

Academic Structure and Support for Students at J.E. Cosgriff School—Updated August 2014

All Students-Kindergarten thru sixth grade are assessed in reading and mathematics at the beginning of the school year and often throughout the year. Pre-school students also receive a short assessment to determine their basic skill level.

Based on these assessments, daily curriculum is designed and implemented by each classroom teacher following the common core standards. A teacher builds his/her lessons with the anticipation of added academic support from the reading/math team, teaching assistants and/or the special education team to add support for students who need added instruction and practice and to further challenge students who understand the content and benefit from more enriched, challenging course work.

1. Kindergarten is Taught by One Teacher with a One/Half Time Assistant—Five Days Per Week. There are Two Kindergarten Classes at J.E. Cosgriff School.

- a) Power Hour (45 Minute block) is taught four days per week emphasizing reading writing, spelling and word sorts. This small group and individual instruction is provided by the regular classroom teacher and highly trained reading assistants.
- b) More explicit reading instruction is offered by the special needs team to students who require more time learning basic reading and mathematic strategies.
- c) The regular classroom teacher uses whole group, small group and individualized instruction to complete her language arts and mathematic block.
- d) Math, Science, Social Studies are often co-taught with the class room assistant.
- e) Parents assist with centers and other special projects.
- f) J.E. Cosgriff kindergarten students are fortunate to attend a full day of school. This allows for science, social studies, P.E. foreign language, art, music and the opportunity to practice writing and number sense and other special activities in the afternoon hours.

2. First Grade is Taught by One Full Time Teacher. There are Two First Grade Classes at J.E.Cosgriff.

- a) Power Hour (45 Minute block) is taught four days per week emphasizing reading, spelling, writing and word sorts.
- b) Students receive large group, small group and individualized instruction daily from the regular classroom teacher and additional support from trained reading assistants or the special education team based on the students' level of proficiency as indicated on selected reading and mathematics assessments.
- c) Parents volunteer their time to teach small group instruction or centers.
- d) First grade students may be selected to read with a special tutor in the STAR volunteer reading program.

3. Second Grade is Taught by One Full Time Teacher. There are Two Second Grade Classes at J.E. Cosgriff School.

- a) Power Hour-small group instruction is offered to the second grade students four times per week emphasizing reading comprehension, fluency, writing, word sorts, and spelling.
- b) More explicit instruction is offered to students who would benefit from more time and support in reading and mathematics. Regular assessments indicate the need for this instruction and this is offered by the classroom teacher and special needs team.
- c) Second grade students are selected to read to a tutor in the STAR reading program and with the READ dog. These activities help increase reading fluency.
- d) Parents are invited into the classroom to support small group activities and special projects.

4. Third Grade is Taught by One Full Time Teacher with Support from a Three/Fourth Time Assistant.

- a) Power Hour- small group instruction is offered to the third grade four times per week emphasizing reading comprehension, fluency, writing, word sorts, and spelling.
- b) The regular classroom teacher divides library and computer classes in half each week, in order to form two groups for more intensive instruction or practice and to enrich the content in the core subject areas.
- c) Third grade mathematics is taught by the regular classroom teacher. Four of the five days per week with the assistance of another teacher and the regular aid to support instruction and guided practice in a large group as well as small groups and individualized instruction.
- d) Some third grade students take part in the STAR reading program as a way to increase reading fluency by reading to a volunteer tutor two times per week.
- e) Some third grade students take part in the READ program where they read to a trained therapy animal.
- f) Parents volunteer on a regular basis to support reading, writing, mathematics and special projects.

5. Fourth Grade is Taught by One Full Time Teacher

- a) Power Hour-small group instruction is offered to the fourth grade four times per week emphasizing reading comprehension, fluency, writing, and spelling.
- b) The regular classroom teacher divides library and computer class in half each week, in order to form smaller groups in order to repeat, enhance or enrich instruction in the core subjects.
- c) Math instruction is taught four of the five days per week with an additional teacher present in the room to support instruction, guided practice and to enrich or extend the content.
- d) Some students in fourth grade are selected to read in the STAR reading program. Students read with a tutor two times per week. Students concentrate on reading for fluency.
- e) Parents also support special activities in the classroom

6. Fifth Grade is Taught by one Full Time Teacher

- a) Power Hour-small group instruction is offered to the fifth grade four times per week emphasizing reading comprehension, writing, and spelling.
- b) The regular classroom teacher divides library into two groups to allow more time for small group instruction.
- c) Math instruction is taught four of the five days per week with an additional teacher present in the room to support instruction, guided practice and enrichment activities.
- d) Parents also support special projects In the classroom

7. Sixth Grade is Taught by one Full Time Teacher

- a) Sixth grade Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies have the support of the special needs team to conduct guided practice, enrichment and general support for individual students and small groups.
- b) Students are divided into two groups for mathematics. (Mrs. Newman and Mr. Larson) An additional teacher is present in one of the classes to offer support with instruction, guided practice and to enrich and extend the core content

8. Seventh and Eight Grades are Structured Under a Junior High Model.

- a) Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies and Science are supported with additional teachers daily and taught by teachers with a special degree in the content area.
- b) Seventh and Eighth grade mathematics is taught in two groups five days per week.
- c) The special needs team and other assistants sit in the classroom and work with individual students and small groups as needed to increase understanding, enrich and extend learning in required core subjects, such as language arts, science, social studies and health.

Home work Club will be offered Mon-Thurs after school starting September 2, 2014 It has been designed for added academic instruction and guided support. This opportunity is available for fourth thru eighth grade students in the library from 3:20pm to 4:15pm each week. The regular classroom teachers are most often available for student question after school. The computer lab will be open Monday-Friday at 7:45am and on Wednesdays after school for student use and questions.