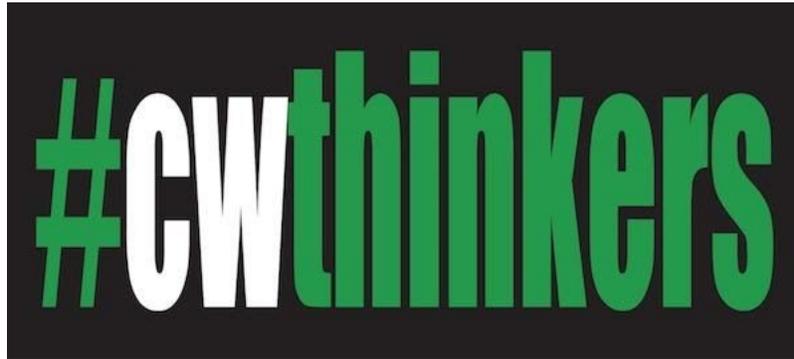


# *Central Woodlands*

Information Booklet  
2020-21



*We think. We design. We create. We innovate.  
We are #cwthinkers*





# CENTRAL WOODLANDS 5/6

Amy Burton-Major, Ed.S., Principal

400 Alta Dale SE, Ada, MI 49301 Phone: 616.493.8790 Fax: 616.493.8795

August 2020

Dear Central Woodlands Families:

On behalf of all of our staff, I want to welcome you to Central Woodlands! We are eagerly looking forward to becoming acquainted with our new Fifth Graders and their families as we enthusiastically anticipate the return of our experienced sixth graders. At CW, we work to create a culture of caring through our “Stand Up” culture and we challenge our students to become strong leaders, competent readers, and visible thinkers in the classroom.

Central Woodlands’ program and philosophy are a careful blend of elementary and middle level programs designed to help keep our children younger longer while maintaining high academic expectations. Throughout Fifth and Sixth Grades, students will experience consistent similarities in our organization and programming. Generally, each grade will be organized into academic teams of two teachers for core classes of Math, Science, English language Arts, Social Studies, and Reading. Students will remain together for one year with their teams of teachers. Encore Classes will include Art, World Language, Physical Education, Media and Music.

Lunch at Central Woodlands is scheduled separately for Fifth Graders and Sixth Graders. Lunch and mid-day recess help students to help stay connected to elementary friends while generating new friendships during the school year. Students have thirty-five minutes for lunch and recess daily. One additional recess is scheduled and supervised by core team teachers in either the morning or afternoon.

The school year will usher in a time of growth and exciting possibilities for each of our students. We look forward to developing a partnership between home and school to help our students experience an enjoyable and successful year. As always, please feel free to contact us anytime. We are thrilled to get to know your child as they transition to our school!

Sincerely,

Amy Burton-Major, Ed.S.  
Principal

# TEAM PHILOSOPHY

Central Woodlands is generally organized into two-person teams. Instructional time is arranged into blocks of time permitting greater flexibility for teachers and reducing the need to “switch” classes hour by hour.

The team approach in education is a collaborative effort of teachers to coordinate the curriculum and to meet the needs of students by regularly planning, preparing, and evaluating the learning experience.

By utilizing the teachers’ styles, specialized content area training, and unique teaching methods, we provide an environment conducive to positive academic, social, and emotional growth throughout the year.

Our belief is that this team approach creates an atmosphere in which students will thrive and grow as learners!

**STAND** is the acronym for Central Woodlands’ five (5) positive school-wide behavior expectations:

*Central Woodlands Rangers STAND up for positive behavior!*

## **Safe**

Making choices that are safe for you and others

## **Trustworthy**

Being able to be trusted; honest, honorable

## **Attentive**

Alert, aware, and giving your full attention

## **Neighborly**

Kind and welcoming to all

## **Disciplined**

Hard-working, achievement-minded, with good habits

# Communications

- CW School News – School news emailed every Friday
- Counseling Corner – Great family resources online at [cwcounseling.weebly.com](http://cwcounseling.weebly.com)
- Teacher websites
- Backpack mail

# VISIBLE THINKING

## ***Central Woodlands celebrates a Culture of Thinking!***

Visible Thinking is not a program we use at Central Woodlands; rather, it is a philosophy for our teachers and staff. This inquiry-based learning approach creates opportunities that engage students in higher-level thinking skills. Check out our Visible Thinking video at <https://vimeo.com/147465744>

Rigorous teaching and learning at Central Woodlands is of the utmost importance to our staff. Visible Thinking allows us to nurture and celebrate a deep thinking approach to learning. This instructional approach promotes a strong learning community in all classrooms.

