

# Weston Parks and Recreation WOW Programs!

Winter 2024

WOW! After-School Programs



Weston Intermediate School (WIS)

Grades 3 thru 5

Weston's One World After-School Programs

Weston Parks and Recreation is pleased to offer WOW! After-School programs for students in 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Weston Intermediate School this winter! Please note that program enrollment is limited in order to keep class size small. Classes will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. **Please register early because programs fill quickly!**

## Registration:

Weston Parks and Recreation WOW! Program online registration will open on **Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:01 p.m.** If a program is full, you still may register and your child's name will automatically be placed on the wait-list (**No payment is required at this time**). If space does become available, you will be notified via email.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** To create an account, click [here](#), where you will be able to add all family members to your account before registration opens on **Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:01 p.m.**

**Note: If you already have an account with Weston Parks & Recreation, you're all set, but please double check that your child's grade is correct and that you've added any family members if they are currently not on your account.**

## Fees:

Please see each course listing for specific fees. ALL materials are included in the class fee. Financial Aid is available; please contact Allison Lisbon, Director of Human Services, at 203-222-2663 or [alisbon@westonct.gov](mailto:alisbon@westonct.gov) to inquire about eligibility for assistance.

## Payment:

- ALL payments must be made online by credit card via our secure site.
- **Full payment of program fees must be made at time of registration.**

## Refund:

Once a class begins, we **do not** issue refunds or credits, unless with a doctor's note.

## Program Dates:

Classes begin the week of January 1<sup>st</sup> and run through the week of March 25<sup>th</sup>, unless noted.

**Class Length:**

All classes are scheduled from 3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. **unless otherwise noted.** Please check individual programs for program descriptions, grade eligibility, room assignments, start dates, and program end times.

**Important information:**

1. Please be sure to log into The Dismissal Manager System **each week** to record your child(ren)'s WOW! after-school activity. Please note that the system allows you to record your child's activity for the entire session at one time and then make edits if, and when, necessary. Please indicate if anyone other than yourself will be picking up your child at dismissal time. **Additionally, given our unpredictable Weston winter weather, please indicate what your child's dismissal plans are in the event of an unplanned after school activities cancelation.**
2. In the event of an early dismissal due to inclement weather or any other school emergency, all after-school programs will be **cancelled** and the children will be sent home per school policy. In the event of a cancelation, we will send a reminder via email and also post this information on the Weston Parks and Recreation WOW website. If we are unable to contact you in the case of a last minute cancellation by an instructor, children will stay in the main office with the WOW! Supervisor until a parent arrives. We will make every effort to make up missed classes due to cancelations.
3. There is **no** nurse on duty after normal school hours. In the event of illness or emergency treatment, we will call 911 and then contact parents, or the emergency contact if necessary.
4. **If your child has any special medical needs, please contact Charlene Monn at 203-222-2586 prior or email [cmonn@westonct.gov](mailto:cmonn@westonct.gov) before the start of the session.**
5. Weston Parks and Recreation reserves the right to cancel a class due to lack of student enrollment. If insufficient enrollment causes an activity to be canceled, participants will receive a full refund.
6. If a student is dismissed for disciplinary reasons or withdraws from the school or the program, the parent forfeits the entire program fee.

**Health & Safety:**

Please note that the pandemic may cause changes in our operations that are unpredictable. Our in-person WOW! after school programs will follow guidelines established by the Connecticut Department of Public Health, our local health district and the Weston Public School District. We'll continue to adjust our health and safety policies and procedures as updates become available.

If you have any questions, please contact Charlene Monn, Weston Parks and Recreation Program Coordinator, at [cmonn@westonct.gov](mailto:cmonn@westonct.gov) or (203) 222-2586.

**Monday Programs****9-week session**

**January 8<sup>th</sup> – March 25<sup>th</sup> (no class Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>, February 19<sup>th</sup>, February 26<sup>th</sup>)**

**NEW! Bucket Drumming (3<sup>rd</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade)**

**Maximum # of participants: 12 students**

**Fee: \$ 216.00**

**Location: Music Room 110**

Weston's very own band teacher, Koryn Dirschel, brings bucket drumming to our WOW! after school programs this winter. Bucket drumming is a fun way to turn a simple bucket into a musical instrument. It's an exciting and resourceful way for students to explore and express their creativity. Participants in this new program will play along with a collection of fun and upbeat songs as a group using a set of drumsticks and a bucket! No experience needed!

Instructor:

Koryn Dirschel is the beginning band teacher and has been teaching in Weston for 20 years! She loves teaching music through fun and innovative ways. She can often be seen singing along to Kids Bop in her car with her two children Ellianna and Karl.

