Carol Wellen

SLM 506

**School Analysis**

**Whittier Elementary School, Frederick, MD 21702**

**The Community: Frederick, Maryland**

Frederick, Maryland is close to the Washington, DC metropolitan area, but much of the county is still rural and agriculture based. The area around Whittier is culturally diverse, but not very socially diverse. The area is still very conservative, and traditional families are still the norm. With the Fort Detrick base nearby, there are a large number of military families at the school.

* Makeup of the community: Whittier pulls from several neighborhoods in the 21702 zip code: Whittier, Walnut Ridge, Old Farm, Warfield, and the Fort Detrick military base.
* Socioeconomic status:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Area Pop. | Median income | Median age | Age range  of most | Married | Single parents | Singles |
| Whittier | 2007 | $79,389 | 37 | 40 - 49 | 78% | 13% | 9% |
| Walnut Ridge | 1163 | $101,797 | 36 | 30-39 | 80% | 12% | 8% |
| Old Farm | 340 | $67,167 | 35 | 50-59 | 70% | 20% | 10% |
| Warfield | 123 | $67,167 | 35 | 50-59 | 68% | 22% | 10% |

* Cultural backgrounds include: Hispanic (Mexico, El Salvador, Puerto Rico), European (Russia, Germany, Italy ), Asian (China, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand), South Asian (Pakistan, India, Bangladesh), Pacific Islanders(the Philippines), African (Ghana, Ethiopia), and Middle Eastern (Saudi Arabia)
* Languages spoken: over 40 languages including Spanish, French, German, Italian, Russian, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Persian, Filipino, Urdu, Mizo, Thai, Cambodian, Twi, Amharic, Swahili, Farsi, Bengali
* Changes in demographics in the past five years: Two apartment complexes were built that feed in to Whittier. There are now more low-income families and short-term residents. A charter school was also started and some students transferred to the charter school.
* Student mobility: 22.9%
* Homes with computer access: At least 90% of students have computer access
* Access to public library service: No library within walking distance. The main Frederick library is 4.5 miles away in downtown Frederick. There is also a Middletown library 8 miles away.
* Access to cultural institutions: There are Civil War historical sites in Frederick, as well as some community theater groups and local art galleries. It is 50 miles (an hour’s drive) to museums, arts, and theaters in Washington, DC and Baltimore, Maryland.

**The School: Whittier Elementary School**

Whittier Elementary School opened in 1998. It is a community school, where many of the teachers and staff live in the community. There is an active PTA with 228 members, as well as 213 parent and grandparent volunteers who help during the school day. The Whittier mascot is the “Heroes”, which celebrates all heroes but especially military heroes. The large number of military families means there is a strong sense of patriotism at the school. Whittier begins and ends their school year with a flag ceremony led by Fort Detrick soldiers. It is a long standing tradition that many community members look forward to each year.

* Mission statement: “To nurture, support, and promote success for all in order to achieve their

full potential to become productive citizens and lifelong learners.”

* Students: 797 students, grades Pre-K through 5th

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Caucasian | 47.7% | African American | 19.8% |
| Hispanic | 15.6% | Asian | 8.5% |
| Mixed races | 7.9% | Unidentified | 0.5% |

* Staff Members: 92 staff members (55 teachers, 19 instructional assistants, 18 other staff)
* Special services: Free/reduced meals: 30% Special education: 11.5%

ELL/Limited English: 6.8%

* Attendance rate: 95%
* Academic Achievement: MSA Scores

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | 2014 Results | | | 2013 Results | | |
|  | Subject | Basic | Proficient | Advanced | Basic | Proficient | Advanced |
| Grade 3 | Reading | 13.6% | 68.9% | 17.5% | 7.9% | 70.2% | 21.9% |
| Grade 3 | Math | 23.5% | 45.9% | 30.6% | 11.3% | 60.0% | 28.7% |
| Grade 4 | Reading | 7.8% | 62.9% | 29.3% | 9.1% | 69.1% | 21.8% |
| Grade 4 | Math | 13.8% | 61.2% | 25.0% | 14.5% | 50.9% | 34.5% |
| Grade 5 | Reading | 3.0% | 32.0% | 65.0% | 4.6% | 35.8% | 59.6% |
| Grade 5 | Math | 23.3% | 65.0% | 11.7% | 21.1% | 63.3% | 15.6% |
| Grade 5 | Science | 25.0% | 67.3% | 7.7% | 27.5% | 59.6% | 12.8% |

