

Educational Programming and the Learning Environment

The staff of West Lafayette Intermediate School strongly believes that the success of the school can be measured in many ways. Standardized testing represents only one of several ways that reflect a school's success. West Lafayette Intermediate prides itself in the plethora of opportunities students have to explore and succeed, some of which are listed below.

Music

There are five fully certified music teachers on staff. General Music classes (with one full time and one part time teacher) serve all students, and meet for an average of 60 minutes per week. There is also one choir director for an average of between 50-60 students twice a week for the year. Another two certified staff members direct the West Lafayette Intermediate Band program. The fifth certified staff member directs the West Lafayette Intermediate Strings program.

Besides regularly scheduled classes, the following music opportunities are offered.

- Beginning Band – meets twice a week/performs several concerts per year
- Advanced Band – meets twice a week/performs several concerts per year
- 4th, 5th, 6th Grade Strings – each meets twice a week/performs several concerts per year
- Choir – meets twice a week/performs several concerts per year
- Participation in the Indiana State School Music Association contests
- Participation in Circle the State with Song Festival and IMEA All-State Elementary Honor Choir
- Annual 4th grade field trip to the Lafayette Symphony Orchestra's "Symphony on the Go"
- Annual 4th, 5th, and 6th grade musicals

Art

A fully certified art teacher meets with every class once a week for 45 minutes. Student artwork is displayed in a number of regional shows. The following is a partial listing of those shows. The specific art shows may vary year to year.

- Tippecanoe Arts Federation Youth Art Exhibit representation
- Students' artwork is displayed in the hallway
- School-wide year-round art project on display
- Student artwork is frequently exhibited at WLCSC Central Office.
- Student Art Show in the Spring with coordination with Choir Concert
- Art Club is available for 5th and 6th graders during their lunch recess. They have the opportunity to extend their creativity beyond the normal class time.

Physical Education

Two certified physical education teachers meet with classrooms two times a week for 45 minutes each session. Special activities include the following:

- Annual Mile Cross Country Meet – data for each student on record
- Annual Decathlon Competition – data for each student on record

- Annual Track and Field Meet – data for participants on record
- Annual Indoor Track and Field Meet at Purdue University’s Lambert Field House (This event is open to other schools in the area: PreK - 6th grade.)
- PACER Test for general physical fitness (Pretest - August, posttest October/November)
- Participation in the Jump for Heart promotion each year
- Participation in the Fun Run – students run/walk for 30 minutes – data for each student on record

Library/Media Center

A full-time fully certified media specialist meets with every classroom once a week for 45 minutes. In addition to library and information literacy skills, the following opportunities are offered:

- Accelerated Reader (AR) – Reading assessment and incentive program. The progress of every student is electronically tracked.
- Whitman Collection – A genre-fied collection of books that is used to introduce students to quality books they might not otherwise find. Teachers can use this collection for students' independent reading goals and to introduce them to multiple genres to broaden their reading.
- Leveled Book Collection – Reserved sets of lexile-leveled books for our ELL, special education, and reading intervention students.
- Young Hoosier Book Award Program – A statewide children's choice book award program that allows students to read from a select list of books in order to vote for a “best” book. Library holds multiple copies of each title to promote participation.
- Book Fairs - opportunity for purchasing books for independent reading
- Full Library Access – The library is open the entire school day for drop-in students from classrooms. The library is also an option for students at lunch recess.
- Author Visit--school focus on bringing a grade-appropriate author to visit the school and speak to students--minimum of every 3 years
- One Book/One School--whole school reads the same book and participates in all school discussions and activities related to the book (goal once every 3 years)

Other Academic Enrichment Programming

- 5th Grade Outdoor Education Camp – Every year every 5th grader goes on an overnight camp experience. This 60 year program utilizes an extensive curriculum especially developed for the experience.
- Art Club – Students meet with the art teacher to further expand their abilities.
- B.O.B - Battle of the Books (BOB) is a reading incentive program where students work in teams to read and comprehend ten books. The teams compete by answering questions. Last year we battled two other schools and plan to add more schools this year.
- WLIS Review – a writing club that meets once a month to organize and create the school newspaper, WLIS Review. There are 7-8 editions put out per year. Students write, draw, organize and create the newspaper.
- Homework Club – Students have the option to work on homework or read during their lunch recess.

