WPS Curriculum PreK-12 Overview

Grades Pre-K-2: John W. Decas Elementary School

**Pre-K**

**OWLS:** “Is a comprehensive pre-kindergarten program that will help you create and effective and developmentally appropriate pre-k classroom”. This curriculum is interdisciplinary and includes English, math, science, and social studies.

**CSS Consulting:** Pre-K teachers as well as community pre-schools have been engaged in learning about the strategies necessary to build literacy skills. The strategies have been offered and some private area preschools have begun to implement these practices.

**Kindergarten**

**Focus K-2:** “Focus on K2 was written to help teachers promote children’s creativity and their abilities to collaborate, communicate, and think critically. It was written to develop essential literacy and numeracy skills. It was written to connect children with their city. It was written to give our K2 students the adventure in learning they deserve” (Boston Public Schools, https://www.bpsearlylearning.org/focus-on-k2/). Science and history are integrated into these units of instruction.

**Deanna Jump Math:** This program is designed for kindergarten students by kindergarten teachers. The skills supported are: Fluency practice, new concept introduction, whole group exploration time, student application, and share time.

**Deanna Jump and Deedee Willis Guiding Reading:** The literacy units support all levels of skill development for early literacy.

**Fundations and Lexia** are available resources to assist in enhancing literacy and math skills.

**Grade 1**

**Deanna Jump Math:** First Grade Math Units These First Grade Math units are research-based and designed specifically for first grade teachers and students. The math units provide hands-on, engaging lessons that include working on skills such as fluency practice, new concept introduction, whole group exploration, application, and time to share.

**Deanna Jump & Deedee Willis Guiding Reading:** The literacy units support all levels of skill development for early literacy.

**Fundations and Lexia** are available resources for assist in enhancing literacy and math skills.
Grade 2

Reach for Reading: Offers authentic Literature and National Geographic Exclusives, Foundational Skills with Content-Based Decodable Texts, Integrated ELD, Rigor-Analyzing Texts and Higher Order Questions, Rigor-Close Reading of Authentic Text, Writing to Sources, and Opinion, Expository and Narrative Writing, Vocabulary Development through Content, Meaningful Collaborative Conversations. Teachers model, and apply close reading in whole group with print and digital resources. Whole group, small group, and independent practice ensure teachers inspire students. Comprehensive, targeted teaching materials ensure that children develop the necessary decoding and encoding skills to become fluent readers and writers. Students have multiple opportunities in Reach for Reading fluency and word study lessons to apply word knowledge to reading and writing activities. Reach into Phonics Foundations provides resources for students that allow them to gain the foundational building blocks they need to be fluent readers. Science & social studies are embedded within the texts.

enVision Math: A comprehensive mathematics curriculum offering the flexibility of print, digital, or blended instruction. enVisionmath2.0 provides the focus, coherence, and rigor necessary for student success. Project-based learning, visual learning strategies, and extensive customization options empower every teacher and student.

Lexia is available to assist in promoting strong literacy and math skills.

Grades 3-4: Minot Forest Elementary School

Reach for Reading: Offers authentic Literature and National Geographic Exclusives, Foundational Skills with Content-Based Decodable Texts, Integrated ELD, Rigor-Analyzing Texts and Higher Order Questions, Rigor-Close Reading of Authentic Text, Writing to Sources, and Opinion, Expository and Narrative Writing, Vocabulary Development through Content, Meaningful Collaborative Conversations. Teachers model, and apply close reading in whole group with print and digital resources. Whole group, small group, and independent practice ensure teachers inspire students. Comprehensive, targeted teaching materials ensure that children develop the necessary decoding and encoding skills to become fluent readers and writers. Students have multiple opportunities in Reach for Reading fluency and word study lessons to apply word knowledge to reading and writing activities. Reach into Phonics Foundations provides resources for students that allow them to gain the foundational building blocks they need to be fluent readers. Science & social studies are embedded within the texts.

