

Unified Arts

At Whisconier Middle School we look to provide our students with a well-rounded educational experience. One aspect of that experience is participation in our Unified Arts and Health programs. We are very fortunate at WMS to have such a diversified curriculum and array of choices which allows our students, regardless of interest and background, the opportunity to explore and learn about their world. Let's check out what is going on in your child's UNAH classes.

Art - Ms. Corso

In Art this year, students are exploring new media and art processes such as printmaking, sculpture carving, watercolors, acrylic painting, drawing, and ink.



5th grade classes will be focusing on design, with a unit on poster design, as well as using a variety of painting techniques to create Mandala designs.

6th and 7th graders are using positive and negative space to create tile carvings using symbols from their family history. They are also focused on design, but more specifically the Principles of Design and what makes a piece of art visually interesting. Soon they will be moving on to an art history project involving Selfies. We can't wait to get started!



In the 8th grade, things are getting very technical as we explore one and two-point perspective, and begin to move into life drawing and creating value using lights and darks. Students are learning to really “draw what they see”, and we will be taking that knowledge and learning more about styles of art before we paint a still life in our very own art style.



Health - Mrs. Norton and Mrs. Thompson

WMS students are always learning something new and practicing skills to keep them safe while they are in Health class. The focus in our Health lessons is about making healthy decisions regarding their health and the health of others both now and in the future. Currently, some classes are focusing on learning about substance abuse, the various effects drugs can have on the body and ways to refuse peer pressure. Other classes are learning about how their bodies work and how to keep them healthy.



5th grade students are creating and performing Refusal Skills Skits. In these lessons students learned various ways to say no to doing things that they don't want to do. They also learned healthy alternatives and how to persuade others to make healthy choices.



6th and 7th grade students are at different stations wearing DWEyes Goggles at various Blood Alcohol Concentration Levels. These lessons focus on the effects of alcohol on the body and allows for students to truly understand why driving under the influence is so dangerous!



8th graders are working at various stations to understand how alcohol affects vision and the ability to perform simple tasks. Another student is working at the “Fatal Reaction” station which teaches students about the importance of reaction time and how easily it can be impacted.

Music - Mrs. Grace, Ms. Vogel and Mr. Robinson

Music with Mrs. Grace

In 5th grade General Music, students use composition and world drumming to expand their knowledge of rhythm and musical elements. Students also map a variety of songs to teach form, dynamics and emotion in music.



In 7th grade General Music, students apply their knowledge of note reading and composition using Garage Band with I pads. This initiative allows students to experiment with the different elements of composition as well as learn how to master the Garage Band program.



Music with Ms. Vogel

In 5th grade General Music, students learn how to play the keyboard at the beginner level. Students learn how to read and notate music in C Position, and master playing both hands for some of their favorite pieces.

In 6th grade General Music, students learn the basics of note reading on the music staff. Students learn how to read sharps, flats, and naturals in music notation and then apply these skills on the keyboards.

In 7th grade General Music, students learn about major and minor chords and apply these skills to keyboards. They will also perform for their peers in informal class recitals. Cooperative learning is emphasized to develop basic musicianship which will lead to increased participation and appreciation in the arts.



Music With Mr. Robinson

In 6th grade General Music, students focus on rhythm while learning to play percussion ensemble music. There is a heavy emphasis on music reading and students even compose and perform some of their own percussion music.



8th Grade students who elect to take music courses can choose Electronic Music, Beginning Guitar, or both! Electronic Music is a continuation of the 7th Grade GarageBand course and focuses on various aspects of composition, harmonic analysis, song form, and digital music editing. In Beginning Guitar students learn how to play basic melodies with proper fingerings, how to play all of the open major & minor chords, and how to interpret tablature notation.



Performing Arts - Mr. Waron

In Performing Arts, students focus on the three “C’s” of ‘Creativity, Collaboration and Communication’. We do this by creating unique and energetic assignments which allow students to develop skills in teamwork and project leadership, peer-to-peer discussion and artistic expression. Across the grades, students develop introductory knowledge and understanding of public speaking and presentation skills, theater history and dramatic literature and its connection to modern film and TV. We promote a positive and engaging classroom which integrates technology on a daily basis and promotes the ethics of self-determination, commitment and perseverance. Whether we are exploring Shakespeare, Sophocles, Aristotle, acting techniques, costume and set design, or film editing and special effects, students gain a well rounded knowledge of entertainment, but more importantly, develop the confidence to try new things and expand their horizons.



Physical Education - Mr. Coloneri, Ms. Macchiaverna, and Ms. O'Doherty

Students in Physical Education are having a great year! Everyone put forth an honest effort during the CT State Physical Fitness Assessment amidst an unusually warm fall. Students are tested in the mile, sit and reach, sit ups and push ups.

Winter units are underway with students learning a new version of floor hockey called "floor ball." We are counting the days for spring to arrive to be able to enjoy outdoor units.

We have two main goals this school year. First, we are paying particular attention to improving student's throwing and catching skills. We have broken the skills down into easy to follow steps and already see an improvement in their skills. Secondly, we are having discussions around "what is good sportsmanship?" Our expectation is that students will demonstrate good sportsmanship throughout the year without being prompted. We are confident our students will achieve all of these goals.



Technical Education - Mr. Futterleib



Tech Ed. is an activity based class where students use their creativity and skills to solve problems and create projects. 5th graders have completed an egg drop design project, an initial plaque and will be doing an Road Runner Trap Contest. At this time, the 6th, 7th and 8th grade classes have completed a unit in Technical Drawing and Sketching and have begun working in our wood tech lab. 6th and 7th graders are designing and



building CO2 powered dragsters and will be racing them soon. 8th grade students are in the process of making skateboards and tool boxes. At the same time, they are putting various Math and Science principles to practical real-life application.

21st Century Skills - Mrs. Crean

The 6th and 7th graders are having candid discussions on copyright protection and Fair Use. Technology makes it very simple to ignore copyright ownership and do the right thing. We discussed how the future of our creative arts, like music, movies and photography are dependant on people paying for their work. They are learning how to properly cite photographs they use in their school presentations. We just finished discussing phishing scams and viruses. Hopefully they came home and asked how you were protecting your computer and private information from hackers.

The 8th grade is gearing up to blog with students in California and the United Kingdom. They were given the option to create a blog entry that reflects their interests. A number of groups have chosen to write short picture books that will be shared with Save the Children and produced for beginning readers in third world countries where they have a lack of reading material in their own language (Save the Children will translate). Other students are creating videos to share their talents and passions. As part of the program, they will also read and comment on the other school's blog posts.



In December we participated, with millions of schools around the world, in the Hour of Code. The students loved it! Code.org, sponsor of the Hour of Code, recognizes that computer science is an important and growing field in this country. Students can use their skills to go from consuming apps on their phones to creating some! Check out code.org for tutorials and puzzles for students to enjoy and hone their

skills.

Please consider following me on [Twitter at @SueCrean](https://twitter.com/SueCrean) or on [Instagram at @wms_lmc](https://www.instagram.com/wms_lmc) to get the latest information from the Library Media Center and on topics related to social media, and technology use (like protecting yourself from viruses).

Whisconier Middle School
Unified Arts Program - UNAH

We at Whisconier Middle School will respect ourselves and one another, appreciate individual differences, and encourage one another to reach our potential.