



## Curriculum

In keeping with our Progressive Philosophy, we honor children's individual development and are committed to differentiated instruction. The following are subject area frameworks. Our full curriculum is available for viewing in our school office.

**Language Arts/Literacy:** We utilize a Language Arts Continuum Model. It is based on the research and work of Bonnie Campbell Hill. The Continuum model (reading and writing) provides the opportunity to observe and document children's growth in reading and writing over the span of their years at Open Wings. We utilize the research-based teaching strategies of the Reading and Writing Project from Teachers College to move students along the continuum pathways. Our leveled readers are from Fountas and Pinnell and our next door neighbor, Kenosha Southwest Library.

**Math:** We utilize a set of continuum pathways for our mathematics teaching. We assess and move our students forward in the areas of Number and Operations, Geometry, Algebraic Thinking, Measurement, and Data Analysis. We utilize the Math Expressions and Terc Investigations curricula.

**Science:** Our science curriculum provides children with varied experiences that support growth. We use inquiry as an approach as we explore, observe, communicate about, and draw conclusions about our world. We accomplish this through units of study that are integrated throughout our curriculum areas.

**Social Studies:** Our social studies curriculum supports the development of several important themes. As a class and as individuals, we develop a sense of self and belonging and connectedness to family, school, community, nation, and world. We work to develop an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of being a citizen. We work and live in the middle of diversity and learn to appreciate differences. Our social studies curriculum is tightly coordinated with our major units of study and is embellished by our weekly visits from community members.

**Art:** Art is an essential part of a child's education. Open Wings' mission in art is to provide students with a nurturing environment essential to becoming lifelong creative and critical thinkers. Art develops the whole child creatively, intellectually, socially, and emotionally. Students learn to create, observe, discuss, interpret and analyze, and enjoy art. We experience a lesson in art history monthly and work in the mode and media of the highlighted artist.

**Music:** Students will acquire a lifelong interest in and appreciation of music through active exploration, engagement, and reflection. Our students work in each of the following: listening to works, playing instruments, reading music, and singing. There are multiple concerts through the school year.



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**French:** Our French studies are designed to introduce the French culture and basic information such as greetings, body parts, days of the week, and French music.

**Kinetic Wellness:** Each morning, we spend ten minutes warming up our bodies and nervous systems to learn in Spark. We start by walking, then skipping, and a short run to get our neurons firing. When the weather permits, we walk to the local playground for play and gross motor movement mid-day. We take time for a gym class each afternoon. Our focus in this class is on game playing, skill building, cooperation, and sportsmanship.

**Movement:** In addition to kinetic wellness, our students experience Tai Chi, and movement/dance each once per week.

### **Field Experiences:**

We rely on local and area experiences as resources for children by exposing them to people and places that enhance their learning. We regularly visit the Kenosha Public Library, the Kenosha museums (the Public Museum, The Dinosaur Museum, the Lighthouse Keeper's House, and the History Center). We view the outdoors as an extension of our classroom and spend time outdoors any day that nature allows. We visit our local nursery to learn about plants and Hawthorn Hollow in each season. We also make outings to Milwaukee, where we have visited Discovery World, Mitchell Place Conservatory (Domes) and the Milwaukee Public Museum. And we enjoy visits to The Shedd Aquarium in Chicago.

### **Inspiring Quotes:**

*Reggio Emilia: A school needs to be a place for all children, not based on the idea that they're all the same, but that they're all different." -Loris Malaguzzi, founder of the Reggio-Emilia method*

*Maria Montessori: Education is a natural process carried out by the child and is not acquired by listening to words but by experiences in the environment.*

*"Open Wings Learning Community has managed to create a dynamic learning environment like no other I've experienced in my 30 years in education. When participating in various activities and events at Open Wings, with my eyes I've witnessed nurturing master teachers, creative hands-on experiential learning activities, and skill development in the students that is measurable and obvious. When I look into the eyes of the students who attend Open Wings, I've witnessed a love for their teachers, for each other, and a very apparent love for learning! Whenever, I spend any time at Open Wings, my eyes and my heart tell me that this is a spectacular one-of-a-kind learning community that changes children's lives."*

*Kathy Boero, grandparent, and educator*