## ***What can you expect Visible Thinking to look like in your child's classroom?***

The pacing and delivery of lessons at Central Woodlands may seem different. At Central Woodlands, we focus on teaching for deep understanding, rather than for the sake of memorizing and repeating, so that knowledge can be applied to the world outside of the classroom. We expect students to dive deeper into their thinking of specific concepts. Our teachers model strategies to promote deep thinking, as well as share their own thinking with their students.

“Thinking routines” are the strategies our teachers use to unpack and broaden each child’s thoughts and interests about specific subject matter. Choosing from over forty thinking routines, teachers at each grade level and across all curricular areas establish deeper thinking and high expectations from all learners, no matter where they begin their journey.

## ***What has resulted from using Visible Thinking at Central Woodlands?***

By utilizing thinking strategies in our instruction, we have discovered students are able to go beyond the knowledge level and push for application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation in their thinking. Moving beyond simply asking students to recall information, we uncover opportunities for deep thinking and intellectual engagement, permitting students to clarify their thinking.

## ***Where can I learn more about Visible Thinking?***

Harvard University’s Visible Thinking website at: [www.pz.harvard.edu](http://www.pz.harvard.edu)

Visible Thinking Overview and Resources: <http://goo.gl/3o4Td1>

*Making Thinking Visible* by Ron Ritchhart, Mark Church, and Karin Morrison

# CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

## CORE CLASSES

### ***Math***

#### **5th Grade**

We have aligned our curriculum with the Common Core State Standards for Mathematical Content. In Fifth Grade, instructional time focuses on number sense, computation with whole numbers and decimals, measurement, fractions, algebra, and geometry. Students are expected to become fluent in multiplication and division facts through 12's. Homework is assigned most every day in the form of "home links", or practice of the daily lesson, and "math boxes", which are comprised of review and preview concepts. Text: Everyday Mathematics 4 – The University of Chicago School Mathematics Project, Everyday Learning Corporation.

<https://www.fhps.net/departments/instruction/kindergarten-through-sixth-grade-curriculum-guide/fifth-grade-curriculum/>

#### **6th Grade**

In alignment with the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics, instruction and assessment focus on four critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking. Students are immersed in collaborative inquiry and problem based tasks designed to develop deep mathematical thinkers who are adept at selecting and using appropriate math tools, persevering in solving problems using multiple representations, and critiquing their reasoning and the reasoning of others. Text: *Connected Mathematics Project 3 Grade 6*-Pearson

### ***Science***

#### **5th Grade**

Fifth Grade science units support Next Generation Science Standards and the Michigan Science Standards, and were developed and written by Battle Creek Area Mathematics and Science Center. Students will be expected to understand and apply concepts related to: Physical Science (Structure and Properties of Matter); Life Science (Matter and Energy in an Ecosystem); and Earth Science (Earth and Space Systems). Fifth Graders are curious about the world and how it works. They will also learn to think like scientists and to apply Science and Engineering Practices.

#### **6th Grade**

The FHPS Sixth Grade Science Curriculum utilizes a three-dimensional learning model wherein Science and Engineering Practices combine with Disciplinary Core Ideas through Crosscutting Concepts to build scientific literacy. Life Science focuses on organisms' needs within an ecosystem, Physical Science emphasizes how light travels and the particle model of matter, and Earth Science explores how water shapes the earth. The adopted IQWST program supports this model through its standards-based, investigation-centered approach to learning. Print and digital components of the program offer students experiences to generate models, explore simulations,

engage with related texts, and record scientific inquiry.

## ***Reading and English Language Arts***

At Central Woodlands, all teachers are teachers of reading. Teachers have built classroom libraries rich with high quality, level-appropriate, and entertaining books. Our school-wide reading program promotes a habit of at least 20 minutes of reading each night and reading books of different genres. Instruction is guided by the FHPS K-8 Literacy Framework.