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Project Lead the Way-Sciences: The program empowers students to adopt a design-thinking mindset through compelling activities, projects, and problems that build upon each other and relate to the world around them. And as students engage in hands-on activities in computer
science, engineering, and biomedical science, they become creative, collaborative problem solvers ready to take on any challenge.

Lexia is available to assist in promoting strong literacy and math skills.

**Grades PreK-4**

**CSS Consulting:** After careful data analysis form 2014-2015 and then looking again in 2016 there was clearly something wrong. As a result of less than remarkable results, unreasonable percentages of students below the norm, and ‘summer slide’ WPS happened upon a small company that guaranteed 90% proficiency in reading after one year. Carrie Thurston, a former special education director, has analyzed research that clearly indicates the brain development of children in poverty needs specific strategies to awaken and then access skills. In order to connect those synapses, we needed to teach the science of reading/literacy differently. In February 2016, Carrie entered our Kindergarten classes and we began to work. By June our Kindergarten students had reached 90% proficiency of a 3 or higher on the Developmental Reading Assessment. Since then, we have had Carrie work in grades K-4 both on professional development days as well as regular school days (embedded PD) to change practices and we are seeing significant results. Through FAST, DRA, F&P, progress monitoring, and benchmark assessments, all connected to Data Walls provided by CSS Consulting, we work with ‘real-time’ data to continuously inform practice. Our data is demonstrating that we are changing our students lives.

**Grades 5-7: Wareham Middle School**

**enVision Math:** A comprehensive mathematics curriculum offering the flexibility of print, digital, or blended instruction. *enVisionmath2.0* provides the focus, coherence, and rigor necessary for student success. Project-based learning, visual learning strategies, and extensive customization options empower every teacher and student.

**English:** Curriculum units are created and trade books, writing days, research papers, and engaging lessons are created, analyzed, and assessed. Data is continuously collected throughout the department and Units are continuously fluid as teachers share strategies and best practices.

**Project Lead the Way-Science:** PLTW Gateway’s 10 units empower students to lead their own discovery. The hands-on program boosts classroom engagement and excitement, drives collaboration, and inspires “aha! moments” and deep comprehension. And as students engage in PLTW’s activities in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science, they see a range of paths and possibilities they can look forward to in high school and beyond.

**History:** History is taught using the Massachusetts State Standards and is currently changing as a result of the new Massachusetts standards. Through the Department Chair, a curriculum map has been created and these topics will be explored in classes this year.

**Overarching Topic in History by Grade (New MA Standards)**

5th Grade: United States, Civil War, and Modern Civil Rights
International Baccalaureate & WPS
Since 2015, the Wareham Middle and High School have been involved with the International Baccalaureate (IB) practices and philosophies. A commitment from both schools to pursue the IB Diploma Program and the IB Middle Years Program has been established. In 2017, the Wareham High School fulfilled all of the necessary requirements to become an official International Baccalaureate Diploma Program school and is currently in year 2, offering 11th and 12th graders the opportunity to choose to either enroll in an IB course or to attain an International Diploma. Students that choose the full IB and pass the assessments, as well as fulfill the WHS requirements and pass MCAS are awarded a diploma form WHS and the IB. Currently, the Wareham Middle and High School (grades 6-10) have combined forces to attain the Middle Years Program status, we have been an MYP candidate schools since 2016. The IB requirements are rigorous and we have begun to fulfill those and to prepare for the IB MYP site visit in October 2019. Although the IB-DP is chosen by students, the IB-MYP is an all or nothing proposition. All students will participate in dynamic, student-centered learning and all school staff will teach the philosophies and practices established by the IB.

International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program
For ages 11-16 (grades 6-10)

Overview
“The MYP is a challenging framework that encourages students to make practical connections between their studies and the real world.

The MYP is a five-year programme, which can be implemented in a partnership between schools, or in several abbreviated (two, three or four year) formats”.

The MYP Curriculum
“The MYP curriculum framework comprises eight subject groups, providing a broad and balanced education for early adolescents.

