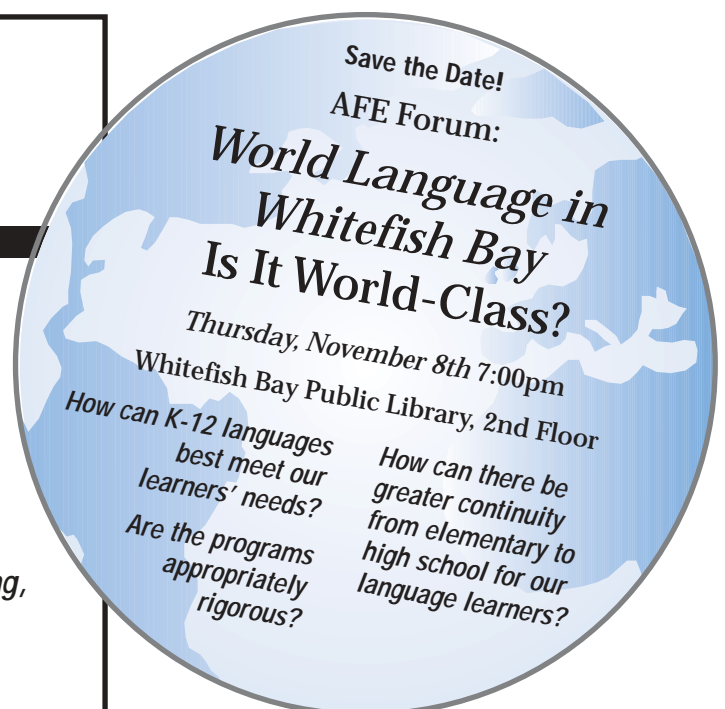


Visit

www.advocatesforeducation.org
*The Advocates for Education of
Whitefish Bay Website*

*An independent source of information and discussion for
parents of children in Whitefish Bay Schools*
AFE forums & coffees
Links to education resources
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School funding updates
Teacher & administrator profiles





Advocates *for* EDUCATION of Whitefish Bay, Inc.

Fall 2007

www.advocatesforeducation.org

Parents: *Get Educated About WFB Curriculum!*

How do educators in Whitefish Bay choose curriculum for the elementary, middle and high schools? Current research, the needs of a range of students, and college admissions criteria are a few important factors. This year, Advocates for Education is learning about curriculum choices in Whitefish Bay Schools, gathering commonly-asked questions from our members, and posing questions of our own.

Each year, formal review of Whitefish Bay academic programs comes from Curriculum Review Committees made up of teachers, parents and administrators. In 2007/2008, a committee is assessing the district's World Language program. Currently, students in Whitefish Bay choose a "language of focus" in seventh grade. The committee is asking if this is the right time for students to make a language "commitment." Director of Instruction Tony Frontier says that in recent years the school district has added significant class time at the Middle School for World Language. Frontier points out, "We've nearly doubled the amount of language instruction in grade six and doubled the amount in grade seven since the implementation of the elementary curriculum."

Middle School science is another subject undergoing change in Whitefish Bay. The district added several units of study from the Science and Technology for Middle Schools (STC) curriculum, from the Smithsonian Institution. Information on the program is available at <http://www.stcms.si.edu/stcms.htm/>. New units from the FOSS science curriculum were added as well. FOSS stands for Full Option Science System, a research-based curriculum for grades K-8, developed at the University of California at Berkeley. FOSS is also an ongoing research project aiming to improve the learning and teaching of science. More information is at <http://lhsfoss.org/introduction/index.html>.

Of the Middle School science changes, Tony Frontier says, "The emphasis of FOSS and STC is on greater depth into fewer topics, and at the middle school level an increased emphasis on measurement as well as data collection, data analysis, and using mathematics with data to reach conclusions."

For an overview of all the district's academic programs, the Whitefish Bay Schools website is a good place to start. Click on "District Office," then "Director of Curriculum/Instruction," then "Instruction Office Web."