* Subjects where students are doing poorly: Currently math scores across all grades are lower than reading scores. Math facts in second and third grades have the lowest scores. Also, 83% of special education students are below the standards for reading and math.
* Media center access: Whole classes - come every other week

Small groups - for book clubs and research projects – weekly

Individuals – come as needed to exchange books

* Primary library users: Students and teachers, although all staff may check out books
* Teacher unit needs: fall, pumpkins, apples; winter holidays around the world;

fairy tales, fables, and folk tales; nonfiction animal books; biographies

* Recreational needs: agriculture/farming, dance, horseback riding,

sports – baseball, basketball, soccer, football, ice hockey, golf

* Personal needs: multicultural books; nontraditional families; military life & families

**The Current Library Collection**

The Whittier Media Center is very inviting. When you first walk in, you see book posters, ceiling tiles painted with book covers, and books displayed on top of the shelves. The “Everybody” picture book section is in the center of the room with lower shelves. There are dividers with pictures of characters from favorite series to allow easy locating for younger readers. One problem is the size of the shelves: many larger books have to be turned sideways, making it impossible to browse and see those titles. There are also a number of older titles, many by the same author, so that there are areas that look like they have not been touched in a while. The Fiction section is more attractive and there are more books within the past fifteen years. The Fiction section also has dividers showing favorite series – Humprey, I Survived, Percy Jackson, and Harry Potter. The Nonfiction section is very colorful and inviting. There are signs on the shelves with the call numbers for popular topics.

* Mission statement of the library:
* To be an integral part of Whittier ES and its surrounding community
* To provide collaboration with staff to create authentic learning for all students
* To provide quality resources and instruction to students and staff
* To encourage staff and students in becoming effective users and ideas and information
* To promote lifelong reading and learning for pleasure and for information
* Size of the present collection: 16,950 items
* Daily circulation figures: 426 books/day (average for the week of 10/19)
* Currency of the collection:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | < 5 yrs old | 6-15 yrs old | 15-25 yrs old | > 26 yrs old |
| Nonfiction | 7.9% | 35.4% | 49.3% | 7.4% |
| - Computer books | 0 % | 28.6% | 42.9% | 28.6% |
| - Science (500s) | 9.1% | 34.7% | 48.0% | 8.2% |
| - Space | 20.3% | 42.2% | 36.5% | 1.0% |
| Fiction | 4.9% | 32.1% | 43.8% | 19.2% |
| Total collection | 6.5% | 33.8% | 46.7% | 12.9% |

* Comparison with quantitative state standards:

The size of the Whittier collection, 16,950 items, exceeds the Maryland Standards for School Library Media Programs of 12,000 items for an elementary school library.

There is no age listed to define an “up-to-date” collection, but the majority of the collection is at least 15 years old: 57% of the nonfiction section and 63% of the fiction section.

* Yearly budget/per pupil allotment: The budget is $14.42/per pupil which amounts to approximately $11097 for this year.

**Analysis of the Collection**

Whittier Elementary School is a diverse school that pulls from four different neighborhoods as well as the military installation, Fort Detrick. The socioeconomic data collected was separated by neighborhood to highlight that the two larger neighborhoods, Whittier and Walnut Ridge, are economically more well off. The neighborhoods of Old Farm and Warfield have lower incomes, as well as a higher number of single parents. The ethnicity data illustrates that there are a wide variety of cultures represented, even though the percentage of students receiving ELL services is small.

The Whittier student population includes a wide variety of cultures, students who live in non-traditional families, and a large population of military families. Academically there are students performing below grade level, on grade level, and above grade level. There are special education services and reading and math specialists to assist with students performing below grade level. Students receiving special education services include students with autism, learning disabilities, blindness and deafness.

I would hope to see a good selection of multicultural books, including nonfiction books about specific cultures or counties, as well as fiction and picture books with diverse characters. Because of the large number of military families, books about the military, deployment, families separated by distance, or just moving in general, would be appreciated. There are many students with divorced parents, single parents, or living with another relative like grandparents, or aunts and uncles. Books celebrating non-traditional families or containing characters that live in a non-traditional family would be useful.