### **5th Grade**

Our district-adopted reading and writing resource for 5th Grade is the ***Units of Study for Teaching Reading and Writing***, published by Heinemann. Reading units are based on the works of Lucy Calkins and colleagues at the Teacher's College of Columbia University, and are comprised of two fiction and two informational text units. Teachers employ a Reading and Writing Workshop approach. The following areas are covered in the Fifth Grade English Language Arts Curriculum: writing, reading, speaking, listening, spelling, vocabulary, grammar usage and mechanics. Literature includes reading up to nine different genres. Daily writing is emphasized across the curriculum as well. Students are encouraged to journal or write letters to build their fluency and stamina for writing. Required 5th Grade writing genres include Narrative, Opinion, and Informational. Additional texts for ELA instruction include: *Handwriting Without Tears*, *Word Journeys (Kathy Ganske)*, and others: Everyday Spelling - Scott Foresman; Writing Fundamentals- Schoolwide, Inc.; Storyworks Magazine - Scholastic.

### **6th Grade**

The Sixth Grade Language Arts Curriculum emphasizes writing, reading (strategies and comprehension), reference skills, speaking, listening, spelling, vocabulary, grammar usage, and mechanics. The study of Literature includes a variety of genres (poetry, fiction and non-fiction reading). Writing across the curriculum includes narrative, argumentative, and informational writing units.

Resources: Literature - Prentice Hall; Word Journeys by Kathy Ganske; Writing Fundamentals – Schoolwide, Inc.; SCOPE Magazine - Scholastic

## ***Social Studies***

### **5th Grade**

The Fifth Grade Students are active participants, experiencing Social Studies through innovative teaching practices that include dramatic role-playing, creative simulations, dynamic group projects and writing activities. This year the students learn about the people and the history of the United States. Some of the topics we will cover are: Native American cultural regions, how and why Europeans and Africans came to the New World, comparing the 13 original colonies, to “declare independence or not,” and the Constitution. Text: Social Studies Alive! America's Past-TCI

### **6th Grade**

The emphasis in Sixth Grade Social Studies shifts to the study of world geography. Through a student-centered, activity based curriculum, each unit starts with an essential question or big idea on which students focus. Students begin developing map-reading skills needed to be successful in the program. Throughout the study of regions of the world, students will discover how location influences ways of life by looking at geographic features, climate, vegetation, population, and economic activities and how these factors, along with human influences, affect the way people adapt to their environment. Text: Geography Alive! Regions and People – TCI Teacher's Curriculum Institute

# **SPECIALS**

## ***SPANISH***

The Central Woodlands Spanish program will provide highly engaging and personalized second language experiences so that students develop rapid proficiency and enjoyment of the second language. We use a research-based approach that is founded on the premise that hearing and reading comprehensible language is the single most critical element for language acquisition to occur. The program focuses on developing fluency by providing a continuous flow of compelling, comprehensible language through powerful questioning techniques, engaging story-based activities, and extensive level-appropriate reading. Other activities such as songs, videos/movie shorts, social media and audio/video-centered technology are also incorporated into instruction.

## ***ART***

Art class helps students discover their inner artist. We will use the Michigan State Standards for Visual Art as our guide, while we develop the soft skills that are applicable in all content areas and career paths. Our inner artist helps us solve problems creatively, communicate with others, explore the topics we are passionate about, and stay with difficult tasks. When appropriate, we will draw upon the topics that students are studying in the classroom as well as their outside interests as inspiration for our works of art. In this class, we will use the design process to solve problems visually and examine our solutions and the solutions of others. Art class is a safe place to explore, design, and learn through the process of creating visually. Art class will meet once a week during the first semester.

## ***MUSIC***

### **5th Grade**

Fifth Grade Music Class expands the curriculum begun in elementary school. Music history, theory, instruments, and various styles of music are explored. Music reading skills through the use of recorders and proper singing techniques are a strong focus in preparation for sixth grade music. All fifth graders participate in the annual musical. Music meets on alternating days year long.

### **6th Grade**

Sixth Grade Music Students learn skills and techniques to play either a band or orchestra instrument or to sing in the choir. Sixth Grade Students are organized into small music classes for close instruction. The year includes band, choir and orchestra rehearsals and performances.

