# School Inquiry Project

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# Hemlock Creek Elementary School

WEST DE PERE
PHANTOMS



# Hemlock Creek School Model - Public

This is the model of the school and they are continuing to add on because the number of students is increasing



# Hemlock Creek’s Mission and Philosophy

The mission of Hemlock Creek Elementary is to create an educational community and climate that, recognizing each student's talents and individual learning needs, is dedicated to student success and lifelong learning.

# Public Schools in Wisconsin

In the state of Wisconsin, there are 2,378 elementary schools and 1,695 are public. Wisconsin ranks as the 19th state in terms of student enrollment and 11th in terms of total number of schools.

WISCONSIN PUBLIC EDUCATION NETWORK



# Hemlock Creek Demographics and Achievements

- Serves 951 between grades PreK-4th grade (grown 6% in last 5 years)
- Placed in the top 30% of schools in Wisconsin
  - Reading and math proficiency are in top 30% in Wisconsin
- Student proficiency in math - 52%
  - Higher than Wisconsin average (43%)
- Student proficiency in reading - 50%
  - Higher than Wisconsin average (41%)
- Student to teacher ratio: 17:1
- 23% of student body is minority population with a growing rate of Southeastern Asian students
  - Lower than Wisconsin average (32%)
- Added a $5 million extension in 2015
- Fully functional during Covid19 - Virtual 2020, mixed virtual and in-person learning 2021, fully in person 2022

# Hemlock Creek School Funding and Structure

**FUNDING**

- Mostly tax payments from West De Pere School District inhabitants
- Parent donations and parent made fundraisers
    - Wealthier area of the school district, receive many donations from parents
- Receive little grants from the state because of wealthy area
    - Have one grant that allows kids with certain familial incomes to have reduced payments for school lunches
- School board gives $500 every year to the teachers so they can provide extra supplies that enhance the learning experience within their classrooms

**STRUCTURE**

- $5 million extension added in 2015, holds 2nd grade classrooms, extra cafeteria, and extra gymnasium
- 2 story school - 1st floor holds the kindergarten classrooms in one wing, the 1st grade classrooms in a second wing, 2nd grade classrooms in the new wing, the cafeteria and office at the front of the building, with the original gymnasium and other extracurricular classrooms down one wing.
- 2nd floor holds 3rd grade classrooms down one wing and 4th grade classrooms down the other wing. The library at the top of the stories with 2 computer labs on either side of the library.

# Hemlock Creek Structure











# Hemlock Creek Organization

- **Kindergarten-1st grade** - Focus on developing their reading skills with pictures
  - Develop looking for context clues in the pictures to further develop their reading skills
  - Learning to write and spell with snap words and pictures related to snap words
  - Science and social studies - Less focused on in this stage, they follow the core curriculum
- **2nd-3rd grade** - Learning to read without the pictures, but looking for context clues within the reading if there's a word they don't know
  - Have site reading assessments - Teachers will give student a book and they listen to the student read aloud the book for the first time to see how they're improving their reading skills
  - State testing on math and reading in fall, winter, and spring - 15 minute online test
- **4th grade** - Focus more on math and science - hands-on labs (a unit dedicated to taking care of and studying types of small animals/creatures, a light unit where they wire their own makeshift house, etc)
  - Take the state test with math, science, reading, writing, and social studies in the spring
  - Develop their writing skills through writing their own stories

# Hemlock Creek Designs Pros and Cons

**Pros**

- Different wings for specific age groups
- 2 gyms and large classrooms for the extracurricular classes (music, art, etc)
- Large classrooms
- Lots of opportunities for the kids and their interests
    - School musical, guidance counseling, band and choir, Phantom Bucks/Phantom Phundamentals
- One open point in the middle of the school
    - Kids gather their to do activities with others

**Cons**

- Large building
- Competitions between kids
    - Phantom Bucks being traded or stolen
- Many kids per classroom with only 1 teacher
    - avg. classroom size is 26-30 kids

# Hemlock Creek Learning Assessments

- FASTBridge Literacy Assessment - 4K-2nd grade
- WI Forward Exam - 4K-4th grade; every spring
    - 4K-2nd grade: reading, 3rd: Math and English language arts, 4th: Math, English language arts, Science, Social studies
- Fountas and Pinnell Running Records - K-4 (15 minute online test)
- Common math and writing assessments - K-4
- District Assessments - to provide the teachers with extra information on their students and if they’re growing, declining, or staying the same in their subject knowledge

# Advantages and Disadvantages of Public Schools

**Advantages**

- Accessible
- Transportation is provided
- Teachers are certified
- Diverse
- Heavily regulated
- Consistent and uniform
- Often perform well
- Affordable

**Disadvantages**

- Less access to resources
- Bigger class size
- Fewer curricular options
- Less specialized
- Less parental involvement
- Frequent testing
- Bullying is more prevalent
- Can be overcrowded

# Brookfield Academy

BLUE KNIGHTS

BROOKFIELD ACADEMY



# Brookfield Academy School Model - Private

Brookfield Academy is a private school that strives to prepare their students for life after graduation.

