

Art Start



WHITTIER ELEMENTARY



Oak Park
Education
Foundation

OPEF has offered free, hands-on STEAM enrichment programs to Oak Park schools for nearly 30 years. This year, OPEF delivered more than 33,000 hours of enrichment both during and after school.

Architecture Adventure — Architects help 4th and 5th graders design, build and explore the human-made world during art classes.

Art Start — Artists animate the curriculum through visual and performing arts residencies with K-2nd graders.

Geared Up — 3rd-grade students engineer simple machines using specialized LEGOs; 5th graders build and program Mindstorms robots during library time.

Science Alliance — Working scientists conduct experiments and lead field trips with 4th and 5th graders.

VEX Robotics — Tech experts work with teams of middle schoolers to design, build, program and compete with robots.

Spoken Word — Middle schoolers find and cultivate their unique voices by reading, writing and performing poetry.

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Our experts enriched
the lessons of

240

students from
Whittier Elementary.
Enjoy a few highlights
from this past year.



1 Crime, Grime, and Inclines

In Science Alliance, Forensic scientist Dr. Brent Friesen worked with students on solving a crime by identifying unknown white powders based on how they reacted with known solutions. Meanwhile, Dr. Brian Mitchell of Northwestern University investigated whose hands were the dirtiest and Dr. David Kupperman of Argonne National Labs gave 4th graders some hands-on experiences with gravity and its effects on objects in free-fall and on an inclined plane.

2 Artful Gratitude

Second graders in Ms. Druckmiller's class worked with teaching artist Guillermo Delgado on a project that allowed them to explore the ideas of thankfulness and gratitude. Each of the artist's visits began with a short walking or stretching meditation. Students then created a series of colored tin milagros working with themes of gratitude and thankfulness in the shapes of hands, hearts and stars. The finished pieces became part of an installation in the Whittier garden.

Science Alliance





Science Alliance



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Science Alliance

3 Batteries Not Included (or needed)

Third graders used LEGOs to build on their understanding of simple machines such as pulleys and levers and how these machines operate in our daily lives.

4 Space, Shape + Form

Second grade students in Ms. Williams' and Ms. Wright's class visited the Frank Lloyd Wright Home & Studio and learned how space, shape and form can affect the way you live in a given space. Students created a floor plan for a client and then built a 3-D model of their design.

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B · A · S · E C A M P

BASE Camp is a fee-based, STEAM-focused summer enrichment program that helps support OPEF. More than 900 students enrolled in BASE Camp. More than 120 Oak Park students attended camps on scholarship.



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Science Alliance