

## Student Activities

**Morning Enrichment Club**—Opportunities for students in need of “challenge” to explore areas beyond the general curriculum

**Technology**—Weekly technology classes with a dedicated technology teacher combined with the integration of technology in classrooms to enhance student learning

**Outdoor Classroom**—Newly developed space that integrates science, math, and social studies in nature



**Student Nutrition Advisory Council**—Advisory group that provides input on our

Food Service program and learns more about nutritious eating habits

## Fifth Grade Only Activities

**Robotics Club**—Explores technology, math, and science using the *Lego's Mindstorms* Robotics program

**Band**—Musical instrument performance group that meets 5 days a week during the school day

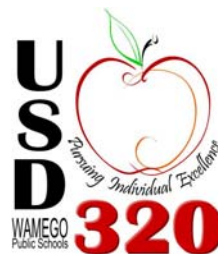
**Early Riser's Choir**—Vocal performance group that meets before school 5 days a week

### Our Collective Commitments:

- We will provide a safe, inviting atmosphere for all.
- We will keep our students' needs and learning first.
- We will collaborate using agreed upon norms.
- We will work with the community to achieve our school's mission.
- We will create and implement a curriculum that focuses on best practice and research-based strategies.
- We will set SMART goals and use data to guide educational decision-making.



West Elementary School was originally built in 1980. In 2005, it received a total renovation and an extensive addition.



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Principal: Amy R. Flinn

# West Elementary



Grades 3-5

*The mission of West Elementary School is to assure learning for all through a community of support. Our vision is to work collaboratively using a guaranteed, viable, and relevant curriculum to ensure all will be proficient, well-rounded, and have a thirst for learning in a safe and proactive environment.*

## West's Staff

West Elementary School employs more than 30 certified teachers and 19 classified employees. Sixty percent of West teachers hold advanced degrees.

West teachers and principal have been honored with prestigious awards such as Kansas Teacher of the Year Regional Finalists, Japan Fulbright Fellowship Award, Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching National Finalists (two consecutive award years and one State Finalist); and State Finalist for the National Distinguished Principal Award.

## Student Support Programs

**Multi-Tiered System of Supports—** Intervention model designed to address the needs of all students (intensive, strategic, benchmark, and advanced). Intensive level program includes the use of Corrective Reading. Strategic level program includes the use of Phonics for Reading and Rewards Multi-syllabic Decoding. Benchmark and Advanced students also grouped by instructional level for common reading block. All students receive a Guided Reading group at their instructional reading level.

**Math Trailblazers—**Conceptually-based math program that balances procedures skills, processes, and conceptual understanding with an emphasis on problem-solving; understanding mathematical ideas; cooperative learning; using language to communicate mathematically; quantitative laboratory investigations; and connecting mathematics to the real world

**Rigby Literacy by Design—**A comprehensive approach to reading and writing instruction that includes modeled, shared, and interactive reading and writing; guided and independent reading and writing; integration of standards-based science and social studies skills; systematic reading instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension; and systematic writing instruction in writing forms and organizational patterns, writing process, and writing traits

**Title I Reading—**Research-based strategy and skill instruction for struggling readers, in addition to classroom reading instruction (part of MTSS model)

**Bigs in Schools—**Mentoring program sponsored by Big Brothers Big Sisters in which high school role models are matched with students to work on social skills and building healthy relationships

**Olweus Bullying Prevention Program—**A systematic school-wide bullying prevention effort to make West a safe school for all. In addition to the Olweus model, we have adopted the "FISH" philosophy, which includes the following beliefs: *Play, Make Their Day, Be There, and Choose Your Attitude*. In keeping with our FISH theme, our motto against bullying is "Welcome to our school . . . No hooks Allowed!"

## Instructional Programs

**6 + 1 Trait Writing—**A powerful way to learn and use a common language to refer to the characteristics of writing, as well as to create a common vision of what "good" writing looks like, including ideas and content; organization; voice; word choice; sentence fluency; conventions; and presentation

**Step Up to Writing—**A systematic approach for improving students' writing skills that focuses on expository, narrative and personal narrative writing

**Inquiry-Based Science—**Hands-on science investigations that allow students to "experience" science in a practical sense, as well as from an academic viewpoint

