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# Nest Program Guide

2018-2019 School Year

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Established 1972

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Learn Deeply  
Think Creatively  
Act Compassionately

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## Welcome to the Nest!

At Wingra School, "Nest" is the term used to describe the two classrooms (Rooms 100 and 102) comprised of five, six, and seven year-olds. Students at Wingra begin in the Nest, and then travel to the Pond, the Lake, and then upstairs to the Sky. Wingra is the Ho-Chunk word for "duck," so we use these names for our classroom levels to signify the progression of our children through their Wingra experience.

Students from the two Nest classrooms are together much of the time, both for academic and social activities. The Nest classrooms share the same physical breaks each morning, snack times, math, read-alouds, and unit project time. Depending on the activity, students may work in either classroom in a variety of groupings, for example: handwriting, math, or literacy centers. Our goal is for students to feel a part of the whole Nest community.

The Nest Teaching Team works with all the students of the Nest, striving to form individual connections and relationships with every Nest student and family. All Nest teachers contribute to observations and assessments of students and are available to discuss individual student development.

The Nest classroom provides a nurturing environment for children to develop at their own pace, socially, emotionally, physically, and academically. Students have time for structured and unstructured play, both indoors and outdoors throughout the day. Other important components of the Nest classroom include learning the value of community, making friends, practicing conflict resolution, and making choices.

Multiage classrooms with two-year placements provide opportunities for natural leadership growth, a greater sense of self-confidence, and deeper friendships and relationships with peers and teachers. Students, families and teachers benefit greatly from the increased knowledge and insights gained through a longer shared experience with each other.

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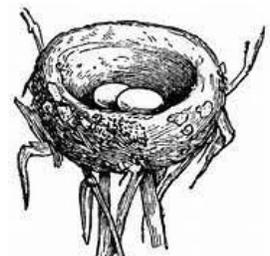
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## Features of a Holistic and Progressive Education

### **Developmentally-Appropriate Child-Centered Practice**

Students are children and it is important to allow ample time for laughter, play, the arts, quiet time, and snacks. Our practice is grounded in an understanding of how children grow, develop, and learn. We include active and interactive learning experiences, varied instructional strategies, a balance between teacher-directed and child-initiated activities, integrated curriculum, and learning centers.

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### **Hands-On, Interactive Experiences**

There is a strong emphasis in our curriculum on problem solving, establishing connections, and communication. A range of hands-on projects, experiential activities enhance instruction. The program often includes literature-based reading, process writing, manipulative-based, constructive mathematics, relevant social studies, and inquiry based science.

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### **Integrated Thematic Curriculum**

Teachers create integrated curriculum based on thematic units of study. Content is introduced and extended through diverse, open-ended learning experiences designed to challenge students at different levels. As a group of learners becomes immersed in this shared inquiry, there are opportunities for individuals to pursue particular areas of interest.

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### **Meaningful, Self-Directed Learning**

Children are taught to exercise their voice in their own learning process. Teachers help students understand how they learn and their own areas of strengths, challenge, and opportunity. Students are taught to make choices, set goals, keep track of their progress, and reflect on their growth and learning.

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### **Learning as a Process**

Children learn in a continuum; they move from easier to more difficult concepts and from simple to more complex strategies at their own pace. Learning is not a race timed by age or a competition or defined by a finite skill set.

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### **Multi-Age Classrooms**

We see tremendous value in a range of learners working together. Teachers create curriculum based on their knowledge of child development and on the actual students in their classrooms. The stronger the relationship between teacher and child, the more engaging and differentiated the program can be. Students benefit from the cycle of being “youngsters” one year and “olders” the next as they are gaining familiarity, are known deeply, and have the opportunity to lead and learn from each other.

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### **Flexible, Mixed-Ability Groupings**

Children work within various group arrangements regularly – as individuals, pairs, triads, small groups, large groups, and whole class. The groupings are reconsidered frequently and are based on interests, needs, learning styles, problem solving, and skill instruction. School-wide, children ages 5 to 14 interact in many ways. We deliberately create opportunities for students of all ages to learn with and from each other.

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## **Community Building**

School and classroom communities are carefully nurtured through attention to relationships and routines that promote feelings of safety and belonging. People at Wingra know each other and are known well. We teach students to be compassionate, supportive, and inclusive through an intentional social curriculum.

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## **Reflective Teaching and Teamwork**

Teachers plan and work cooperatively with colleagues throughout the school. Camaraderie and a sense of shared purpose are key to successfully nurturing Wingra School programming and all of our students. Staff members collaborate and engage democratically to make decisions about most aspects of our program.

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## **Authentic Assessment**

Every student interacts with curriculum in a unique way that is of value. Success is measured in terms of relevance to the individual learner. Our goal is to academically engage and stretch children in meaningful ways while always recognizing them holistically. The assessment we do is ongoing; the purpose is to better understand students so that we may best support their learning and inform our responsive curriculum.

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## **Parent Involvement**

Parents are seen as important partners in student learning. A continuous exchange of information is critical to keeping parents informed and involved. Partnerships are enhanced and solidified due to the time spent together on behalf of the child, recognizing and supporting shared goals. Opportunities exist for parents to be involved in many aspects of the program.

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## **Program as Working Model**

As an independent school we have the autonomy to design and implement the kind of program we know best for children. The well being of children and a deep understanding of childhood are at the core of all our decisions. All constituents contribute to sustaining this model. We encourage other educators to inquire, visit, and gather information about our program to support their own work and vision.

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## Beliefs and Goals of Wingra School's Nest Classrooms

We believe that...

- Children learn at different rates and in different ways.
- Children learn from individual as well as group experiences.
- Children learn when they are actively involved.
- Children have varied and continually changing interests.
- Children learn from each other.

Our goals are...

To create a sense of community so that...

- ✓ Children will feel safe and comfortable at school.
- ✓ Children feel included.
- ✓ Children are provided with opportunities to develop relationships with teachers and students outside their classroom.
- ✓ We respect individual differences and embrace diversity.
- ✓ Children develop a sense of ownership of their space.

