

IROQUOIS SCHOOL

'An Environment For Academic Excellence'

STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK

Handy References/Resources

- **How to contact a staff member**

Dial 342-3450 and listen carefully to the following menu options:

Attendance Office

Health Office

Guidance Office

Main Office

Dial by Name Directory

- **Westirondequoit.org → link to state website**

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GENERAL INFORMATION

SCHEDULE

The school day extends from 8:25 a.m. until 2:30 p.m., with a homeroom period and a 45 minute lunch period. **Students who do not ride buses should not arrive at school before 8:15 a.m.** Parents driving students to school should drop them off at the sidewalks on Washington Avenue, Colebrook Drive or on the west side of the building closest to the fourth grade wing. **Students should not be dropped off in the parking lots or the bus loop.** Students may enter the building at 8:15 a.m. and must leave at 2:30 p.m. unless under the supervision of a teacher for make-up work or a scheduled activity.

FOURTH GRADE SCHEDULE

<u>Period</u>	<u>Time</u>
Morning	8:25 - 12:15
Lunch	12:15 - 1:00
Afternoon	1:00 - 2:30

FIFTH GRADE SCHEDULE

<u>Period</u>	<u>Time</u>
Homeroom	8:25 - 8:30
1	8:30 - 9:15
2	9:15 - 10:00
3	10:00 - 10:45
4	10:45 - 11:30
5 (lunch)	11:30 - 12:15
6	12:15 - 1:00
7	1:00 - 1:45
8	1:45 - 2:30

SIXTH GRADE SCHEDULE

<u>Period</u>	<u>Time</u>
Homeroom	8:25 - 8:30
1	8:30 - 9:15
2	9:15 - 10:00
3	10:00 - 10:45
4 (lunch)	10:45 - 11:30
5	11:30 - 12:15
6	12:15 - 1:00
7	1:00 - 1:45
8	1:45 - 2:30

HOMEROOM PROCEDURES

The homeroom period is from 8:25-8:30 during which time:

- Attendance is taken
- Lunch count is taken
- Pledge of Allegiance is recited
- Attention is given to announcements
- Excuses for absence, tardiness, and early dismissal are collected

The homeroom period is an important part of the day during which students prepare themselves for the day as well as accomplish the tasks outlined above. It is a quiet time. When children are tardy, they lose the opportunity for a positive start to the day that homeroom provides.

ATTENDANCE/ABSENCE PROCEDURES

All Attendance Procedures are handled through the Health Office at Iroquois. If your child will be absent or tardy, please call the school Health Office directly (336-3091) rather than the Main Office. Voice mail is available 24 hours per day for your convenience. It is most important that you call so that we can properly monitor your child's attendance. If a student is absent and the absence is not reported, the school will attempt to contact the parent by phone. On the day of return to school following an absence, the student must bring a written excuse from the parent giving the date(s) of and specific reason for the absence. A similar statement is required for all instances of tardiness, appointments during the school day, and/or early dismissal. **Please be aware that the written excuse is required by State Law.**

If a student arrives at school after homeroom starts (8:25 a.m.) s/he **MUST** sign in at the Health Office and obtain a hall pass before going to class. Students having appointments during school hours or students leaving school before regular dismissal **MUST** sign out at the Health Office and **MUST** be accompanied by a parent or other designated adult. No student will be allowed to leave the building without parent or guardian identified by the parent in writing or confirmed by phone.

Absence or tardiness can interfere significantly with academic progress. If a persistent pattern of absence or tardiness becomes a chronic problem for a child, we will contact the parent(s) and work together to ensure that the child is in school and on time. In extraordinary cases, we are obligated to report the attendance issue to Child Protective Services.

MAKE-UP WORK

We often receive questions from parents as to what is expected in terms of lost instruction when children are illegally absent from school as for a family vacation when school is in session. We hope the following considerations will be helpful.

The instruction and learning that occur on a daily basis in the classroom is central to our mission. The tasks that are assigned and completed during class generally cannot be duplicated through outside activities or assignments.