In the past five years the cultural diversity and student mobility have increased. The nonfiction books appear to be in better condition than the fiction and everybody sections, because that section has been weeded more recently. The media specialist stated that the collection was outdated when she inherited it. She has a five year plan to slowly weed and update each section. In the next five years I would expect to see more current books overall, as well as an increase in more culturally diverse books.

Looking at the current collection, there are some books available that meet everyone’s needs. However, there are opportunities for improvement and updating. The military books available are mostly nonfiction books. I only found two fiction books. There are a large number of multicultural books, but those are mostly nonfiction and folk tales. The few fiction books are all at least five years old. The books dealing with divorce and single parents are all at least five years old. There are books about disabilities including autism, blindness, and deafness, but with the exception of “Helen’s Big World” by Doreen Rappaport, all of those books are also at least five years old. I would recommend going through each of these sections and adding more books, as well as more current titles overall.

**Sources**

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“Lifestyle and Demographics.” *Realtor.com*. National Association of Realtors, n.d. Web. October 2015.

“School Information.” *School Profile: Whittier*. Frederick County Public Schools, n.d. Web. October 2015.

*Whittier Elementary School*. Frederick County Public Schools, n.d. Web. October 2015.

**Whittier Elementary Curriculum Map**

Compiled by Carol Wellen

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Kindergarten | First Grade | Second Grade | Third Grade | Fourth Grade | Fifth Grade |
| **English Language Arts (ELA)** | Alphabet/letters  Sight words  Short stories:  -Fall and pumpkins  -Winter holidays  Fairy tales  Poems/nursery rhymes | Sight words  Short stories:  -Fall and apples  -Author study  Fairy tales  Poems/nursery rhymes  Writing small moments | Short stories  Informational reading  Text features  Fables & folktales  Writing about leaders Animal report research | Realistic fiction  Informational reading  Text features  Fables & folktales  History month topics  Animal report research | Realistic fiction  Historical fiction  Informational reading  Drama/plays  Mythology  Biographies  Biography research | Realistic fiction  Historical fiction  Informational reading  Drama/plays  Biographies  Biomes research |
| **Math** | Count to 100  Write numbers 0 - 20  Compare numbers  Measure objects  Know 2D/3D shapes  Make 10  Place value – more/less | Count to 120  Add/subtract within 20  Compare lengths  Measure objects  Know shapes & fractions  Tell time to the half hour  Place value | Add & subtract 2 digits  Use money  Graph data  Measure objects  Geometry  Tell time to 5 min  Place value | Add & subtract 3 digits  Multiply to 100  Shapes – sides, angles  Understand fractions  Tell time to the min  Weight and volume  Place value to thousand | Add & subtract with regrouping  Multiply/divide 2 digits  Find area & perimeter  Add/subtract fractions  Measure angles  Place value to millions | Add & subtract decimals, fractions  Powers of 10  Volume  Graph data  Mult./divide fractions  Place value of decimals |
| **Social Studies** | World cultures  World holidays  Communities  Families  Leaders- Washington, Rosa Parks  Local geography | Maps & directions  US Symbols  School rules  Children of the world  Leaders –Lincoln, ML King Jr  Goods & Services | Maps & directions  US Symbols  Geographic features  Money & finance  Democracy & elections  Natural resources  Pollution | Maps & directions  Frederick landmarks  World Cultures  Economy, Production  Immigration & Govt  Environmental Issues  Holidays | Regions of Maryland  Early Explorers Maryland Settlement  Post Revolution to Modern Times  Maryland Government | American Beginnings  Colonial America  American Revolution  US Constitution  We the People: US Government |
| **Science** | Magnets  Matter & heat  Crystals  Weather  Seasons  Plants and seeds  Animals:  caterpillars, tadpoles | Weather  Temperature  Clouds and rain  Organisms  Life Cycles: Mealworms  Terrarium habitats  Animal adaptations  Solids and liquids | Sun, moon and stars  Moon phases  Chemical changes  Solids, liquids, gases  Mixtures  Life Cycles:  insects & frogs | Aquarium habitats  Food webs  Chemical classification  Chemical tests  Rocks & minerals  Soil & fossils  Renewable resources  Recycling | Classification of plants and animals  Light & refraction  Mirrors & reflection  Moon phases  Solar system & planets  Motion & energy  Vehicle design | Rocks & minerals  Water cycle  Weathering & erosion  Terrarium habitats  Photosynthesis  Microscopes & cells  Electricity  Magnetism |
| **Art** | Colors, shapes, lines  Portraits, Landscapes  Drawing, painting, mixed media/collage | Colors, shapes, lines  Portraits, Landscapes  Drawing, painting, mixed media/collage | Colors, shapes, lines  Portraits  Land-, city-, seascapes  Drawing, painting, etc. | Portraits  Still life  Land-, city-, seascapes  Drawing, painting, etc. | Portraits and still life  Land-, city-, seascapes  Drawing, painting, etc.  Abstract v realistic art | Portraits and still life  Land-, city-, seascapes  Drawing, painting, etc.  Abstract v realistic art |
| **Music** | Rhythm and beat  Singing  Moving to music  Alphabet songs | Rhythm and beat  Singing  Playing xylophones  School/learning songs | Rhythm, beat, dynamics  Music notation symbols  Playing xylophones  Insect songs | Rhythm, beat, dynamics  Music notation symbols  Playing recorders  Songs around the world | Rhythm, beat, dynamics  Playing recorders  Improvisation  Music theory songs | Rhythm, beat, dynamics  Playing recorders  Improvisation  Music theory songs |
| **Physical Education** | Hop, jump, gallop, skip  Catching and throwing  Bowling, Soccer, Tennis  Fitness and Nutrition | Hop, jump, gallop, skip  Catching and throwing  Bowling, Soccer, Tennis  Fitness and Nutrition | Soccer, Lacrosse,  Bowling, Basketball  Track & Field  Fitness and Nutrition | Soccer, Lacrosse,  Bowling, Basketball  Track & Field  Fitness and Nutrition | Soccer, Lacrosse,  Bowling, Basketball  Track & Field  Fitness and Nutrition | Soccer, Lacrosse,  Bowling, Basketball  Track & Field  Fitness and Nutrition |

