

Willow Grove Early Childhood

CURRICULUM NIGHT
2023



WELCOME TO THE GOLDFISH CLASS



This will be an exceptional year for all of us. As we embark on this exciting journey together, know that I will be there every step of the way to support you and your family. Welcome to a great school year!

~Ms. Freer

ABOUT ME

- University of Illinois (undergrad), NIU (graduate, in progress!)
- Family: Parents, brother
- I live in the city!





about me

- Year 4 at WG
- Educating the whole child
- School = Fun
- Partnership

OUR MISSION

Mission:

Empowering learners through meaningful educational opportunities that reflect the knowledge, skills and experiences needed for future success as engaged citizens.

Inclusion:

Willow Grove is an environment where all students are participating in inclusive classrooms. We foster the relationships between students of all abilities and cultures. Inclusion benefits all learners.

Thematic Goal:

Themed based learning keeps our classrooms fun! Our themes are mainly in a monthly format that align with our curriculums. They are common EC themes and can also be flexible based on student interests.



RELATIONSHIPS

students won't learn from someone they don't like

We strive to have a welcoming, safe environment where all students can express themselves and create lasting friendships. Some engagement strategies are used for class building (ie. sharing interests) to create a classroom community.



COMMUNICAtion

Weekly Newsletter

An email update at least twice a month will include lesson updates, important dates and other information through our websites

Daily Sheet

Sent home and returned daily. This will include centers and other daily activities to support with answering the question: “what did you do today?”

Email

Email is always the fastest and most effective way to get ahold of me



CLASS WEBSITE



<https://willowgrovegoldfish.weebly.com/>

See photos of what we are doing in class!

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

- Please be on time for class, after 8:30 or 12:35 you are tardy and will need to come in the front office to sign your child in. This also applies to pickup after 11:10 or 3:15.
- No parking in the circle drive.
- Bring daily snack, no water bottles.
- Folder and daily sheet return to school each day.
- If your child is absent, please be sure to call the office.

SCHEDULES

AM

arrival/table time- 8:40-8:50
specials- 8:50-9:10
theme/math circle- 9:15-9:25
teacher rotations- 9:35-9:55
free choice centers- 9:55-10:15
inclusion block- 10:15-10:35
read aloud/literacy circle-
10:35-11:00
departure- 11:00-11:10

PM

arrival- 12:35-12:40
specials- 12:40-1:00
theme/math circle- 1:05-1:25
centers (including small groups)-
1:25-2:35
read aloud/literacy circle- 2:35-2:55
departure- 2:55-3:05

WELCOME Packet

- Absences
- Snacks, food and water bottles
- Toys and personal items
- Birthdays
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Gym/Library
- Early Release and Half Days
- Parent volunteer options

Please use my website to get updates or reminders about upcoming information.

District 96 Early Childhood Curricula

The Early Childhood team created developmentally appropriate targets aligned with the Illinois Early Learning Standards, while using the philosophies and components of the Bridges math and Launchpad literacy curricula.



PLAY BASED INSTRUCTION

- What is it and why is it important?
- “Children are naturally motivated to play. A play-based program builds on this motivation, using play as a context for learning. In this context, children can explore, experiment, discover and solve problems [in imaginative and playful ways.](#)”
- “A play-based approach involves both child-initiated and teacher-supported learning. The teacher encourages children’s learning and inquiry through interactions that aim to stretch their thinking to higher levels.”

(Robertson, Morrissey, & Rouse, 2018)



PLAY BASED INSTRUCTION HELPS

Grow socially by:

Learning how to join a center, negotiate with peers, share toys and materials, show responsibility for an area and cleaning up, and last for knowing how to ask for help.

Become self-aware by understanding:

Time management, self-regulation, and gives them time to explore their own interests.

Learn through:

Making mistakes, practicing skills over and over again, extend learning, learn new skills, develop language.

REPORT CARDS

Early childhood targets will be reported out on three times a year at the end of each trimester.

We look at literacy, math, social emotional and physical health standards.

Report card scores: It is encouraged, not required, that students reach mastery (3.0) before kindergarten. Also remember, it is developmentally appropriate for 3 year olds to be exhibiting a 1.0-2.0 in many of the targets since they still have time in the program to reach their goal of mastery.

Progress goal updates will also go home at these dates if your child has an IEP.

EXAMPLES



EXAMPLES



LITERACY CURRICULUM

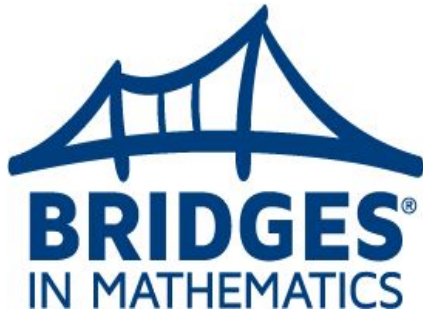
Launchpad is playful and powerful evidence-based phonics and pre-reading skills instruction that prepares students for kindergarten.

Launchpad is game-based, teacher-led, Interactive, kinesthetic, and multisensory instruction.



- knowing that sounds are represented by letters
- letters can be put together to create words
- recognizing the concepts of print and letter name
- developing letter-sound knowledge
- developing phonological and phonemic awareness.

math CURRICULUM



Bridges in Mathematics is a PK–5 curriculum that equips addresses state standards in a rigorous, engaging, and accessible manner. Students gain a deep understanding of concepts, proficiency with key skills, and the ability to solve complex problems.

The curriculum is composed of three distinct but integrated components:

Problems & Investigations (whole group instruction)
Work Places (small group and independent centers)
and Number Corner (calendar based learning)



WHY NIGHTLY READING?



KEYS TO A GREAT YEAR

1. Partnership

Tell me what is going well and what your child needs help with. The more we know the better; celebration of achievement (potty training), noticing at home (increase in a behavior), changes in routines (no more naps)

2. Foster Responsibility

Build independence with opportunities at home and encourage your children to do hard things.

3. Guide-it starts with you!

Providing academics and social opportunities outside of the school environment will only help with a child's development. Limit screen time and increase both fine and gross motor activities.

THANK YOU!



Questions? Ask away!