Classroom interactions and the learning that occurs through them form the basis for homework assignments. It is difficult to anticipate how these interactions will effect homework assignments when a child is absent for an extended period. Said another way, teachers plan assignments in advance but regularly make changes in response to a class's particular instructional needs. So, during the course of several days of instruction, assignments may change dramatically.

Teachers may prepare assignments for students and parents based on their intended instructional plans or they may provide information to students upon return from the absence. Written materials and classwork that are given to the class during the absence will be provided to the student upon his/her return to school. Teachers may choose to work with the student before or after school depending on the nature of the assignments and work missed. Students are expected to make up all assignments within a reasonable time, and teachers will make appropriate efforts on their behalf. Our teachers continue to be committed to the success of all of our students.

Parents should make every effort to plan family vacations during school recesses and around New York State assessments. In the event that this is not possible, it is important to recognize that it is the parents' responsibility and their children's responsibility to make up missed work and assignments.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Reporting student absences - Parents are responsible for reporting student absences to the school by telephone before 9:00 a.m. (336-3091) and by written excuse upon the student's return from an absence. (See Absence Procedures)

Emergency cards - Parents are responsible for submitting a completed emergency card for each school year. These cards will be kept in the Health Office. **Please call the health office as soon as possible if information changes so that we can update our records.**

Permission slips - If an activity is sponsored off school grounds during the school day (i.e. field trip), a parent or guardian must sign a slip giving or declining permission for the child to attend the event. The child must remain at school if no slip is received.

PROCEDURES FOR STUDENTS LEAVING OR TRANSFERRING

Parents should inform the school counselor about a transfer and provide addresses of new home and school. Parents must sign a release of records form so that records can be forwarded to the new school.

LOCKS AND LOCKERS

A hall locker and a gym locker will be assigned to each 5th and 6th grade student at the beginning of the school year. The student is then responsible for:

- keeping his/her own locker clean, inside and out
- reporting broken or faulty lockers to the office
- Locks for both are provided through the main office. **Any items in a school locker that may be harmful or disruptive are not permitted.**
- There is a \$5.00 fee for lost or stolen locks.

It is most important that students carefully lock their lockers. In nearly all cases, any tampering with locks or lockers is possible only because students are not locking the locks.

BICYCLES/SKATE BOARDS/ROLLERBLADES/SCOOTERS

Children are allowed to ride their bicycles to school with permission of their parents. We are very concerned that children know and follow safety rules on their bicycles. Parents should be certain that their children:

- lock bike on bike rack in cage
- are skilled riders
- follow lane markings
- use hand signals
- obey crossing guards
- obey traffic signs and signals
- ride in a straight line
- watch for cars pulling out
- avoid road hazards
- ride a safe, well equipped bike
- choose a route with few cars, slow traffic, few intersections
- **wear a safety helmet**



STATE LAW REQUIRES THAT ALL CHILDREN WEAR BICYCLE HELMETS

Bike registrations are available at the town hall.

Skate board, roller blades, and scooters may not be used on school property. Motorized vehicles are not permitted on school property.

LOST AND FOUND

The school is not responsible for damage or theft of personal belongings. A student who finds items of value in the school building or on school grounds should turn them in to the office. Lost items may be claimed before and after school in the office or the Lost and Found box on the lower level.

EMERGENCY DRILL PROCEDURES

Fire drill procedure: At the sound of the fire alarm all students must leave the building single file, in good order, and in silence and move at least 100 feet from the building. An all-clear signal indicates when it is safe to return to the building. Students who are not in a classroom must observe the same procedure.

Evacuation: the same procedures used for fire drills will be followed, with students moving to the back field. (If necessary, St. Thomas the Apostle Church and Colebrook School will be used for an evacuation of an extended period of time.)

Lock Down: exterior and interior doors to the building will be secured and locked with students remaining in their classrooms.

Sheltering: students and staff will assemble in the hallways of the building, in a seated “tuck” position.