To maximize classroom integration and encourage children to...

- ✓ Assist their peers in the construction of knowledge.
- ✓ Collaborate and cooperate with each other.
- ✓ Value and respect different learning rates and styles.

To facilitate healthy classroom dialogue where children are...

- ✓ Provided with opportunities for reflection, self-expression, self-evaluation.
- ✓ Provided with opportunities to acquire, expand, and enrich understanding.
- ✓ Provided with opportunities to assume the role of mentor, leader, and friend.
- ✓ Encouraged to empathize.
- ✓ Encouraged to develop problem-solving skills.

Revised 9/2014

**Classroom Schedule**



**Nest Daily Schedule 2018-2019**



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30 Arrival Centers (please arrive by 8:45)				
9:00 Morning Meeting				
9:15 Investigations Math	9:15 Investigations Math	9:15 CGI/Spanish (Cognitively Guided Instruction) (½ Nest)	9:15 Investigations Math	9:15 Fresh Air Friday
9:50 HWT (Handwriting Without Tears)	9:50 HWT	9:40 CGI/Spanish (½ Nest)	9:50 HWT	
Snack/Morning Break				
10:45 Literacy Workshop	10:45 Literacy Workshop	10:45 Literacy Workshop	10:45 Literacy Workshop/ Movement 11:15 Literacy Workshop/ Movement	10:45 Construction
11:45 Recess				
12:15 Lunch				
12:45 Quiet Time	12:45 Quiet Time			12:45 Quiet Time
1:15 Studio Choices or Community Circle (1:00)	1:00-2:00 Art	1:00-1:30 Movement 1:30-2:00 Music	1:15-3:00 Unit Project & Choice Time	1:00-1:45 Tech or Library
1:45 Closing Circle			½ Nest 1:45-2:15 Sharing & Choice	1:15-1:45 Learning Partners
2:00 Dismissal	2:00-2:30 Movement 2:30-3:00 Music	2:00-3:00 Art	½ Nest 2:15-3:00 Library or Tech	2:00-3:00 <u>Rotation:</u> WSL/In-Room Choice, (Wingra Service Learning) All-School Choice, or Follies
2:15 Staff Meeting	3:00 Closing Circle & 3:15 Dismissal			

### Description of Nest Activities

**Arrival Centers:** We begin each day at 8:30 with a greeting by one of the teachers. After children read the morning message with a grown-up, they are then free to choose from the classroom areas below. Please arrive at school by 8:45. On Fresh Air Fridays, Arrival Time is out on the back playground. to ensure your child has a chance to participate in an arrival activity and are then ready to transition into our Morning Meeting. Some arrival center activities include: art projects, blocks, sensory tub, construction, dramatic play, drawing, iPads, games, self-initiated projects, puzzles, reading/looking at books, and outdoor play.

**Morning Meeting:** We begin promptly at 9:00. At morning meeting, we greet one another, read the morning message together, complete calendar activities, count the days of school, review the daily schedule, and sing a song. At other group times during the day, we may present concepts, play a game, have discussions, sing songs, read a book, or participate in other activities.

**Math Workshop:** There are two components to our math curriculum. One component is a hands-on, standards-based curriculum called Investigations. Units are based on the following areas: developing mathematical thinking, patterns, number sense and the number system, data, geometry, counting and operations, and measuring. These units are supplemented with other math resources and with theme-based centers and activities. The second component is a problem-solving approach called Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI), a time when children solve story problems relating to our theme.

**Literacy Workshop:** During this time of the day, students participate in reading, writing, listening, and speaking activities. Writing activities could include any of the following: theme-based writing, journal writing, mini-lessons, phonics or sight-word work. Writing may be whole group, small group, or individualized. Expectations are based on each child's needs and abilities. During reading time, teachers, parents, or other adults work with individuals or small groups of children for reading instruction or practice. When children are not meeting with an adult they take part in Literacy Centers that enhance and extend skills they are working on with teachers. The centers that are available include: Puzzle, ABC, Classroom Library, Big Book, and Retelling.

**Handwriting Without Tears (HWT):** This program emphasizes learning to print in a multisensory way through music, large motor movement, and a variety of small motor activities.

**Snack:** Snack is available mid-morning.

**Morning break:** Students choose among structured and unstructured activities, as well as teacher-directed and child-directed play. It is usually on the back playground. During snowy or extremely cold weather, morning break is held indoors.

**All-School Recess & Lunch:** This is a time for the whole school to mix and socialize. Recess is takes place on the front or back playground on alternating days. After recess, Nest students eat together in the gym. On Mondays, the Nest students can choose to eat in the classroom or in the gym. Once a month, the Nest can choose to eat and watch a video during Lunch in the Library. During the first two full weeks of school, the Nest students eat lunch in the classroom.

**Quiet Time:** This school-wide time is scheduled for fifteen minutes to one half hour daily. Children and adults are given an opportunity to rejuvenate for the afternoon through drawing, writing, reading, or relaxing.

**Weekly Activities:** These provide an opportunity to delve more deeply into particular subject areas. Some activities are taught by All-School Teachers.

**Studio Choices and Community Circle:** Alternate Monday afternoons. During studio time, students can choose among art, tech, music, Spanish, P.E., and library activities. These activities have a mix of Nest, Pond, and Lake students. During Community Circle, the whole school meets up in the lunchroom for school-wide and small group mixed-age community-building activities.

**Unit Projects:** May consist of social studies activities, science exploration and experiments, field trips, dramatic play, songs, art projects, and cooperative games relating to our unit of study.

**Spanish:** Instruction takes place once a week and includes learning vocabulary and basic skills through conversation, songs, and games.

**Movement, Outdoors, & Wellness** is taught through a combination of cooperative games, skill work, mindfulness, and large gross-motor physical activities twice a week indoors and out.