## ***PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH***

The Physical Education Curriculum focuses on recreational/life-long activities, individual and group sports. The program's activities encourage physical fitness, student responsibility, self-discipline, respect for self and others, and cooperation. Fitness testing is administered twice a year. PE meets on alternating days year long.

The Fifth and Sixth Grade Health Curriculum includes the Board-adopted Reproductive Health Unit. The Physical Education Teacher teaches classes in gender separate groups. In Fifth Grade, the content focuses on gender-specific information regarding physical changes during puberty. The Sixth Grade unit includes information regarding physical changes during puberty of both genders and state mandated information regarding HIV/AIDS. Parents are invited to attend an informational meeting in the spring to review all materials and content. This curriculum is abstinence centered.

The Health Curriculum also includes lessons from Project Charlie in substance abuse prevention, disability awareness and diversity awareness. Trained high school student volunteers teach these programs while being monitored by district trainers. Counselors also teach lessons in career exploration, friendship skills, internet safety, bully prevention, and stereotyping/prejudice. Parent/guardian permission is required for participation in all Health lessons.

## ***Media Center***

The Central Woodlands Library is central to our school's commitment to excellence in education. We endeavor to broaden, enrich, and stimulate the learning experiences of each student. We strive to maintain an interesting and relevant collection by keeping current with trends in juvenile literature and by purchasing titles that have appeal to both mainstream and niche audiences. The library is truly a busy space. Students visit individually, in small groups, or with entire classes. When you visit us in the library, we hope you are struck by our general love for books and reading. We encourage students to seek out materials that peak their interest, make them laugh, and make them think.

The library can be reached online at [media.fhps.net](http://media.fhps.net) or from our [website](#). Online you can find links to our card catalog and research databases, check student Accelerated Reader progress, and stay up to date on what's happening in the district's libraries.



[media.fhps.net](http://media.fhps.net)

Our library is open 24/7/365!

Forest Hills subscribes to Overdrive for ebooks and audiobooks. We hope you hop online and spend some time browsing our virtual shelves.

### **Important Details:**

Library Card & PIN is the same as Forest Hills computer login

K-6 students have elementary accounts so they are limited to checking out elementary materials only Students can check out up to five items at a time and place up to three holds at a time

Items automatically return when they are due

The **free** Overdrive app is available from Google Play and iTunes

Overdrive is device neutral

Help videos are linked from the FHPS Overdrive site and also available on YouTube

## COMMUNITY SERVICES AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM



Due to current Covid 19 restrictions, we have virtual offerings available through December 2020. Please watch our website listed below for additional information, thank you.

The Community Services Youth Program features a broad spectrum of sports in addition to enrichment classes and activities. These opportunities will be available at different times throughout the year, after school. Each event or class is open to, and designed for, students of all abilities. Trained staff members coach/teach all sports, activities and enrichment classes. The youth academy brochure reaches homes via the US post office three times a year, fliers may arrive home in backpacks and CW School News are sent out as reminders!

Some of the more popular sporting events include: girl's basketball, boy's basketball, running, volleyball, self-defense and more! The enrichment classes include science, nature, drawing, math, legos and more! Special events, like the Sweetheart Swirl, are offered throughout the year.

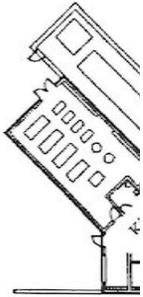
All classes have a fee due upon registration. All registrations are handled through Forest Hills Community Services. Please register your child either by mail, fax, phone or on-line at [www.enjoylearning.com](http://www.enjoylearning.com). The class times, dates, ("omit" dates), costs and class descriptions can be found on the website.

We look forward to having many Central Woodlands students participate in our after school activities during the 2020-21 school year.