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**Curriculum Map Reflection**

For my curriculum map, I utilized the curriculum resources available online through the Frederick County Public School (FCPS) website: Curriculum Now and Essential Curriculum. They include the standards for every subject in every grade, as well as the specific units for Math, Science and Social Studies. To make the chart specific for Whittier, I relied on my four years of substitute teaching experience at the school. I have taught in all of the grades and all of the specials, so I was able to draw on that knowledge to add specific topics for language arts, music and art. In addition, I spoke with one of the music teachers, Amanda Fishel, a second grade teacher, Robin Murphy, and the medial specialist, Tina Dattoli, to fine tune some of the topics.

Math, Science, and Social Studies were the easiest to compile because the units are posted online and they have specific topics. English-Language Arts (ELA) was the most challenging. The ELA standards focus on skills, not specific content or topics. In the upper grades there is a lot of focus on informational reading, but that is often newspaper and magazine articles that the teachers access online. They do not use the library for those resources.

There are two things I learned from compiling this chart. First, there are several topics that are repeated over multiple grade levels, so those would be topics to make sure are well stocked in the library collection. Some of those topics are world cultures, maps and directions, telling time, fractions, weather, space and the moon, rocks and minerals, and fairy tales, fables and folktales. Second, the teachers for the lower grades (kindergarten and first grade) utilize the library for their language arts topics more, but the upper grade teachers (second through fifth) use the library resources more for science and social studies topics.

This chart provides a resource for anyone who wants to see at a glance what is being taught in every grade. It can be used by the specials teachers, as well as the math and reading specialists, to see what each grade is teaching and see if there are areas of collaboration or integration. This chart supports AASL standard 1.1 because it helps the librarian base their skills instruction on students’ learning needs. It also supports educational best practices by integrating what is being taught in the library with what is being taught in the classroom.

**Sources**

*Curriculum Now.* Frederick County Public Schools, n.d. Web. October 2015.

*Essential Curriculum.* Frederick County Public Schools, n.d. Web. October 2015.

Whittier Elementary School teachers:

Dattoli, Tina (Library Media Specialist) Discussion with the author, October 2015.

Fishel, Amanda (Music Teacher) Discussion with the author, October 2015.

Murphy, Robin (Second Grade Teacher) Discussion with the author, October 2015.

*Whittier Elementary School*. Frederick County Public Schools, n.d. Web. October 2015.