**Music** focuses on singing, playing musical instruments, learning simple musical notation, creating and sharing musical pieces, as well as listening to and appreciating music.

**Library** time allows children an opportunity to visit the library to check out books, learn library skills, and to become familiar with a variety of authors and illustrators.

**Art** begins with a lesson and discussion about a particular art technique, artist, or concept. Children create a process-oriented art project using a variety of media.

**Tech Time** gives the children a chance to learn and explore technical skills using computers, iPads, digital cameras, etc. in the tech lab.

**Construction** is a time for students to use their imaginations and work cooperatively with others, enhancing their problem solving and communication skills.

**Learning Partners** get together each Friday. Older children from other classrooms come to the Nest to read or do other activities with their younger partner.

**All-School Outdoor Choice, In-Room Choice, and Follies** alternate on Friday afternoons. Choice times incorporate a variety of activities: art, games, a movie, an activity outside, science projects, etc. Follies are all-school assemblies involving music, dance, drama, and movement. Families are welcome to join us at Follies when you can.

**Closing Circle** is a time to enjoy a story, play a game, and reflect on the day through shared writing after students finish their classroom jobs.

### **Curriculum Matrix**

This matrix illustrates our curriculum across age levels and areas of study. Although this document delineates subject area and age level, Wingra students engage with these topics through rich integrated thematic units that vary from year to year. It is a living document that represents our child-centered, responsive curriculum as it adjusts to student needs, unique interests, and current events to make the most of each learning moment.

For an interactive format and more information including curriculum in other levels, sample projects, highlights, and resources, please visit the Wingra School Website at [www.wingraschool.org](http://www.wingraschool.org).

### **Literacy in the Nest**

#### ***Philosophy Statement***

The Nest language arts program fosters a love of reading, writing, listening, and speaking for pleasure, information, and instruction. These are naturally connected processes and are best learned with an integrated approach. Children value literacy when they can connect it to their daily lives. Children's motivation in literacy development is enhanced by exposure to a rich variety of materials, experiences, and activities in which language plays a key role. We support the children at each stage of development and scaffold them to the next level.

Reading is a developmental activity. We recognize that intellectual maturation, growth, and readiness are naturally uneven processes; children's development can vary widely and affect their progression in reading. We provide a literacy-rich environment with opportunities to read within a meaningful context, gain an awareness of phonics, and practice oral language and listening skills.

We use a process approach to teaching writing. All of the children in our classroom are writers, although the forms of writing they use may vary. Additional writing goals include writing in different genres, cultivating independence, building stamina, and utilizing resources. As long as children are surrounded by print, authentic literature, and have daily opportunities for reading and writing, with adult support, they will move toward sound spelling and conventional writing when they are ready.

#### ***Understanding Goals***

How do I know myself as a "reader?" What is the purpose of reading? How do I know myself as a "writer?" What is the purpose of writing? How are speaking, listening, reading, and writing related? Why is handwriting important? How can I demonstrate respectful listening? Why do I need to be a good listener? How can I say what I am thinking so that people can hear and understand me? Why is advocating for myself important? How can listening to others and speaking my truth help me make connections in our community?

How can I organize and express my thoughts and feelings clearly to other people through speaking and writing? What types of books do I like to read and to what types of books do I like to listen? What tools and strategies can I use to become a more fluent and expressive reader?

What was important and interesting about what I just read? What is my “just right” reading level? What are all the different ways I can communicate through my own writing? How do I spell the words I want to use when I am writing? Can I write neatly and legibly?

### ***Key Concepts/Skills***

**Listening and Speaking:** Learn to express ideas in a clear, related, and organized way. Learn to listen to others attentively and respectfully when they are speaking. Listen to and make relevant contributions to whole community, small group, and partner discussions. Listen to others and respond accordingly. Listen to and follow multi-step directions. Develop phonemic awareness: the knowledge of and the ability to manipulate the individual sounds (phonemes) in words.

**Reading:** Enjoy and comprehend stories in many forms. Interpret stories through pictures and words. Recognize print in the environment and learn the value of words and language in society. Learn letter names, sounds, and word families. Understand that there are many ways to read and many strategies to help one read. Recognize and begin to use picture cues, phonics skills (the study and use of sound/spelling correspondences and syllable patterns), and common sight words to read simple text. Begin to read one’s own writing.

Demonstrate interest in listening to and reading books. Read for pleasure and/or information. Use a variety of strategies to read. Recognize and read common sight words. Read independently in a “just right” reading book daily. Read at an instructional level with an adult one to two times each week. Compare and contrast authors’ techniques and styles. Develop fluency: reading text with sufficient speed, accuracy, and expression to support comprehension.

**Writing:** Understand that writing is used for communication. Demonstrate interest in telling, drawing, dictating, and/or writing a story. Dictate, copy, draw, and/or write ideas, thoughts, and stories to create finished works, such as patterned texts, thematic booklets, poetry, fiction stories, and nonfiction text. Generate topics and write independently. Expand vocabulary to be more descriptive in expressing thoughts and ideas. Write using a variety of sentence structures. Increase writing stamina to be able to write longer passages.

Listen for sounds to help identify letters needed while writing, use sound spelling and/or some conventional spelling. Understand that using “dictionary” spelling is helpful for others to be able to understand one’s writing. Use reasonable estimated and conventional spelling. Learn to read and spell high frequency words.

Learn how to form upper and lowercase manuscript letters, put spaces between words, use simple punctuation, and to write neatly and legibly.

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## **Math in the Nest**

### ***Philosophy Statement***

Mathematical investigations are an integral part of the daily life in the classroom. Actively thinking, constructing, and communicating mathematical ideas and concepts is emphasized throughout the school day. From calendar work and counting the days of school during morning meeting, to hands-on manipulative exploration and problem-solving during math workshop, students are engaged in building their own mathematical understanding. There is opportunity for deep exploration. Students are given the time and space needed to process concepts and ideas. The emphasis of all of our math work is for students to construct their own knowledge and solve problems in ways that make sense to them.