The purpose for conducting these drills is to ensure that our students will know what to do in the event of an emergency situation. Our goal is to provide a safe, orderly and calm environment during the drills and in the event of a real emergency.

EMERGENCY CLOSING

There may be times, due to adverse weather or other emergencies, when it will be necessary to close school. If the decision to close is made before the opening of school in the morning, local radio and television stations will carry the news. **Connect Ed phone calls will be used also to notify parents/guardians of necessary school closing.** If school is closed on successive days, the announcement will be repeated each day.

Should it be necessary to close school during the day, staff will follow instructions designated by parents on the emergency school closing cards. These cards must be kept updated by parents at all times.

PARENT ORIENTATION NIGHT

Parent Orientation is a school sponsored activity scheduled during the early fall for the purpose of acquainting parents with the school program and providing the opportunity for parents and teachers to meet one another. If parents have specific questions or concerns about their children, they should make an appointment with the teacher(s). Unfortunately, parent conferences cannot be conducted during Parent Orientation Night.

VISITORS

ALL visitors must report to the school office upon entering the building, and must wear a visitors badge in classrooms and halls.

LUNCH

The student lunchroom sells a variety of complete lunches. Students may pay daily or parents may choose to pay for lunches in advance. Students may bring a lunch from home and supplement it with a la carte items such as milk, cereal, yogurt, bagels, chips, crackers, cheese, etc. The lunch/recess period lasts for 45 minutes. During this time, students eat lunch and attend an activity of choice. These activities include organized sports, cooperative team games, socializing, and quiet study.





TRANSPORTATION

Resident students in Grade 4, 5 and 6 are eligible for school transportation if they live over a mile and a half from school. Transportation is handled through the District Administration Building (336-2992). Students being bused to Iroquois School are scheduled to arrive at about 8:10 a.m. and depart at about 2:35 p.m. If a bus riding student wishes to ride a different bus home with a friend, parents must make this request in writing. If a bus rider will not ride the bus home, this must be indicated on the emergency card completed by the parent. If there are questions concerning the Urban-Suburban school buses during a snow emergency or at any other time, call the Transportation Hot Line at 336-4000. Non-bus riding students are not permitted on the busses for any reason.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

There are a variety of activities offered to students at Iroquois School ranging from musical groups to intramural and special interest clubs. Students are invited to join in any of the following activities which meet their interests:

Ski Club - Ski Club operates during the winter months on Fridays after school for students in grades 5 and 6. Discount ski packages and transportation are arranged by the school.

Intramurals - Intramural sports are held after school on a regular basis. The activities are directed by our physical education staff and support and extend the physical education program. Days set aside for particular grade levels are regularly communicated to students and parents.

Math Olympiad - The Math Olympiad Club is offered to any interested 5th or 6th grade student. The emphasis is on having fun, thinking mathematically, and problem solving. Flyers will be sent home before the first session to let parents and children know of the schedule.

Chorus – Any 5th or 6th grader can extend his/her musical knowledge and ability while having a wonderful time singing challenging music by joining the chorus. Rehearsals are on alternate mornings from band and orchestra beginning at 7:40. Fourth graders work toward their spring choral concert in their general music classes.

Band and Orchestra – 5th and 6th grade students studying band or orchestra instruments participate in the 5th/6th band and orchestra. Rehearsals are held on alternate mornings from chorus beginning at 7:40 and several concerts are held during the school year. 4th grade students prepare throughout the school year for their spring concert.

Service Club - Representatives for student government are elected in each 4th, 5th and 6th grade homerooms. The student government meets on a regular basis to make decisions concerning student activities, school improvements, and charitable fund raising.

Odyssey of the Mind - The O.M. program is an international creative problem solving opportunity. Each year Iroquois sponsors teams which compete in local (and sometimes State) competitions. While the culmination is a competition, the emphasis is on teams working cooperatively to solve fascinating problems. The O.M. teams are coached by parent or teacher volunteers. If you are interested in helping, please let us know in the school office. Flyers will be sent home to communicate the details of the O.M. program.