- Math Bowl – Students compete to represent the school in a statewide math competition. Practices are held three times a week for two months prior to the competition. Our school typically wins or places in the top three.
- Math Counts – Students compete with area schools for a spot in the state competition. This competition also continues on to the national level. Practices occur throughout the year until the competition.
- Math League Test – All students take the Math League test in the spring. West Lafayette Intermediate consistently places in the top 5 statewide.
- Open Gym – The PE teachers open the gym at 7:20 for students to jump start their day physically as an alternative to “sitting and waiting till the bell rings” at 7:35.
- Science Fair – 6th grade classes study the scientific method through an individual science fair project. After sharing with the school, many of the students choose to participate in the Purdue University Regional Science and Engineering Fair where many typically receive high honors.
- Spell Bowl - Students compete to represent the school in a statewide spelling competition. Practices are held three times a week. Our school typically wins or places in the top three.
- Spelling Bee – A winner is determined from each classroom. All the classroom winners compete to become the school champion. The school champion goes on to compete in the Regional Scripps Spelling Bee. Past winners have won the regional, state, and national competitions.
- Writing contests – Individual classrooms and sometimes the whole school participates in many writing contests throughout the year. Some examples are the Family Services Contest, Feast of the Hunters’ Moon Contest, Journal & Courier “Finish the Scary Story”, and “I Have a Dream” Contest. There are always winners from our school.
- Fitness room– Students have the option to work on fitness machines as an alternative to recess.
- Student Council - Students select two representatives from each class to serve on the Student Council. They meet monthly and address student concerns, ways to help the community and school, and partake in service projects.
- German Klub - 6th graders participate in an after school program weekly to learn German through a Purdue connection.

Healthcare

One registered nurse’s responsibilities include the following:

- Vision screens—All 5th graders are given a vision screen. Additional vision screens are performed when requested by teachers or for GLASS referrals.
- Fifth-Grade Camp—The nurse provides the set-up and administration of all health-care procedures for the fifth-grade trip to Camp Tecumseh.
- Immunizations—Students’ vaccination histories are reviewed and updated. The nurse ensures that all students comply with State Health Department regulations.
- Health Care Education—Student health education is provided as needed or requested by faculty. Staff education includes training in universal health precautions as well as life-threatening allergy training (epi-pen.)

- Daily Medication Administration—All daily medications are given by the nursing staff or by a designated and trained staff member if the nurse is absent.
- Maintenance and Compliance—The nursing staff is responsible for complying with all health-related policies and procedures set up for the West Lafayette Community School Corporation as outlined in its Health Services Manual.
- Database of student health limitations is kept and shared with staff, daily, as needs arise.
- Hearing screens--All 4th graders and new students participate in a hearing screening. This service is facilitated by the school's speech and language department.
- AED's-- These are maintained and tested monthly by our nurse.

Field Trip Sampling

Every classroom takes several field trips a year to extend the curriculum outside the classroom walls. Samplings of specific field trips taken in the previous school years have included:

- Feast of the Hunters' Moon
- Conner Prairie
- Indiana Dunes
- Jasper/Pulaski Wildlife Refuge
- Happy Hollow Park
- Theatrical productions venues (Clowes Hall, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Lafayette Civic Theater, Purdue University)
- Museums (Indianapolis Museum of Art, Greater Lafayette Museum of Art, Indiana State Museum)
- State House in Indianapolis
- Tippecanoe Battlefield
- Benjamin Harrison Home
- Ag Days
- Wabash and Erie Canal
- Delphi Opera House
- Indianapolis Motor Speedway
- Hillside Acres
- Camp Tecumseh -5th Grade Trip
- Purdue University – Nano Days, STEM Tour
- WOW (Wonders of the Wabash) Trip- 6th Grade Trip
- Manufacturing Expo

Speakers

Some speakers are all-school events; others are grade level specific; and still others are for individual classrooms. Speakers are often used as an introductory or culminating tool to a unit of study. The following are sample categories of speakers from previous school years:

- Authors of children's books
- Illustrators of children's books
- Historians
- Civic leaders
- Career oriented speakers

- College students
- Motivational speakers encouraging life skills and avoidance of drugs
- Musicians
- Cultural Leaders

Common Curriculum Enhancers

- Mini-economy
- 6+1 Writing Traits
- Writing Workshop
- Daily Oral Language
- Social Studies Weekly
- Scholastic News
- Book Room
- NewsCurrents – an online weekly world news curriculum
- Living History Day – This is a school-wide event. Students study the life of an individual who has contributed positively to the world. On this specific day, students come to school dressed as the individual they have studied and interact with students in other classes and grades and share the information they learned.
- Science Fair – 6th grade classes study the scientific method through an individual science fair project. After sharing with the school, many of the students choose to participate in the Purdue University Regional Science and Engineering Fair where many typically receive high honors.
- Classroom Guidance Lessons—Each class in the school receives five, 45 minute guidance lessons per calendar year focused on the Indiana Student Standards for Guidance—as they relate to grades four through six.
- Veterans’ Day Program – Local veterans are invited and recognized in front of the entire student body. Historical information is presented on the various branches of the armed forces. West Lafayette Intermediate’s orchestra and choral groups perform, and the history of our National Anthem and other patriotic traditions/institutions is presented.