

Special Programs

Art

Art classes meet on a weekly basis for students. The art program is designed to broaden each student's experience in the visual arts. Students will explore a wide variety of studio concepts: color coordination with different media (paper, fiber, clay), spatial relationships, construction, sculpture, weaving, printing and silk-screen.

Music

General music classes meet once a week. The curriculum explores music through singing, music appreciation, rhythm and other forms of expression. Other residencies and concerts are scheduled to further expand each child's experience.

Physical & Health Education

Physical Education classes are conducted 2 days a week and are held both inside and outside (weather permitting). Students are expected to dress appropriately and to wear rubber-soled shoes. If a student has a medical reason for not being able to participate fully, he/she should present a dated note signed by the parents and attending physician.

Health education is age appropriate curriculum that addresses such issues as smoking, drugs and alcohol, sex education, personal safety and healthy living. These classes meet twice a month by the PE and classroom teachers.

Library

Our librarian (30% position) works with all class levels to teach library and study skills. A computer lab is housed in the library for internet availability for research and communication. Students are always supervised when using computers throughout the school building.

Computer Instruction

Students are scheduled to spend time in the desktop or laptop labs at least once a week. Teachers and a technology instructor help students with keyboarding, word processing skills, power point and other software programs designed to enhance classroom instruction. The focus of technology is integration into all areas of the curriculum to address Vermont Technology Standards.

Counseling

A certified school counselor is available 1.5 days a week to provide supportive services to students. This counselor teaches social skills in the classroom, small group discussions and individual counseling. This service is designed to enhance effective, safe and desirable learning/teaching environments at our school.

Multi-age Learning Groups

Throughout the year students meet in multiage groups for learning activities. The purpose of these activities is to build relationships between older and younger students. This concept encourages cooperative learning and cultivates caring attitudes of students toward others in different grades.

Instrumental Music and District Band

Students in grades four, five and six are able to study band instruments in preparation for joining the district band. Lessons are given weekly and are either individual or small group. District Band meets on Monday after school. Students from all elementary schools in Windham Central Supervisory Union are bused to Townshend Elementary for this weekly rehearsal. This program is very popular and students look forward to performances throughout the year at community events and at Solo Night. Cadet Band is for beginning students and meets later in the year on Wednesdays. These dates are announced in Thursday Notes.

Team Sports

Soccer, basketball and softball are offered by parent-organized teams at most all grade levels. These teams compete regularly with other elementary schools in the district. Students and parents find participation rewarding and good sportsmanship is expected from everyone involved.

Winter Sports

The School Club organizes and sponsors all winter sports. Students may participate in various winter activities. Equipment for downhill skiing is available from donations made to the West River Snow Sports Club. An equipment exchange date will be announced as the season approaches. The Townshend School will no longer be providing boot fitting and ski binding adjustment. Our eight week program is on Wednesday afternoons beginning in January. Students are dismissed at 11:30 to travel to various sites. Students going to a Cross-Country Ski Center are returned to school to catch the bus home at 2:30PM. Students who travel to Stratton Mt. return to Townshend with their driver chaperones after the lifts close (4:00PM).

Title 1

The Title I program offers individual and small group tutoring. Students are referred for services by the classroom teacher. Parental permission is requested for this service. Regular progress reports are available at report card dates.

Trimester Report Card System

Report cards are issued by classroom teachers three times a year. Parent conferences are available anytime, but are expected at the end of the first and second reporting period.

<i>Report Card #1 & Parent Conferences</i>	<i>November</i>
<i>Report Card #2 & Optional Parent Conferences</i>	<i>March</i>
<i>Report Card #3</i>	<i>June</i>