Specific information concerning the details and scheduling of all of the above activities will be communicated through newsletters, morning announcements, and/or flyers.

There are other student activities scheduled that vary from year to year.

STUDENT RESOURCES



THE LIBRARY

Library instruction supports curriculum-based learning activities. Research skills are taught through the use of the online catalog, the Internet, note-taking and bibliography skills as well as many other research tools. Literature genres are introduced through Book Talks scheduled with reading classes. Reading is highlighted with special activities such as the Summer Reading Promotion, the Weekly Wednesday Book Review program, the Book Fair, the Reading Marathon and the Authors Club. Books are loaned for a three week period. Reference books and books on reserve are available for overnight loan. Overdue fines are not charged, although students are expected to pay for lost books. Students have access to the Library daily from 8:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Visit our Library on the Internet at: www.westirondequoit.org/Iroquois/Library/Index.htm.

TECHNOLOGY

The Iroquois computer lab is available for classes to enhance student learning through keyboarding, word processing, the development of Power Point presentations, and other multi-media projects. There are a variety of curriculum based software programs available at the teacher's discretion.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

PHILOSOPHY

Every child shall have the right to a safe, orderly, and productive educational experience at Iroquois School.

IROQUOIS SCHOOL RULES

1. We will show respect for other people by demonstrating polite, courteous behavior (i.e. please, thank you, excuse me).
2. We will show respect for other people by avoiding name calling, teasing, or inappropriate language.
3. We will show respect for other people by refraining from inappropriate gestures or physical provocation.
4. We will show respect for everyone's safety.
5. We will show respect for authority by following directions from staff members.

CELL PHONES, ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The responsible use of electronic devices, cell phones and social media before, during and after the school day is critical to promoting healthy decision making and a positive climate and culture at Iroquois Middle School. Inappropriate use that includes but is not limited to harassment, bullying, threatening or intimidation of any kind or that creates a disruption to the normal business of the school day will result in school based consequences to include in-school or out-of-school suspension. If the conduct occurs off school grounds and causes or threatens to cause ill will towards a student, the building, or its staff, the conduct will be treated just as it had occurred at school, and the school administration will impose consequences in accordance with the inappropriate conduct.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Cell phones, IPODS, sound producing equipment, cameras and novelty items such as laser pointers, are prohibited from use during the school day in classrooms or in halls. Students are discouraged from bringing this type of equipment into school, since the equipment could be damaged or stolen, as well as causing disruptions to the instructional day. Teachers may confiscate such items if they are worn, or used during school hours. The teachers or principal will return them to students at the end of the day. If a second violation occurs, the equipment will be held until the parent comes and picks the item up in the office. If a third violation occurs, the item will only be returned to a parent and it will not be allowed to be brought back into school for the remainder of the year.

CONSEQUENCES FOR INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

In general, the children respond positively when a person in charge points out misbehavior. In cases of severe or repeated misbehavior such as fighting, theft, or defying authority, students will be referred to an administrator.

Actions for continued or severe misbehavior could be one or more of the following:

Conference with administrator

Arrange to keep the child after school

Community Service (help around the school)

Parents notified in writing of offense and consequence

Phone call to parents (infractions needing parents' immediate attention)

Replace/restore damaged property

Suspend from certain school activities

In-school suspension

Out of school suspension

Follow-up with school counselor, psychologist or social worker

In all of our dealings with student behavior, we strive to preserve the child's dignity. It is important that school personnel and parents work closely together to help children learn appropriate modes of behavior.

WEST IRONDEQUOIT SCHOOLS CODE OF CONDUCT

In compliance with the New York State *Project SAVE* legislation, the purpose of the *Code* is to assure the orderly functioning of our schools, the safety of all persons involved with our schools, and the security of school property. The *CODE* governs the conduct of all persons, including students, on school grounds and at school functions. The *CODE* describes appropriate conduct, prohibited conduct, responses to violations, and other related issues. It seeks to establish and maintain an atmosphere of mutual respect, self-restraint, civility and trust.

