



Independent School
of Winchester

ISW Curriculum Guide
Kindergarten through Middle School
2025-26



2025-26 Kindergarten Program

ISW's Kindergarten program invites students to explore their emerging intellectual and social capacities while developing a solid foundation in basic skills.

Curriculum:

- Reading/Language Arts: Pearson's *Reading Street*
- Math: Pearson's *MCP Math*
- Science: Based on *Science and Technology Concepts*, developed by the National Science Resource Center, the National Academies of Science, and the Smithsonian
- Social Studies: world cultures, focusing on at least one country per continent
- Spanish: basic vocabulary and phrases introduced in class discussions
- Performing Arts: music, movement for stage, public speaking, poetry, drama
- Studio Art: weekly classes integrated with other studies
- Physical Education: activities with emphasis on healthy attitudes
- Health: *Choose Love* curriculum for social/emotional development
- Experiential Ed: weekly workshops, speakers, and service projects

Key Elements in ISW's Kindergarten program:

- Small class size with hands-on learning
- Individual attention
- Joyful, loving atmosphere
- Opportunity to work independently and in groups
- Mastery learning rather than traditional grades
- Child-paced work.



2025-26 Lower Elementary Program (grades 1-2)

The Lower Elementary program invites students to explore their emerging intellectual and social capacities while developing a solid foundation in basic skills.

Curriculum:

- Reading/Language Arts: Pearson's *Reading Street*
- Math: Pearson's *MCP Math*
- Science: Based on *Science and Technology Concepts*, developed by the National Science Resource Center, the National Academies of Science, and the Smithsonian
- Social Studies: ancient and medieval world history, alternate years
- Spanish: basic conversation and culture
- Performing Arts: music, movement for stage, public speaking, poetry, drama
- Studio Art: weekly classes integrated with other studies
- Physical Education: activities with emphasis on healthy attitudes
- Health: *Choose Love* curriculum for social/emotional development
- Experiential Ed: weekly workshops, speakers, and service projects

Key Elements in ISW's Lower Elementary program:

- Small class size with hands-on learning
- Multi-age classrooms that allow students to learn to lead and to follow
- Individual attention
- Joyful, loving atmosphere
- Opportunity to work independently and in groups
- Mastery learning rather than traditional grades
- Student-paced work.



2025-26 Upper Elementary Program (grades 3, 4, and 5)

The Upper Elementary program expands students' academic horizons by exploring new topics in greater depth and continuing to build a strong foundation in basic skills.

Curriculum:

- Reading: ISW features high-quality children's literature. Typically, UEs read 8 to 10 books per year. Each year's list is unique. Previous titles include *See Saw Girl*, *Frindle*, *Number the Stars*, *The Penderwicks*, *Island of the Blue Dolphin*, *The War That Saved My Life*, and *The Secret Garden*.
- Language Arts: including spelling and cursive
- Math: Pearson's *MCP Math*
- Science: Based on *Science and Technology Concepts*, developed by the National Science Resource Center, the National Academies of Science, and the Smithsonian
- Social Studies: US and world history, alternating years
- Spanish: basic conversation and culture
- Performing Arts: music, movement for stage, public speaking, poetry, drama
- Studio Art: weekly classes integrated with other studies
- STEAM: weekly project-based class
- Physical Education: activities with emphasis on healthy attitudes
- Health: *Choose Love* curriculum for social/emotional development
- Experiential Ed: weekly workshops, speakers, and service projects

Key Elements in ISW's Upper Elementary program:

- Small class size with hands-on learning
- Multi-age classrooms that allow students to learn to lead and to follow
- Individual attention
- Joyful, loving atmosphere
- Opportunity to work independently and in groups
- Mastery learning rather than traditional grades
- Student-paced work.



2025-26 Middle School (grades 6, 7, and 8)

ISW's Middle School program capitalizes on the incredible brain development that characterizes adolescents. We ask our students to tackle intellectual challenges and to take (calculated) risks that will prepare them well for high school, college, and the work world. Understanding that this phase of life is tremendously social, we provide many opportunities for students to build their social skills with one another and through community service.

Curriculum:

- Humanities: Literature, Writing (expository, narrative, persuasive, creative), Grammar, Global History through Current Events, alternating years
- Math: 6th, 7th, and 8th grade math, Algebra I and II, Geometry. ISW uses Prentice Hall's *Mathematics Course 1* and *Mathematics Course 2* for 6th and 7th grade and a variety of resources for Algebra and Geometry. All math students use the iXL system for adaptive learning tailored to each individual.
- Science: Based on *Science and Technology Concepts*, which includes units in biology, chemistry, physics, and earth science, developed by the National Science Resource Center, the National Academies of Science, and the Smithsonian
- Spanish 1A, 1B, and 2: Based on the *Realidades* series
- Performing Arts: public speaking, drama, and movement for stage
- Studio Art: weekly classes integrated with other studies
- Physical Education: indoor and outdoor program with emphasis on promoting healthy lifestyles and lifelong physical activity.
- Health: *Choose Love* and *Jr. Scholastic's Choices* program
- Experiential Ed: weekly workshops, speakers, trips, and service projects

Key Elements in ISW's Middle School program:

- Small class size with hands-on learning
- Multi-age classrooms that allow students to learn to lead and to follow
- Opportunity to work independently and in groups
- Mastery learning rather than traditional grades
- Student-paced work. ISW challenges students to work beyond grade level.
- Technology, including the Google Suite
- After-school options including Robotics, Yearbook, and Huzzah Theater Co