

The mission of McKinley School, in partnership with the community, is to provide our diverse students with a rigorous and nurturing learning experience designed to maximize their intellectual, physical, social and emotional potential.



## About McKinley

McKinley is a pre-kindergarten through fifth grade school with approximately 450 students. There are typically four classes per grade level with an average class size of 18-22 students. The school is a learning community comprised of a diverse student population. On average, about a quarter of the students speak a language other than English at home. The students and their families are representative of countries around the globe.

The motto of McKinley School is "We are Family". The active Parent Teacher Association is an integral part of the school, supporting numerous enriching cultural events and many family based activities.



Fairfield Public Schools

## McKinley Elementary School

Fairfield, CT



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[https://www.edline.net/pages/MCKINLEY\\_ES](https://www.edline.net/pages/MCKINLEY_ES)

[www.mckinleyschoolpta.org](http://www.mckinleyschoolpta.org)

Dr. Dale Bernardoni, Principal

## In the Classroom



McKinley School follows the Fairfield Public Schools curriculum. Reading and writing are taught using the workshop model of instruction. The teacher explains the lesson objective to the whole class during a “mini lesson”. The students practice the skill with a partner before reading or writing on an individual basis. The teacher then meets with small groups of children to provide instruction on a specific set of skills and concludes the lesson with a whole class summary.

Like Language Arts, the Math curriculum was designed to meet state standards and is taught using a pacing guide that allows teachers to re-teach or enrich concepts as needed by individuals or small groups of students. Students are given opportunities to apply the use of mathematics to solve every day realistic problems.

The content areas of science and social studies are taught in units of instruction that are related to a central theme with essential elements for vocabulary development and content understanding. The culminating activity in a content area unit of instruction often incorporates grade level appropriate research and the use of technology.



## Special Areas of Instruction

All students have opportunities to explore the development of special talents through weekly classes in physical education, visual arts and vocal music. Students are introduced to conversational Spanish beginning in grade 4. They also may elect to begin string lessons in fourth grade. Band instrument lessons begin in fifth grade.

The McKinley School staff includes teachers who specialize in working with English language learners, students who demonstrate gifted learning behaviors, and students in need of specialized instruction.

## Enriching Learning

Numerous academic supports and enhancements are offered outside of the instructional day. Made possible with funding from entitlements and grants, students are offered assistance with strengthening reading skills, math skills and homework completion. The Student Council provides opportunities for involvement in multiple community service projects. In addition, students may elect to participate in the Nutmeg Book Club, Knitting Club, Quilt Team, Drama Club and Ballet for Breakfast. Extracurricular opportunities are available in Cross Country, Chess Club, and numerous Wakeman based activities such as Preparing for Team Sports, Field Games, and Board Games.

## Home-School Collaboration

Collaboration between home and school is of special importance at McKinley School. The PTA maintains a public web site and sends out email blasts on a weekly basis. In addition, the PTA manages the Friday Folder system of sending home paper copies of newsletters and flyers with announcements about school and community programs. Numerous evening and weekend PTA family events include: the Book Fair, the Ice Cream Social, Movie Nights, Read-Ins, Family Fun Nights, the Holiday Craft Fair, the International Dinner, the Spring Carnival, and our most defining event, the McKinley World's Fair. The PTA raises funds in support of enriching activities such as visiting authors and storytellers, performing groups, artists in residence, and numerous field trips.



## Community Connections

McKinley School has a special affiliation with the Wakeman Boys and Girls Club. A program director coordinates high school mentors who meet weekly with selected McKinley students. An after school bus provides transportation to the Wakeman Club House. McKinley School is a United Way “School of Hope”. Also on an annual basis, a United Way grant provides funding for home libraries, foster grandparents, literacy based technology, and special events. The art teacher facilitates a visual literacy project with the Yale Center for British Art and a large scale art opportunity with the American Mural Project. Before and after school daycare is available with Kids Place.