Appropriate Conduct - Appropriate conduct is that which respects, protects, and enhances the district's educational mission and procedures, the authority and dignity of school personnel, and the rights of all persons associated with the district to a safe, secure, and productive environment.

The Board of Education encourages and expects all persons to exhibit appropriate conduct. Personal or issue-related differences of opinion are welcome; however, they are to be resolved through respectful, reasoned dialogue and/or through established channels for addressing complaints or resolving disputes. Additionally, parents bear the responsibility of helping to guide their children toward appropriate conduct in school.

Just as Board of Education members and all district personnel are expected to uphold the terms of this *CODE* in their behaviors, they have a right to civil, decent, respectful treatment in their transactions with students, parents and others. The administration is authorized to intervene in instances where actions or behaviors toward staff members fall short of this standard.

A summary of the Code of Conduct is sent to parents each year. If you need an additional copy, please call the school office.

The following are two important School District Policies designed to ensure a safe, respectful school environment for our students:

Policy regarding Weapons on School Grounds

No person shall have in his/her possession on School District property, at school events, or on school buses any object, whether licensed or not, that can reasonably be considered a weapon and which could be used to inflict any physical harm, property damage, and/or disturbance of the public order. This prohibition shall also include any object which would reasonably be considered a realistic facsimile of a weapon. Exceptions to these prohibitions are not possible without the explicit permission of the Superintendent of Schools.

These prohibitions shall not be construed to interfere with the right and obligation of all law enforcement officers to retain possession of their firearms in accordance with regulations requiring them to have firearms in their possession.

Unlawful possession of a weapon upon school grounds may be a violation of the New York State Penal Law, and is a violation of School District policy and the Student Discipline Code of Conduct.

Policy Regarding Sexual Harassment

The West Irondequoit Central School District is committed to creating and maintaining a learning environment, which is free of discrimination and intimidation.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

STUDY SKILLS AND HABITS

A study skill is a method or technique which helps a student to learn more efficiently. Such skills may include how to memorize essential facts, math problem solving or analyzing a piece of text. A study habit is a regularly practiced routine such as studying independently, studying at the same time and place, and regular application of study skills. Study skills lessons are taught on a monthly basis using a rotating schedule.

Study habits and skills which have proven to be effective include:

1. Carefully writing assignments in the assignment book
2. Organizing all materials and supplies needed for each assignment
3. Setting up a study schedule
4. Keeping up to date on assignments
5. Requesting assistance from the teacher or other resource people if additional help or explanation is needed
6. Preparation for long-term assignments and studying for exams are more successful if done in segments over a period of time

HOMEWORK

Purpose - homework is an effective aid to learning when assigned for the following reasons:

- To reinforce skills learned in the classroom
- To provide independent practice
- To complete work not finished in the classroom
- To make up work missed due to absence
- To develop self-discipline, responsibility and organizational skills
- To allow sufficient time for creative projects

As a result of the work of the Study Skills Subcommittee of our School Based Planning team, all children are given a special Iroquois School planner which they carry from class to class and home each night. Parents can easily survey the assignments and check to see that the work is complete by reviewing the assignment book each night.

The amount of homework assigned generally increases with the grade level. If you have questions about the amount or nature of your child's assignments, please contact his/her teacher. If there is no written work assigned, students should review material or study ahead for quizzes and tests. Also, independent reading or reading to or with your child, regardless of his/her age, is a wonderful academic and family activity which we strongly encourage.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARENTS

1. Provide a comfortable place for study with minimum distractions or interruptions.
2. Help the student to set aside time for homework on a regular basis.
3. Encourage the student to strive for quality and completion of each assignment. Starting with the assignment considered most difficult and proceeding to the easier ones will help.
4. Assist the student while encouraging independence.
5. Show an interest in homework assignments by praising good study habits and quality of work.
6. Remind students to seek make-up work after an absence from school and/or music lessons.
7. Assist the student and reinforce the efforts of the school by supporting homework.
8. Contact your child's teacher if there is a question regarding homework.