The MYP requires at least 50 hours of teaching time for each subject group, in each year of the programme. In the final two years of the programme, carefully-defined subject group flexibility allows students to meet local requirements and personal learning goals”.

Subjects: Language Acquisition, Language & Literature, Individuals & Societies, Sciences, Mathematics, Arts, Physical & Health Education, & Design”.

Access and Eligibility
“The MYP is open to any student aged 11 to 16, at schools that have been authorized to implement the programme.

The MYP is inclusive by design; students of all interests and academic abilities can benefit from their participation. Implementation of the MYP is a whole-school endeavor, although the programme can accommodate academically-selective models”.
Teaching & Learning in Context

“Students learn best when their learning experiences have context and are connected to their lives and their experience of the world that they have experienced.

Using global contexts, MYP students develop an understanding of their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet through developmentally appropriate explorations of: identities and relationships, personal and cultural identity; orientations in space and time; scientific and technical innovation; fairness and development; globalization and sustainability”.

References and to learn more about the IB:
(https://www.ibo.org/programmes/middle-years-programme/)
(https://www.ibo.org/programmes/middle-years-programme/curriculum/)

Grades 8-12: Wareham High School

The Wareham High School has been participating in dual enrollment for students entering 8th grade wishing to participate in 9th grade coursework. At the end of 7th grade, students that choose to, go through the application process and once admitted, attend 9th grade courses as 8th graders. There is also a partnership with Bridgewater State University for students taking Junior and Senior level courses. There is an application process and those applying need to pass the ACCUPLACER. The number of students participating in both dual enrollment options, IB, & AP courses continues to rise.

Global education has been happening in WPS since the 1970s through international exchange programs between the US and Europe. After being dormant for decades, the program experienced a resurgence in 2003, when a task force was formed to develop a sister school in Cape Verde. That relationship has been going strong ever since, with several visits between WPS and our Cape Verdean sister school over the past 15 years. Wareham has hosted teachers, students, and administrators from the school several times, as they have welcomed our students and staff as well.

In addition to offering students multiple opportunities to increase their intercultural competence by participation in global education activities both at home and abroad, the WPS Global Education Department provides educators with teaching sabbatical programs. Each year, we offer 2-3 sabbaticals in China, in which teachers can travel as guests of Chinese schools to offer professional development to Chinese teachers and/or to teach in Chinese summer camps. In the past five years, over 20 WPS educators have traveled to China to participate in two week programs.

Five years ago, the task force sought to increase diversity in programming and opportunities for students in global education. We have since developed sister schools in 11 countries: Italy, France, Sweden, China, Japan, Thailand, Brazil, Costa Rica, Australia, India, and Scotland. Students have several opportunities each year to participate in a study tour or a short-term study abroad program in one of our sister schools. WPS teachers and administrators have also taught
for one of two days during study tour visits with sister schools. Recently, WPS educators taught in schools in Sweden, Cape Verde, and Costa Rica.

WPS received approval from the ICE division of the Department of Homeland Security in the spring of 2016. In the fall of 2017, we welcomed our first two international students under this certification. The two students hailed from Qingdao, China. They thrived socially and academically and now both attend university in the US. This academic year, we have 8 international students who come from: The Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Brazil, and China. We are continually developing our partnerships and hope to welcome students from Vietnam and Sweden in the near future.

In addition, to travel abroad, students also have a variety of means of increasing their intercultural competence on our home campuses as well. Many teachers have active pen pal classes in one or more of our sister schools and participate in cooperative projects via technology. There is a global ambassadors club at the middle and high schools, in which students act on global topics that they deem important, and facilitate activities that encourage tolerance and the appreciation of diversity. In addition, we hold multiple internationally themed activities each year that celebrate the diversity that makes up our town.

The Wareham High School has a Program of Studies that delivers descriptions of the various course offerings. Students choose the courses and WHS builds schedules based on student interest, while at the same time ensuring that students are taking courses to fulfill the MassCore and WHS graduation requirements.