispanic Heritage Month. This week's artist spotlight is Gloria Estefan (b.1957). We will be learning how to play syncopated rhythm instruments to Gloria Estefan's “Turn the Beat Around” and “Get On Your Feet.” Students will also compose a four measure composition and perform their composition during class. Students will also write a reflection about their composition. The compositions and reflection should be used for their digital portfolio.

Electives 4th and 5th Graders:

If you have experience taking strings please sign up for
Period 1-Continuing Strings-Pathway to Orchestra II (4th/5th Grade)

3rd, 4th, 5th with little to no experience please sign up for:
Period 2-Beginning Strings-Pathway to Orchestra I (3rd-5th Grade)

Specialist Info:

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