**Yoga (3<sup>rd</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade)**

**Maximum # of participants: 10 students**

**Fee: \$ 216.00**

**Location: TBD**

**Yoga is for every...body!** We're thrilled that Judy Orr is bringing her very popular yoga program to WIS again this winter! Students who have taken her class at HES, will agree that after a full day at school, Judy welcomes her students and inspires them to explore and discover the mind and body connection in a fun-filled way. Judy takes a creative approach to yoga that can be very helpful for children whose bodies are still developing. The use of animated poses and basic stretching exercises promote strength, flexibility, coordination and body awareness. Breathing and visualization techniques teach children how to focus, relax and develop self-control.

**Special Note: Students should bring their own yoga mat each week to class.**

**NEW: Budding Entrepreneurs (3<sup>rd</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade)**

**Minimum #/ Maximum # of participants: 8 minimum / 12 maximum**

**Fee: \$ 252.00**

**Location: Health Room 101**

Move over Shark Tank... Here comes the WIS budding entrepreneur! This program empowers students with an entrepreneurial mindset to run their very own "business" – drawing from such disciplines as marketing, finance and strategy, in a supportive environment fostering teamwork. From designing marketing flyers to estimating profits, students will have lots of fun while developing business savvy!

Instructor:

Spark Business Academy

**Tuesday Programs**

**12-week session**

**January 2<sup>nd</sup> – March 26<sup>th</sup> (no class February 20<sup>th</sup>)**

**NEW! Cartooning (3<sup>rd</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade)**

**Maximum # of participants: 12 students**

**Fee: \$ 300.00**

**Location: Room # 117**

Learn to create cartoon characters, superheroes and comic strips! Students will learn to develop characters and story lines with associated dramatic illustration. The first few classes will concentrate on drawing and technique which students will then apply, while designing and drawing their own projects for the remainder of the session.

Instructor:

Agata Tria is an accomplished and award-winning artist, exhibiting her soft pastels in the United States as well as Europe. Her style is mostly minimalistic nature portraits emphasizing color and composition. She loves to create in all kinds of mediums from acrylic/oils and pastels to glass, resins and wood. She has been interested in art since childhood and loved to make toys: stuffed animals, dolls, toy cars, blocks, and

mechanical figurines. Agata has a very active life as a wife/mother/artist residing in Weston with her family and assorted pets (she's also an animal lover!).

**NEW! Baking with Gabriela (3<sup>rd</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade)**

**Maximum # of participants: 10 students**

**Fee: \$ 336.00**

**Location: Staff Room/Kitchen (next to music classrooms)**

**Special Note: This is a 1 ½ hour class; 3:15 - 4:45 p.m.**

Gabriela Low returns this winter on **Tuesdays** (and we also offer a Wednesday program) with her yummy baking class, one of our most popular after school programs! Students will learn how to bake like pros as we master the techniques for homemade breads, pies, scones, cookies, and cakes! Each week we'll learn a new baking skill from cutting butter into flour for pie crusts, kneading dough for sweet breads and buns, and much more!, We can't guarantee that your child will save any of the delicious baked goods that they make during this very popular **1 ½ hour** class!

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Items used in this class may contain nuts or gluten or may be processed on shared equipment with nuts or gluten. Unfortunately, we **cannot** accommodate individual dietary needs or restrictions.

**NOTE: If your child cannot attend the Tuesday class, we also offer Baking with Gabriela! on Wednesday!**

Instructor:

Growing up and going to school in Switzerland, Gabriela Low was always interested in cooking and baking. Today she enjoys providing "hands on and learning by doing" classes to kids and adults.

**Wednesday Programs**

**12-week session**

**January 3<sup>rd</sup>- March 27<sup>th</sup> (no class February 21<sup>st</sup>)**

**Morning Chess (3<sup>rd</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

**Maximum # of participants: 12 students**

**Fee: \$ 198.00**

**Location: Room 213**

**Drop Off: 7:30 a.m.** In the event of a delayed opening, we will not hold class and will extend the program for an additional week.

**Note: This is an 11-week program. There is no class on March 13<sup>th</sup> due to the district's scheduled delayed opening for Parent conferences.**

Start your day off right with chess, now beginning at **7:30 a.m.!** We're thrilled that Mr. Anderson is offering morning chess for students in Grades 3-5 this winter. Beginners and intermediate players will learn the rules, strategies and tactics of chess. So why not get up a little earlier and join the fun of the game!