## ***Overarching Understanding Goals***

What is math and how do I use it? How do I become a mathematical thinker? What math manipulative tools are available to me and how do I use them? How can I sort and graph to count, compare, and learn things? How can I learn to count, compare, and develop computational fluency with whole numbers? How do I develop language to describe and compare shapes and relate them to real-world objects? How can I solve real-life problems using numbers? What approaches and strategies will I use? How do I determine which data and information is important? How can I demonstrate and communicate my understanding in written and oral forms? How do two- and three-dimensional shapes relate to each other and the real world? How can I manipulate and describe shapes to create patterns, designs, and structures?

## ***Focus Points & Understanding Goals***

### **PATTERNS AND FUNCTIONS**

Focus Points: Describe, extend, construct, record, and analyze repeating visual patterns and number patterns.

Understanding Goals: Can I predict what comes next in this pattern? How can I sort these objects? What are the attributes that make them the same or different? Which of these groups has more/fewer? How will this number change if I add (or take away) 1 (or 2)? What is the pattern? Can I continue it? What patterns do I see on the 100 chart? What patterns can I find and use in numbers and counting? What patterns exist in the world around me? When writing my equation, what symbols will I use? Which symbol will I use to show which number is more? Fewer? The same as?

### **GEOMETRY AND MEASUREMENT**

Focus Points: Develop vocabulary to identify and describe various shapes. Develop vocabulary and strategies to describe and compare various lengths. Gather, organize, understand, compare, and represent information.

Understanding Goals: What are the basic geometric shapes (2D and 3D) and what are their names? What are attributes of basic geometric shapes? Which of these (strings, tubes, Unifix trains...) is longer, shorter (heavier/lighter, taller/shorter)? What items can I use to measure an object? What are strategies for measuring the length of an object? Why do I use a standardized unit of measurement?

### **NUMBER SYSTEM AND PROBLEM SOLVING**

Focus Points: Count, recognize, and subitize numbers and quantities. Develop different strategies for solving a variety of types of addition and subtraction problems through meaningful mathematical explorations and problems. Develop problem solving strategies and ways to communicate and represent thinking

Understanding Goals: Which numeral matches the number of objects I see? What does the numeral '5' mean? How high can I count? Do I know this number? Which numbers do I know how to write? Which do I need to learn how to write? Which is more? Which is fewer? To solve this problem, will I use addition or subtraction? How are addition and subtraction similar and different? What information is important to solve this problem? How can I use my understanding of the place value system to solve addition and subtraction problems? Can I count sets of objects by 1s, 2s, 5s, and 10s? How does our number system work? How can I show a two- or three-digit number using base-10 blocks or charts?

## DATA ANALYSIS

Focus Points: Determine, analyze, and apply relevant data and vocabulary to daily problems with real world applications.

Understanding Goals: How can I show this information in an organized way? Based on the information I have, can I make an estimate/prediction? How can I group these objects? How are these things alike? How are they different? What is the common attribute? How can I collect information and put it into a graph? How can a graph show more, fewer, and equal to? What are the different kinds of graphs and how do you read them? How can I show my thinking using words, pictures, or equations? Do I agree or disagree with my friends' thinking? Can I explain how I solved my problem to my friend? What strategy can I use and what makes sense? Is there another way to solve this problem?

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## Science and Engineering in the Nest

### ***Philosophy Statement***

Every science inquiry starts with noticing, wondering, and exploring. Much of children's natural curiosity and wonder is driven through their play. Ample opportunities for free explorations and discoveries give time and space for questions to develop. After making observations, children ask questions to find out more information. In turn, their questions inspire investigations during which children engage in more focused explorations.

The explorations are drawn from life, physical, and earth/space sciences in ways that are meaningful to children based on experiences in their daily lives. These inquiries are built around important science ideas, which are developmentally appropriate and accessible to children's direct exploration. They include phenomena/events that children can dive into deeply and over time and are engaging, challenging, and fun. Providing guiding questions at critical times help provide a connection between a child's background knowledge and new experiences.

### ***Overarching Understanding Goals***

What is science? What do scientists do? How does making observations help me discover scientific truths based on evidence? What can I learn through testing and revising my theories? What are patterns in the natural and human-made world that I can observe and describe? What is a "cause" and what is an "effect?" How can I observe, experiment, and describe different causes and effects? What words can I use to describe, compare, sort, classify, and measure things that I see? What is a model? How do models help me understand objects and organisms and how do I apply that understanding to a bigger system? How does the matter and energy of objects change? How does the shape and design of objects affect their function? How do things change over time? What factors affect that change?

### ***Concepts, Processes, and Skills***

Ask questions and define problems about objects and events around them. Explore materials, objects, and events by acting upon them and noticing what happens. Use all senses to make careful observations of objects, organisms, and events. Describe, compare, sort, classify, and order in terms of observable characteristics and properties. Use a variety of simple tools to extend observations (a hand lens, measuring tools, eye droppers, a balance). Engage in simple investigations including making predictions, gathering and interpreting data, recognizing simple patterns, and drawing conclusions. Record observations, explanations, and ideas through multiple forms of representation including drawings, simple graphs, writing, and movement. Work collaboratively with others. Share and discuss ideas and listen to new perspectives. Develop and use models. Plan and carry out investigations. Analyze and interpret data. Use

mathematics, computational thinking, and literature as integrated components of science. Construct explanations and design solutions. Engage in argument from evidence. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information.

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## **Social Justice in the Nest**

### ***Philosophy Statement***

Our Social Justice curriculum is grounded in the everyday life of our classroom and school community, gradually expanding to include the wider community around us. At this age, children move through the developmental continuum of parallel play to working with others. During this important transition, students need scaffolding to help develop empathy, broaden their worldview, learn conflict resolution skills, and encourage them to become advocates for themselves and others. Children learn the power of their own voice and how to use it. We foster critical thinking skills through discussion, activities, literature, and real-life experiences. Together, we examine dominant culture with a critical eye, modeling ways to identify bias, question injustice, and, when appropriate, take action.

