

EXPO Elementary PreK-5



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EXPO.SPSS.ORG.

SPECIALISTS

Science Highlights:

Hands-on experiments and school garden activities build real-life science skills.

Music Highlights:

Students read, write, and perform music; express themselves; explore global musical traditions; and practice instruments such as ukuleles, recorders, and drums.

Art Highlights:

Students think creatively and solve problems through drawing, painting, and working with diverse materials (clay, printmaking, etc.), building strong fine-motor skills.

Gym Highlights:

Students stay active in a fun, safe environment while developing motor skills, learning lead-up games, and practicing social skills.

ELL

Learning goals:

- Increase proficiency in English listening, speaking, reading, and writing; acquire essential academic and social language skills; build confidence using English in diverse contexts.

Highlights:

- The EXPO community typically includes students speaking 10 to 20 different languages. Students benefit from learning firsthand about diverse cultures and languages through positive peer interactions.

PREK

Learning goals:

- Build independence
- Develop beginning literacy and numeracy skills
- Practice social skills
- Learn self-regulation skills

Highlights:

- Two recesses daily
- Fall and Spring Family Day

Special projects/Field trips

- Field trip to Tamarack Nature Center
- Plantmobile visit from MN Arboretum

1ST GRADE

Learning goals:

- Building foundational literacy, math, and life skills; fostering confidence, independence, and a love for learning.

Highlights:

- Explicit, systematic foundational skills instruction; hands-on math exploration; and gradual release instruction (“I do, we do, you do”).

Special projects/Field trips

- Partnership with Midwest Food Connection and a field trip to the Como Planetarium.

3RD GRADE

Learning goals:

- Building a strong, supportive community. Students study Zones of Regulation and Growth Mindset to manage emotions and overcome challenges.

Highlights:

- Engaging research projects, book clubs, and the Kindergarten Buddies mentorship program.

Special projects/Field trips

- Educational adventures to Belwin Outdoor Nature Center and the Como Planetarium.

4TH GRADE

Learning goals:

- Building an inclusive community where every student feels important; supporting students as they become more independent learners.

Highlights:

- The annual 4th-grade “State Fair” project, book clubs, and a Reading Fair.

Special projects/Field trips

- Workshop on Wheels, Minneapolis Institute of Art (MIA), Como Zoo, Como Planetarium, and Vikings Voyage.

5TH GRADE

Learning goals:

- Fostering personal growth, ensuring readiness for middle school, and mastering advanced reading and writing skills for complex texts.

Highlights:

- The 5th-grade Leadership Team and other student leadership opportunities.

Special projects/Field trips

- Belwin Nature Center, J.A. Biztown, and the week-long Camp Widjiwagan trip.

ASD CLASSES

Learning goals:

- Fostering growth and learning within the classroom community; making learning enjoyable, relevant, and accessible.

Highlights:

- Practical, hands-on life skills (including cooking) and strong collaboration with multiple service providers.

Special projects/Field trips

- Educational field trips to Belwin Conservancy and Como Park Zoo, and visits to the Children’s Museum.

KINDERGARTEN

Learning goals:

- Foundational Skills: Explicit phonics and reading instruction.
- Community & Culture: Building a supportive environment that fosters independence, empathy, and curiosity.
- Collaborative Learning: Creating an inclusive space where all are welcomed, recognizing that we learn best when working together.

Special projects/Field trips

- Field trips to Belwin Outdoor Science and Richardson Nature Center.

Mentorship:

- Cross-grade Reading Buddies program with grades 4 and 5.

2ND GRADE

Learning goals:

- Learning Bridge: Creating a transition from foundational skills to the independence required for 3rd grade.

Highlights:

- In-depth research projects and focused growth in independence (managing supplies, following multi-step directions, and self-responsibility).

Special projects/Field trips

- Visits to the Bell Museum.
- Pen Pal program with Highland Park High School students.
- Partnership with Midwest Food Connection.