

# WY'EAST (3<sup>RD</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADES)

## CURRICULUM OVERVIEW



### CLASS OVERVIEW

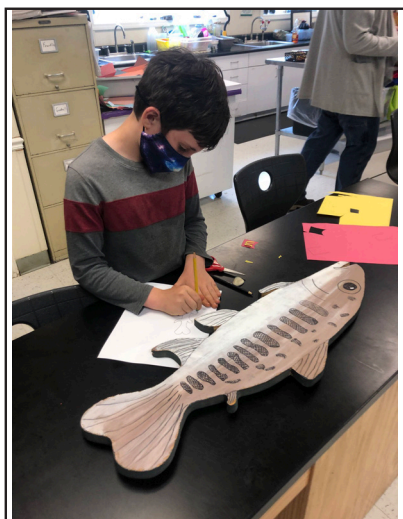
The Wy'East classroom has a far reaching curriculum. Eight to eleven-year-olds are at a developmental stage that necessitates new responsibilities, making connections and exploring the world around them. Through field trips and thematic projects, students pursue a variety of natural science investigations and historical studies. They also focus on fine tuning verbal and writing skills for clear communication and life-long learning. All this occurs under the umbrella of a caring and a collaborative environment where expectations are high and there is a balance of freedom and responsibility to develop a well rounded social emotionally competent child.



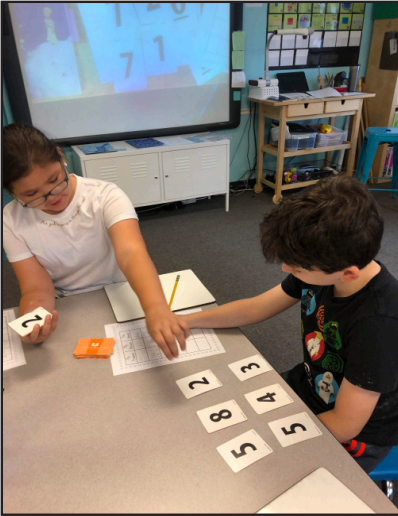
### LANGUAGE ARTS

Reading and writing are embedded into all areas of the curriculum and are crucial to the thematic approach that is used here at The Gardner School.

In Wy'East students work on writing projects centered on a specific genre. Through reading examples and engaging in mini-lessons, students learn to write in a specific genre. Students in Wy'East write much like professionals do; there is a cycle of collecting, drafting, revision, editing, and publication, which involves teacher and peer feedback at all stages. Completed work is celebrated and shared with others in a variety of contexts.



Students in Wy'East read throughout the year. At times the entire class will read one book, and at other times they will engage in Literature Circles allowing for deeper engagement and extension work. A read-aloud led by the teacher affords a wonderful opportunity to teach reading and listening comprehension skills. As with writing, there are units of study in which there is a focus on specific genres of text and specific reading skills.



## MATHEMATICS

The Wy'East study of mathematics has an emphasis on problem solving and mathematical communication. Students teach and learn multiple strategies for basic operations, use logic and reasoning for problem solving, and learn to communicate using the vocabulary of mathematicians. They study measurement, data collection, and analysis. Students participate in real-life investigations that involve math whenever possible.

## THEMATICS

Wy'East studies of science and social studies are local and global, in the distant past and the present. Thematic studies are integrated in all subject areas to learn and create a strong understanding. Students develop skills of observing, questioning, experimenting, and investigating while focusing on relationships between environments and cultures. Field trips are connected to our thematic studies. At the end of a thematic unit, students collaborate to share their learning with families through performances and visual displays.



## ASSESSMENT

Assessment is ongoing in the Wy'East classroom. Through one-on-one conferences, written feedback and anecdotal observation, the lead teacher provides a roadmap for student progress. Thorough narrative evaluations and benchmarks are provided for families twice a year. Additionally, conferences are conducted regularly throughout the year.

## SPECIALISTS

Our third and fourth grade students participate in a variety of specialists classes, including PE, Health, Science, Art, Spanish, and Music. Specialists integrate the thematic studies into their curriculum as well, reinforcing the deep learning happening in the classroom. By providing our students with opportunities to use their bodies and brains in a variety of ways, we celebrate the multiple intelligences approach to learning.