### ***Understanding Goals***

Who am I? Who are you? Who are we? How can we learn together? How can I be a friend in this community? How can I feel good about myself without being mean or making other people feel bad? How can I recognize and solve problems in our community? How do my words show appreciation and respect? How can we build an inclusive community?

### ***Focus Points***

**Identity:** Develop a positive self-image. Expand vocabulary to describe family, group identity, and classmates as friends. Learn how friends behave toward one another. Recognize and expresses emotions appropriately. Recognize and voice own ideas and preferences. Understand personal strengths and challenges. Develop awareness of belonging to many group identities, while maintaining a sense of one's own uniqueness. Learn how to handle success and disappointment responsibly. Recognize that each person can make a difference. Realize that everybody matters.

**Diversity:** Appreciate similarities and differences in friendships and be friendly to anyone. Develop language and knowledge to accurately and respectfully describe how people (including themselves) are both similar to and different from each other and others in their identity group. Display a curiosity about other people and their experiences. Recognize that everyone has feelings and exchange ideas and beliefs in an open-minded way. Show a desire to get along with people who are similar or different. Cultivate respectful language when describing diversity. Feel comfortable with differences and act respectfully. Respond to diversity by building empathy, respect, and connection.

**Justice:** Recognize that people are not just defined by one descriptor. Know when people are treated unfairly. Learn some true stories about how some people have been treated badly because of their group identities and empathize with the group. Understand that life is easier for some people and harder for others and the reasons for that are not always fair. Learn about people who helped stop unfairness and worked to make life better for many people.

**Action:** Care about those who are treated unfairly. Participate in creating classroom guidelines collaboratively with teachers and classmates. Join with classmates to make the classroom fair for everyone. Observe modeling of conflict resolution and practice these skills in real-life situations with the support of adults. Begin to articulate feelings with words instead of actions. Speak up for others and seek help when people are being unfair, including telling an adult, even if no one else does. Learn to take responsibility for my own actions.

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## **Social Studies in the Nest**

### ***Philosophy Statement***

Students in the Nest are still in an inward-focused, egocentric developmental stage. Through a purposeful social curriculum, as children this age develop a strong sense of self, they can begin to develop empathy for others and understand the broader world. Studying themselves and their families provides a foundation from which to learn about other families and their cultures, histories, and traditions. Learning to understand and respect one another's perspectives, differing ideas, and opinions is an integral part of being a citizen in a community. Our classroom community functions as a developmentally appropriate representation of the wider community. For example, student voice, choice, and participation are an important facet in the structure of our classroom, just as voting and community action play important roles in our democratic society. Within this community, students are able to practice the principles of civic life. Although there are many differing opinions and perspectives, we emphasize the role of a community member is to work for the common good.

### ***Understanding Goals***

How do I use maps and the globe to help me understand the world and my place in it? How can I communicate location by giving simple directions? How do I, my family, my classroom, and my community change over time? Who are some important historical figures? What are my responsibilities in the classroom and at home? What are choices and consequences that I have in my family and school community. What are my rights and responsibilities? What are rules and why do we have to follow them? What is the difference between a need and a want? How do I learn about the value of money and how do I learn what to spend, save, and share? How can I help my classroom, school, and community? What is a culture, mine and others? How can I add my voice to the voice of others to participate in decision making in partnerships and for my community as a whole? How do I experience, learn about, and care for outdoor spaces and the environment?

### ***Focus Points***

**Civics:** Support the need for fair rules and suggests fair solutions; develop classroom guidelines as a community. Make appropriate choices and discuss consequences of inappropriate choices. Perform classroom jobs. Take care of personal belongings and respect those of others. Actively engage in classroom, small group, and partner discussions about a variety of issues. Participate in a school-wide Student Council. Be an active member of a service learning group.

**History:** Review the calendar daily to use vocabulary pertaining to time and events, such as day, month, year. Describe yourself and your family in past, present, and future terms. Participate in a variety of thematic units that address different times in history (place on the globe, groups of people). Learn about important figures such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Aldo Leopold, and Georgia O'Keeffe. Visit museums that provide a cultural and historical perspective.

**Geography:** Learn about and describe familiar places such as home, classroom, school, neighborhood, natural areas, and community settings. Use maps and globes as a source of information and as a model of the earth. Participate in a variety of thematic units that teach about different people and places. Identify locations on simple maps, learn about coordinate graphing, and create symbols. Study geographical features and phenology.

**Economics:** Recognize that members of our community are interdependent and it's important for everyone to contribute to the community's well-being and functioning. Participate in classroom jobs. Recycle classroom materials

and compost snack and lunch foods. Recognize coins and learns their value. Visit local farmers' markets. Distinguish between needs and wants.

Behavioral Science: Study specific countries, cultures, and people during thematic units. Describe different ways of expressing emotions and feelings. Work together to find different solutions to classroom problems. Demonstrate responsibility for your role within the school community environment. Identify people who will help them at school. Exhibit an awareness that children grow up in different parts of the world with similar and different traditions. Retell and repeat stories, rhymes, or music from different cultures.

### **Cognitively Guided Instruction**

Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) is one component of our math curriculum. It is an approach developed at UW-Madison. Teachers listen and observe how children solve problems and build on the knowledge they already have. Children are encouraged to solve problems in different ways that make sense to them and to share their strategies with one another. This leads to greater understanding and flexibility in thinking. They are also asked to record their strategies. The process of solving the problem is as important as the answer itself.

Teachers carefully choose problems types and numbers to facilitate the mathematical growth of each child. The story problems that we write are based on a read-aloud related to our thematic unit, which provides a meaningful context for the students. The chart on the following page shows different types of problems used in the classroom. The problem types generally become more difficult to solve moving down and across the chart.

#### Common Progression of Problem Solving

##### Direct Modeling

Children act out the problem using manipulatives such as cubes, paper and pencil, fingers, or Base 10 blocks.