TEXTBOOKS

All textbooks are owned by the school district and loaned to the student for the year. Each teacher keeps a record of all textbooks issued. The record includes the student's name, the number of book, and the condition of the book at the time issued. If a student loses or seriously damages a textbook, the family will be charged the replacement cost.

REPORT CARDS

There are 4 ten-week marking periods in the school year:

1 st marking period	September - November
2 nd marking period	November - January
3 rd marking period	January - March
4 th marking period	March - June

All students will carry report cards home at the end of the first three marking periods. Final 5th and 6th grade report cards will be mailed home in June, after school ends. 4th grade students will carry report cards home on the last day of school.

INTERIM REPORTS

Teachers send home interim reports regarding student progress as needed. The purposes of the interim reports are to keep parents notified, to make recommendations for improvement, or to recognize improvement.

AWARDS

Each year Iroquois students' whose achievements in the areas of academics, music, service, and extracurricular activities are recognized at an awards assembly in June.



SCHOOL SERVICES

HEALTH OFFICE SERVICES

The Health Office, staffed by the school nurse and health clerk, is open each school day from 8:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. The Health Office is located on the first floor main hallway and the staff handles students' specific medical needs as well as illness or injuries that occur during the school day. The school nurse's role is to provide a healthy environment for your child at Iroquois. Please feel free to contact the school nurse with any questions or concerns you may have (336-0816). All information is handled with complete confidentiality.

The following guidelines are used to determine when a student's illness or injury necessitates notification:

FEVER - A temperature higher than 100°F is considered a fever and the student will be sent home from school to have symptoms monitored. The child may return to school when there has been no fever for **24 hours**.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE SYMPTOMS – A student who has symptoms of a communicable disease will be sent home. A list of minimum exclusion periods for common communicable diseases is sent home in September.

OTHER – Any illness or injury that interferes with or prevents a child's ability to learn or that may require follow-up care outside the school warrants a call home from the nurse. (i.e. earache, headache, persistent cough, sprained ankle, etc.)

When it is necessary to send a student home from school, parents will be contacted first. If parents are unavailable, persons on the Emergency Card will be called. A child may be released only to a parent or an adult authorized by the parent. Therefore, it is very important to keep Emergency Cards current and accurate. Please call Iroquois School with any changes in address or phone numbers. Please choose people to be contacted that will be available during the school day.

Medication Policy

When it is necessary to administer any **prescription or non-prescription** medication to students by school personnel, the following procedures are required and strictly adhered to. The school nurse's role is to safely administer and monitor the effects of medications in school and to report concerns to parents and physicians. The school nurse must receive a written request from the physician indicating the frequency and dosage of a prescribed medication.

*Any medication, even non-prescription, must be handled through the process outlined below:

1. The school nurse must receive a written note by the parent to administer the medication at school.
2. The medication **MUST** be in the original prescription container labeled by the pharmacy. If it is an over-the-counter medicine, (i.e. Tylenol, cough medicine, etc.) it must be in the original container.
3. Medication **MUST** be delivered to the school by a parent or other authorized adult. Do not send medication to school with a student. This is a potential safety hazard.
4. Medication requests must be renewed annually.

Any medication, even non-prescription, must be handled through this process.

Please also report any medications that your child receives at home only. Also report any medication allergies. This information is vital in the event that an emergency occurs during the school day.

Health Screenings

Your child will receive the following basic health screenings in school by the nurse on a yearly basis:

1. Vision Screening – near/far vision checked
2. Hearing Screening
3. Height and Weight
4. Scoliosis Screening

If any concerns are detected, parents will be notified and a referral form will be sent home. This form should be returned to the school nurse after a physician has evaluated your child.