Instructor:

Before becoming a teacher, Mr. Anderson worked as an actor touring the U.S., Canada, and Europe in shows such as CATS, West Side Story, and A Chorus Line. When he is not at school, Mr. Anderson enjoys spending time with his wife, Tracy, and their two girls, Lily and Ella. Mr. Anderson also loves to spend time outdoors hiking, camping, or fly fishing and hopes to one day thru-hike the Appalachian Trail.

**NEW! Video Game and Game Controller Design (3<sup>rd</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade)**

**Minimum/Maximum # of participants 7minimum / 14 maximum**

**Fee: \$ 312.00**

**Location: Health Room 101**

Are you a storyteller, digital artist, and gamer? Then video game design is the best playground for you to release your creativity! Let's go behind the screens and learn to create a playable, tablet friendly video game. You'll build them from scratch: from background scenery to characters to plot development. Along the way, you'll pick up basic design concepts and discover how ideas go from paper to screen. Also, we will prototype, design, and test your special video game controllers.

**Note:** Devices, software and materials will be provided by Citizen Invention.

Instructor:

Citizen Invention

**Baking with Gabriela (3<sup>rd</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade)**

**Maximum # of participants: 10 students**

**Fee: \$ 336.00**

**Location: Staff Room/Kitchen (next to music classrooms)**

**Special Note: This is a 1 ½ hour class; 3:15 - 4:45 p.m.**

Gabriela Low returns this winter on **Wednesdays** (and we also offer a Tuesday program) with her yummy baking class, one of our most popular after school programs! Students will learn how to bake like pros as we master the techniques for homemade breads, pies, scones, cookies, and cakes! Each week we'll learn a new baking skill from cutting butter into flour for pie crusts, kneading dough for sweet breads and buns, and much more!, We can't guarantee that your

child will save any of the delicious baked goods that they make during this very popular **1 ½ hour** class!

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Items used in this class may contain nuts or gluten or may be processed on shared equipment with nuts or gluten. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate individual dietary needs or restrictions.

**NOTE: If your child cannot attend the Wednesday class, we also offer Baking with Gabriela! on Tuesdays.**

**Thursday Programs**

**11-week session**

**January 4<sup>th</sup> – March 28<sup>th</sup> (no class February 22<sup>nd</sup>, March 14<sup>th</sup>)**

**Acting and Improv (3<sup>rd</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade)**

**Maximum # of participants: 12 students**

**Fee: \$ 308.00**

**Location: TBD**

**Note: This is a 1 ½ hour program and ends at 4:45 p.m.**

We're happy to offer Acting and Improv after school program to students this winter at WIS! This class is for performers of all levels. Whether you're a pro or are completely new to the stage, students will explore the joy of acting and learn the fundamentals through theatre games, scene study, movement, character building, and improvisation in a fun and encouraging environment. Our final class will be an informal showing to perform for family and friends.

Instructor:

Robin Reiser is a Weston local mom who began her acting journey as a kid on Sesame Street and later trained with William Esper Studios, the Groundlings, and Improv Olympic. She spent 20 years in Los

Angeles working on stage and screen while teaching acting and improv to kids and teens and is thrilled to share her passion for performance with the WOW! program.

**Sew Fun! (3<sup>rd</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade)**

**Maximum # of participants: 10 students**

**Fee: \$ 264.00**

**Location: Health Room 101**

Come learn something new this winter and experience the relaxing qualities of sewing, finger knitting, crocheting, and much more with Gabriela! Students will spend some time with their friends, while making accessories to wear and creating pretty decorations for the home. What a great way to relax, while building concentration, gaining confidence with your projects, and having soooooo much fun!

Instructor:

Gabriela Low discovered her love of crafts as a child in the Swiss school system. Today she enjoys sewing, knitting, and needlework, and is especially pleased when she sees a child's enthusiastic discovery of their own creativity.

**Origami Workshop-Kool Mandarin**

**Maximum # of participants: 10 students**

**Fee: \$ 216.00**

**Location: TBD**

**Note: This is a 9-week program and begins on January 18<sup>th</sup>**

Transforming 2D objects into 3D models can be thrilling, satisfying, and a process of creative expression/innovation. Despite that, it's also an ancient art form, aka "origami," used as a meditation aid with deep symbolic meanings and cultural significance. To welcome the year of the dragon, a series of passion projects will be pursued using paper, napkin, or fabric origami folding techniques. Amazing cultural festivals will also be introduced while learning Mandarin, mathematics, and science. Come join us, an incredibly fulfilling and rewarding experience awaits!

Instructor:

Dr. Shu-fei Lin has always been interested in science and art and has lived in Weston with her family for > 7 years. She was a brain research faculty at Yale University and is working on integrating traditional art and scientific technology for an approach to proactive well-being. Dr. Lin is the current principal of the West Connecticut Mandarin Academy.