##### Counting Up or Down

When using a counting strategy, children “keep” one number from the problem in their head and count up or down to reach the solution. A number line is often used as a transitional tool from direct modeling.

##### Number Facts

Children use number facts throughout the different stages of problem solving. They build on facts they already know (doubles, sums to ten, skip counting, etc.) and use them to learn new facts.

##### Invented Strategies

When children have a thorough understanding of the place value system, they begin to use invented strategies. One common strategy is to add the tens together, then the ones, and then combine them for the solution.

\*\*It is important to note that children will move among different groups and use different strategies depending on the type of problem and/or the size of the numbers used.

## CGI Problem Types

Join	<p><u>Result Unknown</u> Connie had 5 marbles. Jim gave her 8 more marbles. How many marbles does Connie have now?</p> $5+8=\square$	<p><u>Change Unknown</u> Connie had 5 marbles. How many more marbles does she need to win to have 13 marbles all together?</p> $5+\square=13$	<p><u>Start Unknown</u> Connie had some marbles. Jim gave her 5 more marbles. Now she has 13 marbles. How many marbles did Connie start with?</p> $\square+5=13$
Separate	<p><u>Result Unknown</u> Connie had 13 marbles. She gave 5 marbles to Jim. How many marbles does she have now?</p> $13-5=\square$	<p><u>Change Unknown</u> Connie had 13 marbles. She gave some marbles to Jim. Now she has 5 marbles. How many did she give to Jim?</p> $13-\square=5$	<p><u>Start Unknown</u> Connie had some marbles. She gave 5 to Jim. Now she has 8 marbles left. How many marbles did Connie have to start with?</p> $\square-5=8$
Part-Part Whole	<p><u>Whole Unknown</u> Connie has 5 red marbles and 8 blue marbles. How many marbles does she have altogether?</p> $5+8=\square$	<p><u>Part Unknown</u> Connie has 13 marbles. Five are red and the rest are blue. How many blue marbles does Connie have?</p> $13-5=\square \text{ or } 5+\square=13$	
Compare	<p><u>Difference Unknown</u> Connie has 13 marbles. Jim has 5 marbles. How many more marbles does Connie have than Jim?</p> $13-5=\square \text{ or } 5+\square=13$	<p><u>Compare Quantity Unknown</u> Jim has 5 marbles. Connie has 8 more than Jim. How many marbles does Connie have?</p> $5+8=\square$	<p><u>Referent Set Unknown</u> Connie has 13 marbles. She has 5 more marbles than Jim. How many marbles does Jim have?</p> $13-5=\square \text{ or } 5+\square=13$
Multiplication and Division	<p><u>Multiplication</u> Connie has 5 bags of cookies. There are three cookies in each bag. How many cookies does Connie have?</p> $5\times 3=\square$	<p><u>Measurement Division</u> Connie has 15 cookies. She puts 3 cookies into each bag. How many bags can she fill?</p> $15\div 3=\square$	<p><u>Partitive Division</u> Connie has 15 cookies. She put the cookies into 5 bags with the same number of cookies in each bag. How many cookies are in each bag?</p> $15\div 5=\square$

## Stages of Reading

- ✓ Listening to stories, unaware of print and its functions
- ✓ Picture reading, describing pictures
- ✓ Going through motions of reading: turning pages, tracking print with hands
- ✓ Pretend reading: becoming aware of the need to scrutinize print, making up story, or drawing on memory
- ✓ Using memory reading; sometimes tracking print with hands but not with eyes
- ✓ Scanning for meaning and saying individual words (mostly nouns and verbs) during unison reading or while reading along
- ✓ Listening for repetitive parts of story and chiming in for a few words while scanning text with eyes
- ✓ Generalizing knowledge gleaned from practicing with familiar texts to unfamiliar ones
- ✓ Using context, sentence structure, knowledge of subject matter, and sounds of letters and words to derive meaning from print
- ✓ Reading with fluency and expression



### **Handwriting Without Tears**

Handwriting Without Tears® is the program and accompanying resources used for teaching handwriting at Wingra. Jan Olsen, an Occupational Therapist, developed The program was developed by Jan Olsen, an occupational therapist, to be used in schools, home, and therapy settings as children are developing as writers. HWT aims to make legible and fluent handwriting an easy and automatic skill for all students.

In addition to daily practice in their HWT workbooks, students practice handwriting in their daily academic pursuits. They receive feedback on handwriting from teachers as a part of fix and finish, or during review and conversations with teachers about their work. Visual models of the correct way to form letters and numbers are available to students during writing and math.

The HWT program offers a developmental approach to handwriting, using movement, music, a variety of learning materials, and direct instruction in the formation of letters and numbers. Printed letters and cursive letters are learned in groups that require similar movements, instead of in ABC order. Detailed explanations of these groups and letter formation charts are explained in more detail in the accompanying Handwriting Without Tears packet.

Your child will benefit from daily practice with handwriting. Encourage him or her to keep a journal, write notes or letters, draw and color with crayons, craypas and chalk. Hand work like knitting, working with clay or play-doh, and cutting paper all help to strengthen hand skills that will support legible, fluent handwriting.

### **Curriculum Matrix**

This matrix illustrates our curriculum across age levels and areas of study. Although this document delineates subject area and age level, Wingra students engage with these topics through rich integrated thematic units that vary from year to year. It is a living document that represents our child-centered, responsive curriculum as it adjusts to student needs, unique interests, and current events to make the most of each learning moment.

For an interactive format and more information including curriculum in other levels, sample projects, highlights, and resources, please visit the Wingra School Website at [www.wingraschool.org](http://www.wingraschool.org).

### **Art in the Nest**

#### ***Philosophy Statement***

Every child begins life with a passion for creating and a thirst for knowledge. Children's innate curiosity is something to nourish, encourage and grow. Nurturing a child's approach to the world results in a self-motivated learner who seeks increasing opportunities to grow and express their capacity. A student like that knows no limits!

