

Hamburg Area Elementary Schools
SPECIAL SUBJECT AREAS
HOMEWORK & GRADING POLICY

Revised September 2013

Library, Physical Education, Visual Art, Vocal & Instrumental Music & World Language

Students in the Hamburg Area Elementary Schools participate in special area subjects that are scheduled once during each five-day cycle.

- Music and Visual Art classes encourage self-expression, the development of sensitivity to the visual and performing arts, and the acquisition of new knowledge and skills.
- Physical Education classes promote the development of fine and gross motor skills and lifetime fitness.
- Library Science encourages the development of research skills and the use of the library and automated card catalog system.
- World Language classes promote the appreciation of other cultures as well as specific language skills.

Traditional homework is seldom assigned in any of these areas. However, students taking instrumental lessons are given weekly assignments for home practice and study, and lesson times are noted in the regular student agenda. Students are encouraged to take proper care of library books and are responsible for returning borrowed books on time. The visual art and music instructors encourage student participation in and attendance at our Fine Arts Festivals held throughout the year. The World Language instructors expect and require all students to complete classroom assignments.

Many of the special subject areas also offer extracurricular opportunities for student participation, such as after school clubs in art and physical education and the Jump Rope for Heart event in the spring.

The following grading key represents the Grading Policy for our special area subjects for students in third through fifth grade. Grades are given at the end of each semester. Formal grades are not given for either Library or World Language classes.

Grading Key

O	Outstanding	Student displays exceptional skills and understanding of concepts taught; demonstrates high degree of effort and cooperation.
G	Good	Student displays above average skills and understanding of concepts taught; is attentive and cooperative.
S	Satisfactory	Student displays basic/age appropriate accepted level of skills and understanding; does a minimal amount of class work and/or participates with inconsistent levels of effort.

N	Needs Improvement	Student displays poor understanding or mastery of skills and concepts taught; demonstrates little or no effort or participation in class activities.
X	No Grade	Student has not produced enough work or participated enough for a grade at this time (2 nd and 4 th marking periods); default grade for all students (1 st and 3 rd marking periods).

We, the instructors of the above subjects, are excited about sharing our special skills and areas of expertise with your children. We are all specialists in our respective fields. The curriculum documents for each of our special areas can be accessed on the district website, along with our teacher web pages and contact information. Please feel free to contact us at any time – by phone or email – with your questions or an offer to volunteer for any of our special programs.

Special Area Teachers

Instrumental Music – Mrs. Dowd (Strings)
Miss Saul (Band)

Visual Art – Mrs. Binns (K-2 & 4-5)
Mrs. O'Keefe (K-4)

Library – Mr. Havanko (K-2 & 4-5)
Mrs. Koller (K-4)

Vocal Music – Miss Kerchner (K-4)
Mr. Pietsch (K-2 & 4-5)

Physical Education – Mr. Miller (K-4)
Mrs. Wolfinger (K-2 & 4-5)

World Language – Miss Campbell (K-2 & 4-5)
Mrs. Smith(K-4)