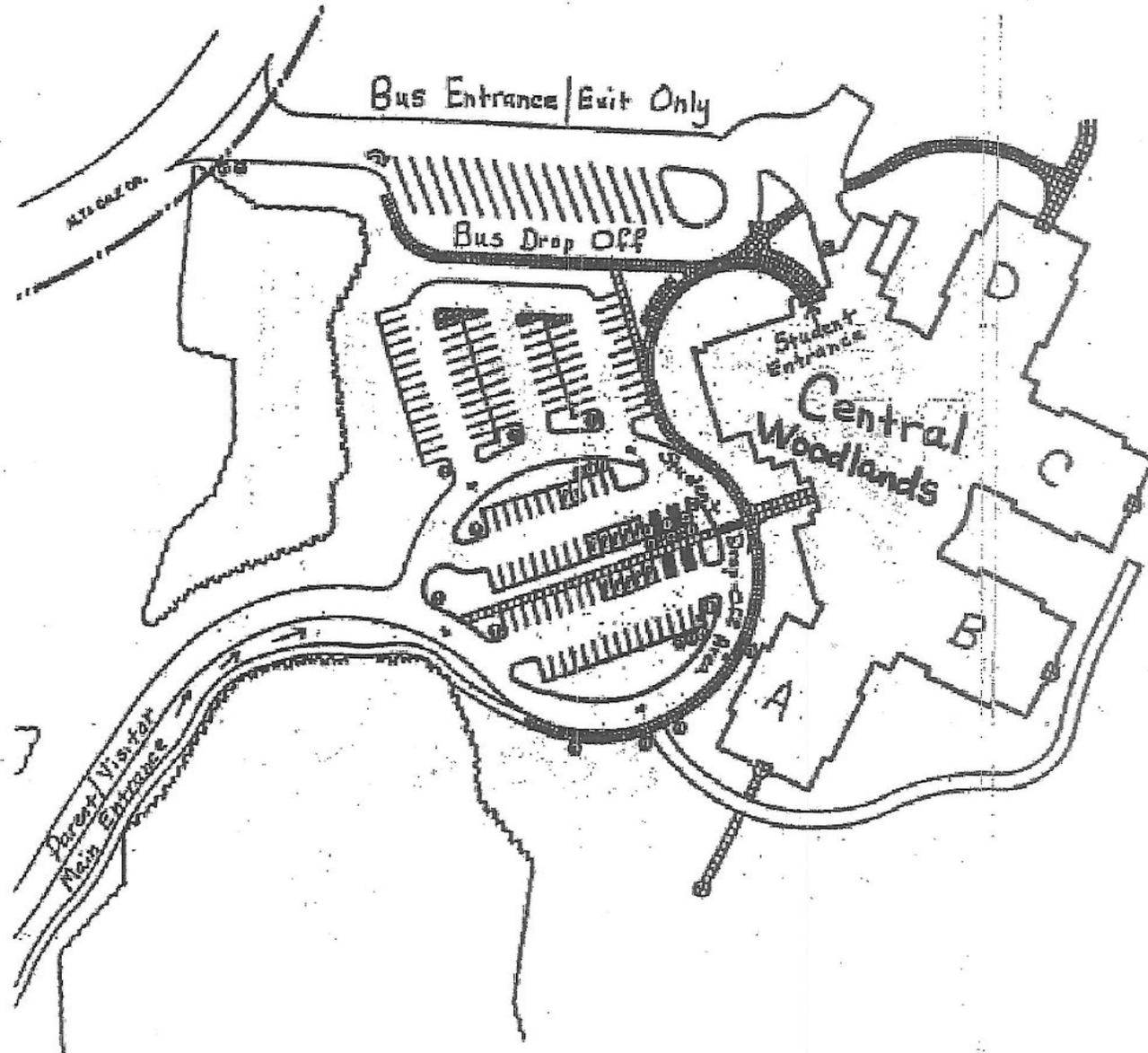
**660 Forest Hills Avenue SE ~ Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546**  
**Phone 616.493.8950 Fax 616.493.8959**  
**Nikki Webber-FH Community Sports Youth Programmer**

HURO

Playground  
&  
Ball Fields



Student Entrance  
from Bus Parking



Fores

## **NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY**

It is the policy of the Forest Hills School District that no person shall, on the basis of race, religion, age, color, national origin, sex, or handicap, be excluded from participation in, be the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity of the district, including employment.

Any questions, concerning title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, including athletic issues, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, or inquiries related to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicap, should be directed to:

Mrs. Christine Annese  
Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources  
Forest Hills Public Schools  
6590 Cascade Road, S.E.  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546  
(616) 493-8800