Physical Examinations

New York State requires documentation of physical examinations for all students entering a school for the first time, which includes Kindergarten or any new entrant to the School District, and for those entering Grades 1, 3, 7 and 10. As it is not mandated that a physical exam be done while your child attends Iroquois School, it is very important for parents to report any changes in your child's medical history and to update their immunization records as needed. Physical forms are available in the Health Office to update yearly exams.

Immunizations

When a child enters the school district, parents are required to provide proof that the student has been properly immunized according to New York State guidelines. Failure to provide proof of immunization or to obtain the required immunization is serious and will result in the student being excluded from school until this requirement has been met.

SUPPORT SERVICES/PERSONNEL

School Counseling

The Iroquois School Counselor provides services and programs that contribute to the social, emotional and educational development of each student. All students meet regularly with the counselor through group guidance within the classroom. Topics discussed in group guidance classes include: school adjustment, peer relationships, child sexual abuse, drug abuse (including alcohol), problem solving, career awareness, educational planning and orientation to the next grade. In addition, students may meet with the counselor individually or in small groups as the need arises.

The counselor helps the student to:

- clarify his/her self-concept through information about his/her abilities, achievements, aptitudes and personal characteristics
- learn how to develop responsibility and to make sound decisions by considering all available information
- learn ways to improve relationships with others
- learn to set and strive toward realistic goals



The counselor also communicates and/or consults with parents and teachers as the need arises.

School Psychologist

The services of a school psychologist, such as counseling and testing, are available for students who are having academic, behavioral, or social-emotional difficulties. Parental permission is required and obtained for testing and a follow-up consultation is arranged. Parents who have questions may contact the school psychologist.

School Social Worker

The school social worker interacts with parents and students in a variety of situations. The school social worker helps in obtaining information on a new entrant, gathering a social and developmental history prior to a review by the C.S.E. (Committee on Special Education), and/or assisting in identifying community resources available to the family.

Speech/Language Pathologist

The speech and language pathologist assesses identified students' strengths and weaknesses in the areas of sound production, social language, use of learning strategies, as well as, the use and understanding of language. The speech and language pathologist supports staff and students directly and/or through consultation. Parents with questions may call the Iroquois office to contact the speech/language pathologist.

A.I.S. –Academic Intervention Services

Students identified as needing additional support in reading, writing, and/or math are supported in the A.I.S. Program. Placement in A.I.S. is based on test scores, classroom performance, and teacher input. Parents are notified in writing if this extra support is provided to their child.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Grade 4

Fourth grade builds on the K-3 program. Many of the same textbook series are used. The classes include a broad range of student abilities. A brief description of the curriculum follows:

English Language Arts

This program focuses on the development and interaction of reading, writing, listening, word study and public speaking skills. Within the fourth grade reading program, children develop their skills through chapter books, selected reading, and specific lessons geared to increase their word identification and comprehension skills. The writing program consists of discussion and practice in the following components: pre-writing, drafting, revising, editing, and the final draft. By the end of the year, children will have completed many pieces in the following genre types: persuasive essays and letters, report writing and information essays, response to literature and personal narrative writing.

Mathematics

The fourth grade mathematics program emphasizes development of the WICSD mathematical understanding in equivalence, measurement, data, probability, statistics, operations, methodology, geometry, number and algebra. There is a strong emphasis on explaining the process used to solve a problem, mathematical fluency and deep understanding of mathematical concepts.

Social Studies

The fourth grade curriculum includes such topics as maps and globes, the Iroquois Native Americans, settling and establishing America, government, and regional and local history, as related to New York State.

Science

The science program focuses on life sciences – life cycles of animals and plants, math, language arts and science skills. In addition, students cover physical science through studies of objects in motion, electrical current and identification of rocks and minerals. A variety of learning activities in fourth grade integrate math, language arts and science skills to support the science content.

Physical Education

A wide range of learning activities are taught including conditioning, floor hockey, gymnastics, relays, volleyball and basketball. Emphasis is on developing skills with the application in actual games near the end of each unit. Students should wear pants or shorts and sneakers on gym days.

