

Dear Parent,



We're excited to have your child in Kindergarten at Whitmore Lake Elementary School.

This is a very important year in your child's life, and we're pleased to be part of it.

At school, we're building on the skills that your child has already learned and we're introducing new ones. See this side of the brochure for details about what we're doing this year in Social Studies.

At home, your child can practice the skills we're learning at school. See the other side of this brochure for easy things that you can do to encourage that practice.

By working together, we can make sure that your child acquires the skills he or she needs to be successful in school and life.

We look forward to working with you and your child this year. When you have questions, please feel free to contact us at 449-2051.

Sincerely,
The Kindergarten Teachers

In every grade, we teach Social Studies skills that will help students:

Express informed opinions

- Gather information from books, maps, newspapers, graphs, charts, and timelines.
- Construct maps, graphs, and timelines.
- Investigate why different people have different points of view.
- Take a position on an issue and defend it.

Think historically

- Understand time and order of events.
- Comprehend, analyze, and interpret the past.
- Judge the causes and effects of key historical decisions.

Describe our world

- Explain global issues and events.
- Describe, compare, and explain location, characteristics of people, places, cultures.
- Understand the human impact on the environment.
- Understand how the environment affects trade and economies.

Be effective citizens

- Be a good citizen by following laws, rules.
- Know purposes of governing bodies and assess their effectiveness.
- Know the core Democratic values.
- Compare checks and balances at all government levels.
- Recognize that nations in the world interact with one another.

Make informed economic decisions

- Explain goods and services.
- Describe supply and demand.

In Kindergarten, we teach Social Studies skills that will help your child:

Express informed opinions

- Gather and analyze information to explore resolutions to conflict.
- Respond to a question of public concern.
- Compare a student's viewpoint to an opposing person.

Think historically

- Use days, weeks, months, and seasons as intervals of time.
- Place events in students' lives in chronological order.
- Tell the difference between distant past, recent past, present, and future.
- Provide evidence of something being from the past.
- Identify historic personalities and explain how they demonstrate good character and civic duty.



Describe our world

- Describe human characteristics of Whitmore Lake and an imaginary neighborhood.
- Make simple maps of familiar places (neighborhood, city).
- Locate addresses in an imaginary neighborhood and trace movement between them.
- Locate and describe the location of the school using aerial photography.

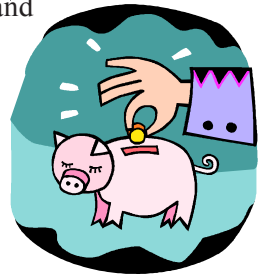
- Describe changes in geography over time using aerial photography.
- Compare children of Whitmore Lake with children of other places.
- Describe how people use the environment to meet human needs.

Be effective citizens

- Recognize a conflict and reasonable solutions.
- Use core Democratic values to resolve conflict.
- Identify rules and consequences for breaking rules.
- Determine fair ways to make decisions.

Make informed economic decisions

- Recognize economic exchanges in which students participate.
- Describe use of cash in exchange for goods.
- Distinguish public and private goods.
- Determine how individuals can save money.
- Describe a good or service provided by government and its funding source.



Whitmore Lake Elementary School
1077 Barker Rd.
Whitmore Lake, MI 48189



Express informed opinions

- Ask your children their opinions on an appropriate public matter (e.g., “What kind of play equipment should they put in the new park?”) and have them tell you why they hold that position.

Think historically

- Talk about things you will do using the days of the week, months of the year, or seasons (e.g., “We will go fishing at the lake in the summer.”).
- Look at photo albums that show your child as an infant, toddler, etc.
- Visit an older relative and have them share stories or items from their childhood (talking about the past).
- Go to an antique store and point out old fashions, tools, and appliances, and discuss similarities and differences to modern fashion, tools, and appliances.



Describe our world

- When driving, point out landmarks in town (market, bowling alley, lake, school).
- Teach your child his or her address.
- Involve your child in family trip planning.
- Draw a map to a friend’s house together.

Be effective citizens

- Use words to solve disagreements.
- Role play a solution to a problem with a sibling or friend.
- Watch a favorite show and discuss how the characters solved a problem. Was it a good solution? What else could they have done?
- Vote on some family decisions (e.g., what your family would like for dessert, what game to play, etc.).



Make informed economic decisions

- Go shopping together and talk about how you have to pay for the items you purchase.
- Get a bank for your child.
- Have your child save part of his or her allowance.



In Kindergarten,
we're teaching
your child
important
citizenship
skills.

What are these skills?

How can you help your child practice them?

W ...exceptional,
personalized education

For more good ideas, ask your child's teacher, or contact:
Whitmore Lake Elementary School
1077 Barker Road • Whitmore Lake
Michigan • 48189
(734) 449-2051 • <http://www.wlps.net>