

Kindergarten Presentation Q&A

Wednesday, April 29, 2020

1. What security protocols/safeguards are in place? How does school monitor entry/exit from school grounds?

WLA has a secured entrance. When school is in session, all doors are locked. There is a looping record of traffic entering and exiting the buildings main doors. The office has the ability to lockdown the building and sound alarms with the push of a button. Visitors must check in and out through the main office, where their IDs are scanned, and badges provided. Any and all volunteers undergo yearly background checks before they are allowed to volunteer.

2. Is there a full time nurse on staff?

Woodbury Leadership Academy has full time health services, but not a full-time registered nurse on site. However, we do have a registered nurse on call. Our health assistant is certified in first aid, CPR and AED. Additionally, we have not yet experienced a medical need that our health assistant was unable to handle.

3. What is the preferred method for parent/teacher communication?

Woodbury Leadership Academy communicates with families through email, text and phone. The communication method depends on the situation. Majority of our regular communication is through email.

4. Is there a program for accelerated students or is there a way in which children strengths are fostered through other programs?

We do not have a specific accelerated program, but within the child's classroom, the teacher will work with that student on challenges and extensions when appropriate for their abilities.

5. How the strength and weakness are discovered, encouraged to correct weakness and strengthen positive skills?

This is done with a variety of daily observations and interactions. We address our prior knowledge before beginning a new unit of study to help guide us forward. At WLA we use responsive classroom language to encourage and support our learners along with utilizing core virtues daily.

6. How are students with varying levels of academic ability addressed? Are there multiple activities with varying levels of difficulty such that students are challenged.

This will look different throughout each subject. In the beginning of kindergarten, we are getting used to the routines and expectations, it takes a while for the students to gain enough independence.

7. Is there a procedure/ training in place to address bullying?

Woodbury Leadership Academy utilizes Responsive Classroom and our Core Virtues Program to promote positive student behavior and culture. Responsive Classroom provides proactive approaches and specific strategies when addressing problem behavior. All teachers receive regular training in a Responsive Classroom. Additionally, our school expectations are aligned to our Core Virtues Program. This ensures that our words and behavior are congruent. When addressing bullying, our school follows school policies and connects with organizations, such as PACER.

8. Scores from national tests appeared to be on the lower end compared to other schools within Woodbury, why is that?

There are several factors for why Woodbury Leadership Academy experienced a decrease in test scores from 2018 to 2019. Those factors included adding a middle school program, increasing student enrollment by 100 students and relocating to a new building. Additionally, the validity of the MCA assessments was a concern, but after discussion with MDE, it was determined that we would not retest our students. We identified it as a concern because the MCAs were not consistent with how students had demonstrated their knowledge on other nationally normed high stakes tests - MAP. Moving forward, WLA is addressing this concern through professional learning communities (PLC) and partnering with families.

9. What sets WLA apart from other elementary schools?

The Core Knowledge curriculum is a big part of what sets us apart. The rigor, knowledge and skills that we address exceed the state standards. At WLA you get an extension of the state standards and a community of leaders.

10. Kindergarten student:teacher ratio?

Our kindergarten student:teacher ratio is 20:1

11. Amongst the four kindergarten teachers does a student only interact with one teacher throughout the day or based on the subject being taught? Meaning, does one teacher teach all subjects to same subset of kindergarteners or does a specific teacher teach one subject to all kindergarteners?

One teacher teaches all subjects. There are separate teachers/classrooms for music, media, physical education (PE) and art.

12. Currently, where do most students having completed the K-6 program go to middle school? High school?

If students choose not to attend our middle school program, the majority will attend Math and Science Academy. For high school, students attend their residing district.

13. What is the attrition rate?

Our attrition rate in kindergarten is 11%.

14. Given the current stay-at-home order, what are your current capabilities for distance learning? How will that change if circumstances remain at the start of the new school year? During a reoccurrence?

Currently we have a live morning meeting each morning and we utilize a website for students to access pre-recorded lessons. Each student has a binder with materials needed to complete the lessons from home. Supports in technology were provided when needed and teachers are available for help and support.

15. I have a query regarding the schedule or arrangement for the EL classes. Could you please describe about the arrangement for kids who are in need of EL classes?

Students can receive EL services in two scenarios. One being they received services previously at another school and have not yet tested out of the support needs. The second being that a parent indicates that English is not the primary language at home on their home language questionnaire and it is identified that their child is not proficient in reading, writing or listening in the English language.

16. How many kids are in each class, on average?

20:1 in kindergarten; 22:1 in K-8

17. Just wanting to verify that each student gets an assigned teacher/classroom for the whole year, and there isn't any switching/swapping/changing/moving around on that?

Each student in K-5 is assigned to one teacher for the entire school year. There are separate teachers for music, PE, art and media. However, the class remains together during those specialist classes.

18. Do all classes combine at any point in the day?

Kindergarten classes are combined at lunch and recess.

19. When would we get a teacher assignment?

Typically, families receive their teacher assignment in August.

20. Do they have their own assigned desk/table in the classroom?

Yes, each student has an assigned table spot.

21. During quiet time, is there any option to lay down, or is it just quiet activities?

We do not have cots like you would see in a preschool, but there is a chance to relax during quiet time.

22. Do you have suggestions on packing lunch and snack in a way that ensures they don't eat their snack at lunch time?

Each student should have their snack packed in a labeled container that is separate from their lunch. Students will put their snack container in their classroom snack bin in the morning to ensure it is saved for snack and not eaten at lunch.

23. What is the "protocol" if a student is very ahead or very behind in a unit? Are there any resources available to help a student that falls behind? (outside of classroom time/parent help at home)

If a student is ahead in a unit/domain, their teacher will find ways to challenge them as we work through the unit/domain as a class. If we find that a student is consistently not able to meet grade level expectations and we have tried a variety of different interventions, we will recommend the student to response to intervention (RTI). The RTI team is a team of teachers that provides further supports and strategies.

24. Is there some type of weekly newsletter that will get sent home? (something informing parents of what they going be learning, activities that week, etc.)

Yes, we send home a weekly newsletter each Thursday with information about what we are learning, reminders and upcoming events, and ideas on how to extend their learning at home.