Library

Students have access to the library every day. Books are checked out for a three week period. An orientation session occurs at the beginning of each school year.

Art

Students continue an exploration of the art materials and learn basic techniques in several types of media.

Vocal Music

The fourth grade program consists of reading, writing, and analyzing music, improvisation, music history and theory as well as singing, playing Orff instruments and dancing.

Instrumental Music

Small-group lessons are offered on brass, string, woodwind and percussion instruments. These lessons are scheduled during the school day and are free of charge. The student must, in most cases, provide the instrument and the lesson book. Once students achieve a basic level of competence on their instrument, a beginning band and orchestra are formed. Rehearsals are scheduled after the school year begins.



Grades 5 & 6

The fifth and sixth grades are organized in a partially departmentalized manner. Students remain with one teacher in a Core class for half of the instructional day. For the other half of the day students change classes every 45 minutes.

Core 5 and 6 – Core classes focus on Literacy: reading, writing, word study, and language skills, based on the District outcomes for English Language Arts.

Mathematics 5 and 6 – The fifth and sixth grade math program focuses on District outcomes, where students use the following:

- mathematical reasoning to analyze mathematical situations, make conjectures, gather evidence and construct an argument
- number sense and numeration to develop an understanding of the multiple uses of numbers in the real world, use of numbers to communicate mathematically, and the use of numbers in the development of mathematical ideas
- mathematical operations and relationships among them to understand mathematics
- mathematical modeling/multiple representation to provide a way of presenting, interpreting, communicating and connecting mathematical information and relationships
- measurements in both metric and English measure to provide a major link between the abstractions of mathematics and the real world in order to describe and compare objects and data
- uncertainty to illustrate that mathematics involves more than exactness when dealing with every day situations
- patterns and functions to develop mathematical power, appreciate the true beauty of mathematics, and construct generalizations that describe patterns simply and efficiently

Social Studies 5 and 6 – Based on the District outcomes for social studies:

- Fifth grade social studies focus on the history and culture of the United States, Canada, and Latin America.
- Sixth grade social studies instruction focuses on a study of Ancient Civilizations, The Middle Ages/The Age of Change, and The Modern World.

Science 5 and 6 – Fifth graders investigate the following topics: body systems, the 5 Kingdoms of living organisms, characteristics of living things, proper use of the microscope, layers of the Earth, plate tectonics, earthquakes and volcanoes, and mountain formation. In addition, students participate in state-mandated AIDS education lessons, as well as a one-day lesson on puberty.

Sixth graders investigate the following topics: matter, properties of air, water cycle, weather, rock cycle, land forms, erosion and deposition, cells, immune system, circulatory system, respiratory system, reproductive system, rocketry, space, solar system, and forces and motion. In addition, students participate in state-mandated AIDS education lessons.

Art 5 and 6 – Students in grades 5 and 6 actively engage in a variety of art processes and techniques. They have access to increasingly sophisticated media. Some emphasis is placed on critical responses to visual arts and to expanding their understanding of the personal and cultural forces that shape artistic communication.

Vocal Music 5 and 6 - The music program for grades 5 and 6 consists of reading, writing, and analyzing music, improvisation, music history and theory as well as singing, playing Orff instruments and dancing.

Instrumental Music – Small-group lessons are offered on brass, string, woodwind, and percussion instruments in the 5th and 6th grades. These lessons are scheduled during the school day and are free of charge. The student must, in most cases, provide the instrument and the lesson book. Students will be admitted to the 5th grade band or 6th grade band or orchestra after reaching an appropriate level of competence on their instrument.

Physical Education - A wide range of year-round activities are taught including conditioning, Physical Best Fitness Assessment, floor hockey, gymnastics, relays, volleyball, and basketball. Emphasis is on developing skills with the application in actual games near the end of each unit. Students should wear pants or shorts and sneakers on gym days. Students also participate in the Physical Best Fitness Assessment each year.