Within each art experience, students' freedom to choose a subject or material allows self discovery and opportunity to problem solve. A wide range of media and concepts, including composition, balance, contrast, repetition, emphasis and storytelling come together to form the students' art foundation. Group work encourages cooperation, compromise, inspiration and problem-solving among students. Students begin to develop their voice and style as an artist, supported by classroom discussion. Integrating with classroom curriculum, the working art studio is an excellent place to teach and practice social justice skills for young students. Art is explored as a window into history and culture, and by combining the practice of art with exposure to art from around the world, students gain a deeper understanding of what art is as well as an appreciation of the cultures that created it.

#### ***Understanding Goals***

What kind of artwork do I like to do? How is it different to draw and paint? What does it mean to be an artist? How can I show my ideas and feelings in my art? Can I show my feelings when I draw myself or family? How am I an observer in art? What is the difference between a line, shape and form? How can I change shapes when I overlap them? What is the color wheel, and how can I use it? When I blend primary colors, can I create a range of secondary colors? How can I use new materials and new techniques? Can I experiment with sculpture materials without knowing the outcome? What should I do when I'm frustrated or make a mistake? How am I an explorer with new media? Can exploring new materials with others be a part imaginary play? How do I share ideas with others and collaborate? How can I be a part of a group mural and still make what I want? How am I part of a community in art class?

#### ***Key Concepts***

Explore and experiment with a wide variety of media and techniques. Draw with basic shapes, reinforcing fine motor control. Discover the elements and principles of art in both 2D and 3D projects. Grow self-confidence through experimentation, acquisition of new skills, and acceptance of mistakes as a part of learning. Create and nurture a positive and supportive environment in the art classroom through collaboration on projects, sharing materials, and cleaning up together. Learn to value and enjoy the process and the element of magic and surprise inherent in creating

works of art. Develop awareness of the group and appreciate the diversity of interpretations. Appreciate the unique atmosphere of the art studio and benefit from viewing work from all grades on display.

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## **Library in the Nest**

### ***Philosophy Statement***

Cultivating a love of words, stories, and reading is a foundational skill for our youngest students. By reading to students and discussing ideas from a wide range of texts (picture books, biographies, folklore and mythology, poetry, beginning readers, and non-fiction), they learn to become great storytellers as well as keen listeners. Books are social justice tools and help teach about identity, diversity, and equity; they can act as both mirrors in which students see themselves and as a windows in which students observe, learn from, and empathize with others' experiences. Our Nest students come to Wingra with a range of literacy experiences. We use writing, drawing, painting, and drama to give students opportunities to express their thoughts and feelings about a story or poem. Students in the Nest create collaborative books in the library on a variety of themes and practice their oral, visual, and written storytelling skills. Students at the Nest level have lots of questions about how the world works and are learning ways to get some of their questions answered.

### ***Understanding Goals***

What are the elements of story? How is a story different from a poem? From a non-fiction book? When I listen to a book or poem being read, what makes it enjoyable for me? What do authors, poets, and illustrators do? How can I tell if a book or poem is "good" or not? What awards can a book win? How do I borrow books from the Wingra Library? What are the parts of the Wingra Library? How do I find "just right books" in the Wingra Library? What questions do I have about the world? How can I begin to find answers to my questions in the library? When I write and illustrate books, what should I include in my story?

### ***Key Concepts***

Literature and Poetry: Enjoy and comprehend stories and poems in many forms. Interpret stories and poems through pictures and words. Listen to and make relevant contributions to discussions. Understand that there are many ways to read and many skills to help one read. Demonstrate interest in listening to and reading books and poems. Compare and contrast authors' and illustrators' techniques and styles. Learn to express ideas in a clear, related, and organized way. Recognize major awards given to authors and illustrators for their work. See self and learns to empathize with others through literature.

Writing: Understand that we use writing to communicate. Dictate ideas, thinking and stories to create finished works, such as patterned texts, thematic booklets and fiction and nonfiction stories. Begin to read one's own writing. Demonstrate interest in telling, dictating, and writing a story.

Inquiry: Form simple questions and begin to explore ways to answer them. Share what is already known about a topic, problem, or question. Interpret information represented in pictures, illustrations, and simple charts. Learn to borrow books by logging in and scanning barcodes. Recognize how the library is organized and what types of books are housed in each section.

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## **Music in the Nest**

### ***Philosophy Statement***

Nest students engage with music through song, play, composition, improvisation, performance, movement, recording, and listening. These experiences nurture students' listening and collaboration habits, encourage their creativity and confidence, and support them as they build developmentally-appropriate musical skills. The Nest music curriculum is centered around the children's own creations. As they compose original music – from percussive improvisations to written scores with invented or traditional notation systems – the Nesters learn key musical concepts such as pitch, timbre, form, dynamics, and rhythm in an active, hands-on way. We celebrate music as a creative art form, a joyful part of everyday life for people everywhere, an integral part of our identity as individuals in a diverse community, and a treasure of exciting skills and ideas for each child to explore.

Instruments available for the students include pianos, keyboards, recorders, guitars, ukuleles, lap-harps, computers with recording and notation software, pitched and non-pitched percussion, electronic drum set, and more.

### ***Understanding Goals***

How can my music tell a story? How does certain music make me feel? How does my singing voice help me to express myself? What instruments do I like to play? How do I use instruments safely? What type of music is the best fit today? What are "high" and "low" sounds? How do I listen while I sing and play instruments? How can I control the volume of the sounds I play and sing? How can moving my body reflect the rhythm I hear? How do I communicate musical ideas using words, drawings, and symbols? How do I sing or play on an instrument what I see on paper?

### ***Key Concepts***

**Singing Voice:** Practice pitch accuracy, expression, and group balance. Transform ideas and reflections into music; imagination as the first step in composition.

**Joy of Music:** Find connections between music, experiences, self, and identity when singing, playing instruments, and listening to music.

**Exploring Instruments:** Discover different sounds by playing and listening. Take good care of instruments. Learn to play instruments individually and with friends.