History of private school model:  Private schools originate from Florida, and Louisiana in the 16th century. The private schools were created by catholic missionaries.

Private schools are increasing in wisconsin

# Brookfield Academy Mission and Philosophy

"The mission of Brookfield Academy is to graduate students prepared for college and life, educated in the skills, values, and heritage of responsible, constructive, free people."

At Brookfield Academy, we begin with the view that individuals are divinely created with moral responsibility. Because each person is morally responsible, we believe that he or she must have political and economic freedom to make choices in accordance with an informed conscience. We see people's intellect and character as traits, which equip them for moral discernment, as well as for the basic economic activities of competition and cooperation.

# Private Schools in Wisconsin

There are 885 private schools serving around 133,647 students in wisconsin. 19% of k-12 students in wisconsin attend a private school.

Brookfield academy is #1 out of 82 for best private high school in WI

Brookfield academy is #1 out of 32 for best private K-12 school in WI

# Brookfield Academy Demographics and Achievements

There are around 842 students attending Brookfield academy, with a 100% graduation rate.

The demographics, and overall achievements  for this school can not be found, although the school is known for there high testing results.

# Brookfield Academy School Funding and Structure

Brookfield academy never has and never will accept any funds or grants from the government, as it is not a choice school. The tuition for the school pays for all the students needs and pays for operating expenses. All donations for school get used to pay for big projects that will benefit the school.

# Brookfield Academy Organization

Primary and lower school students focus on reading and math but are introduced to literature, language, history, science and art.

In middle school they continue the core curriculum but in more advanced ways. They also attend gym, and pursue art through choir and more advanced art classes. All middle schoolers have their own computer for academic purposes.

As highschooler’s they mostly focus and prepare for graduation and getting accepted to colleges

# Brookfield Academy Designs Pros and Cons

**Pros**

**100% of students graduate**

**Prepares kids for life after graduation**

**Teaches the students to grow to be responsible, constructive, free people**

**Creates many opportunities**

**Classes are a small ratio 9 kids to 1 teacher, and class sizes 11- 17 kids in a class**

**Cons**

**High expectations**

**Not all teachers are certified**

# Brookfield Academy Learning Assessments

Not much information was found on assessments the students of Brookfield academy take but they do have high testing scores for (ERB) median testing, and ACT testing.

# Advantages and Disadvantages of Private Schools

**Advantages**

High achievement

Smaller class sizes

Opportunities

Safe learning environment

**Disadvantages**

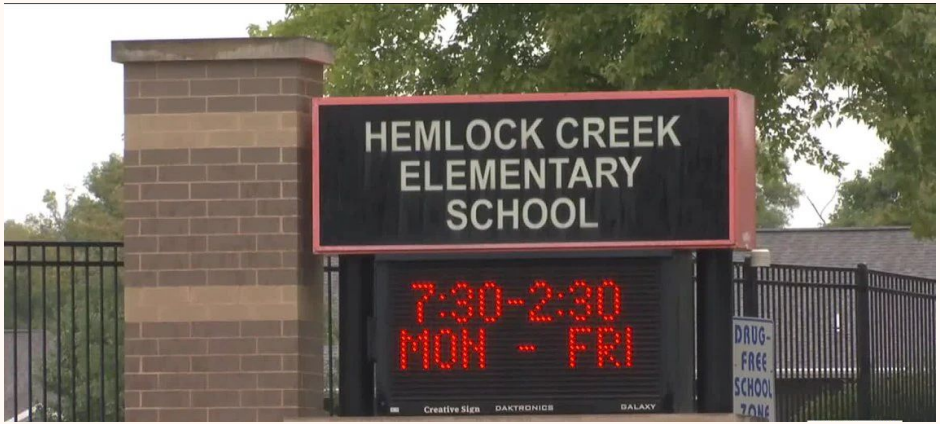
Not as many extracurricular activities, and clubs

High expectations

Teachers don’t have to be certified

Less diverse

# Hemlock Creek vs Brookfield Academy






# Hemlock Creek Pros and Cons

**Pros**

- Great elementary school
- High test rates in math and reading
- High score on report card on DPI
- Teachers are inclusive
- Lots of hands-on activities
- Newer school (7 years old)
- Great school community - relationship between staff, kids, and parents

**Cons**

- Not a large minority population
- Struggles with special education
  - Resources, teachers/aids, special education understanding
  - Lower ranking on DPI report card
- Wealthier part of district - bullying

# Brookfield Academy Pros and Cons

**Pros**

- Prepares the students for graduation
- 100% graduation rate

**Cons**

- Expensive tuition
- Low pay and high expectations for teachers
- Teachers may not be certified in teaching