MISSION Statement

Advocates for Education is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization that works to promote high quality public education in Whitefish Bay by:

- *Informing residents about education issues and encouraging public participation in matters affecting the schools*
- *Fostering a social and political climate favorable to public education*
- *Advocating for public policies that promote high quality public education in Whitefish Bay*

Advocates for Education of Whitefish Bay

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Letter From the *President:*

As I walk to Cumberland School each morning with my two children, it is reassuring to see so many other parents participating in this rite of passage. We see our children safely into the hands of their teachers, confident that they are receiving one of the best educations around. It is also reassuring to know that we live in a school district which does not rest easy on its laurels, and among like-minded parents who constantly strive to ensure that our schools continue to help their children achieve their best. My involvement with Advocates for Education allows me to know that my efforts are benefiting the most important people in my life, and our commitment to educating those other parents walking their children to school is worth our precious time and energy. We have an exciting year ahead of us with issues that

affect us all from our district's commitment to foreign languages, taking a hard look at our aging facilities, the future of our Chapter 220 program, the state budget...our opportunities to educate our community are endless. While our membership continues to grow, we need your help in spreading the word about AFE. If you know of friends or neighbors who share our passion for excellence in public education, please direct them to our website for more information. You can also contact us at info@advocatesforeducation.org to pass along your ideas or suggestions for how AFE can address your particular interests. Or feel free to stop and talk with me during my daily walk to school!

Kristin Yunker
AFE President



WELCOME ABOARD!

Whitefish Bay School District Welcomes New Teachers and Staff!

September brought many new faces to the hallways, classrooms and conference rooms of Richards, Cumberland, the Middle School and the High School. With an almost record number of positions and openings to fill, Whitefish Bay public schools welcome many talented and experienced individuals.

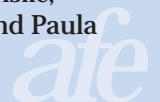
Richards Elementary School: Mona Bornheimer, first grade; Nora Fitzpatrick, fifth grade; Dave Lundeen, fifth grade; Tracey Mike, fifth grade; and Dr. Jen Burton, school psychologist for Richards and Cumberland.

Cumberland Elementary: Donna Malone, Special Education; Julie Ryan, Junior Kindergarten;

Molly Voiland, Speech Therapist and Vicki Bennett, Library Media Specialist.

WFB Middle School: Amy Anderson, choir; Nick Collins, seventh grade; LaNell Gill, Library Media Specialist; Nicole Wolf, Family and Consumer Education; Holly Kaukl, Guidance and Matt Skinner, Science.

WFB High School: Amy Levek, associate principal; Kay Giese, attendance; Sarah Hall, Guidance; Cassandra Tadisch, Media Center; Michelle Milstein, Spanish; Wendy Morse-Caruso, Spanish; Jennifer Ganske, Special Education; Kara Harmon, English and Paula Stanley, Physics.





AFE Co-Sponsors *PACE³ Event*

AFE was a co-sponsor of the September 25th program "Quality Education: Full Access For All Students" presented at the high school. The program, sponsored by Parents Advocating for Cultural Equality & Educational Excellence (PACE³), featured Dr. Demond Means, assistant superintendent of the Mequon-Thiensville school district and coordinator of its Chapter 220 integration program. Dr. Means' slide presentation highlighted statistics suggesting that students of color do not have full access to high-

quality educational experiences in northshore districts like Whitefish Bay. He concluded his talk with suggestions for how districts could improve. He mentioned possible ideas like setting up networks for minority students with local fraternities and sororities to create college role models and hiring more minority teachers. A question-and-answer session followed. For more information about PACE³, including information about how to obtain a copy of Dr. Means' presentation, e-mail pacecubed@earthlink.net.

Membership News!

The AFE annual membership drive is off to a great start and we are over 200 members strong! With so many important school-wide issues this year an AFE membership will not only keep you well informed, but involved. If you haven't yet returned your renewal form, please do so as soon as possible so you won't experience any interruption of newsletter or email alert delivery. You may have seen us at school registrations and we will be available again at parent-teacher conferences this month. If you know of a friend or neighbor who you think would be interested in AFE, please consider purchasing a gift membership in their name. Or contact us and we'll get AFE membership information to them. Please contact Tara Serebin at 963-9192 with questions.

DID YOU FORGET?

RENEW

TODAY!

Advocates for Education of Whitefish Bay, Inc.

Continue to be part of the team of voices speaking on behalf of children.

- Active Member(s) (WFB resident or parent/guardian of WFB School District student) @ \$20 per household
- Supporting Member(s) @ \$20 per household
- Enclosed is an additional donation to support AFE. Due to the lobbying mission of AFE, donations are not tax-deductible.
- I am interested in volunteering for AFE. Please call me.

\$ _____ donation enclosed.

Total enclosed:

\$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State & Zip _____

Phone _____

eMail _____

Send this form today to:

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