**Visualization of Music:** Create and use symbols and visual cues to express or communicate music. Illustrate music as a mode of reflection.

**Concepts Of Pitch, Dynamics, Beat, And Meter:** Listen for and describe components of musical composition in music we hear. Apply these concepts in music we compose ourselves.

**Free Musical Improvisation:** Make music spontaneously, possibly prompted by a theme, a story, or a visual cue.

**Music And Emotions:** Express feelings, ideas, and responses through creating music and by finding meaning in the music of others.

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## **Spanish in the Nest**

### ***Philosophy Statement***

Nest Spanish brings together the dynamics of progressive education – valuing interaction, movement, curiosity and play – with fundamental concepts of language acquisition such as exposure to vocabulary in context and physical response to language. Students are exposed to large amounts of rich comprehensible input in Spanish – spoken language made accessible by careful word choice, repetition, gestures, and visuals – so that they can begin forming an ear for the language. The language ear is an intuitive understanding of inherent patterns, sounds and procedures in a language, an invaluable base for all further study. A casual, playful atmosphere is established to lower the affective filter, the inhibitions and fear of failure that obstruct language learning. Students are not pressured to produce flawless Spanish, but are instead free to develop a natural curiosity and desire to learn new words. Reading and writing support is available but students are not rushed in these areas.

Social justice concepts guide Nest Spanish work in multiple ways. Nest students are regularly exposed to other cultures, their traditions and ways of life through books, music, videos and artifacts. They are encouraged to practice demonstrating interest, respect, and an open mind while exploring these cultures and comparing them to their own. They also learn about historical and contemporary figures such as Cesar Chavez who worked to stop unfairness and make a difference. The classroom community embodies social justice as all members treat one another with fairness and support one another in “giving it a try,” and celebrating each other’s successes.

### ***Understanding Goals***

What does Spanish sound like? How can I understand, speak, read and write words in Spanish? What is fun about learning Spanish? How are Spanish and English similar and different? Who are some people that speak Spanish?

### ***Skills and Vocabulary***

Develop an ear for the language by combining Spanish words and songs with movement, and through interactive stories and games. Focus on sheltered Spanish immersion (instruction primarily in Spanish, made accessible through word choice, repetition, gestures and visuals as well as some English) as a platform for expanding listening comprehension skills and building curiosity and appreciation for the experience of language learning.

Selected Vocabulary: greetings, colors and numerals, animals, days of the week, weather, food, emotions, body, simple phrases.

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## **Technology in the Nest**

### ***Philosophy Statement***

Nesters learn the fundamentals of hardware and software through exploration and investigation. Students will navigate both computer and internet browser interfaces with different operating systems. By utilizing kid-safe websites related to their classroom unit, Nest students familiarize themselves with mouse to screen coordination while learning integrated material. Through games and play, students become fluent with computer functions. Nest students also learn shortcuts and gestures with touchscreens and how to troubleshoot. While using tablets as cameras and video recorders, students discuss and evaluate when and how it is acceptable to record other people. They are introduced to the idea of being a digital citizen, making safe choices, limiting screen time, and what to do if you feel unsure.

## **Understanding Goals**

What is technology? What does "using technology responsibly" mean? How do I open the internet? How do I go back to the last website? How do I change my window size? How can I change the volume? When can I take a picture of another person? How do I get to the next line so I can type underneath what I already have? Why does this menu keep showing up when I click? How do I make my text bigger? What is "screen time" and why is that important? How do I get back to the Wingra tech website? How do I close this website? How do I know what I'm supposed to do on this game? How am I supposed to handle technology tools?

## **Key Concepts**

**Creativity & Innovation:** Express identity and ideas through various applications. Take photos and record videos. Personalize work to fit desired aesthetic. Discover and watch the creations of others.

**Communication & Collaboration:** Practice letter recognition and vocabulary development. Develop and expand upon foundational reading skills within an exciting context. Experiment with keyboarding and write for personal enjoyment and classroom projects. Listen to recordings and verbal directions. Speak, record, and playback their voices, sounds, and others.

**Research & Information Fluency:** Explore teacher-selected websites to enhance and support classroom curriculum.

**Critical Thinking:** Solve problems and apply logic within games and puzzles. Make decisions in multiple contexts. Explore the functions within a website or application. Learn to use visual cues to attempt independent troubleshooting.

**Digital Citizenship:** Respect each other's work. Identify the hard work in themselves and others. Use technology in safe and careful ways. Discuss screen time habits and appreciate play in many ways.

**Technology Operation & Concepts:** Log into school computers using the correct password. Identify the basic components of the computer: monitor, keyboard, mouse, and headphones. Practice using two hands on the keyboard. Launch and quit applications.

## Ways To Support Your Child In The Nest

To support your child as a reader and a writer...

- ✓ Read to and with your child on a regular basis.
  - ✓ Take your child to the library.
  - ✓ Help your child write notes and letters to others.
  - ✓ Write stories and make books together.
  - ✓ Create lists together. e.g. grocery lists
- 

To support your child as a mathematician...

- ✓ Practice counting (e.g. ones, twos, tens, counting on, counting back).
  - ✓ Help your child to learn addition and subtraction facts.
  - ✓ Notice math concepts with your family (e.g. recipes, schedules, prices) and use math tools together (e.g. clocks, calendars, calculators, money).
  - ✓ Foster a positive attitude about math.
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To support your child as a community member...

- ✓ Find positive qualities in your child's friendships.
  - ✓ Invite friends over to your house and encourage new relationships.
  - ✓ Talk about conflict in healthy ways.
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To support your child as a learner at Wingra School...

- ✓ Encourage your child's observations and wonderings.
  - ✓ Allow your child to make decisions and learn from mistakes.
  - ✓ Look at the "Peek-of-Week" newsletter together.
  - ✓ Communicate your questions, concerns and thoughts with teachers.
  - ✓ Accentuate the positive!
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