

NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Atautchikun Iñuuniałiptigun (Through Our Way of Life Together as One)

Adopted Curricula PreK-2

NWABSD

Debbe Lancaster, MEd, DC
Curriculum Department

January 20, 2026



Core Program: The Creative Curriculum for PreK

The Creative Curriculum is the foundation of our district's PreK instruction.

- **Whole-child focus:** It addresses social-emotional, cognitive, language, and physical development while building early literacy and math readiness.
- **Play-based and inquiry-driven:** Children explore themed units through hands-on experiences, fostering curiosity and problem-solving.
- **Cultural connections:** The flexible design allows teachers to integrate local context and place-based learning, making lessons meaningful for our communities.
- **Family engagement:** Provides resources and strategies to involve families in extending learning at home.



Supplemental Program: TouchMath

TouchMath is a multisensory approach to early numeracy.

- **Tactile learning:** Children use “touch points” on numbers to count, add, and subtract.
- **Accessibility:** Particularly beneficial for young learners who need concrete, visual strategies before moving into abstract concepts.
- **Skill support:** Complements Creative Curriculum by reinforcing number sense, sequencing, and early operations.



Supplemental Program: Learning Without Tears

Learning Without Tears provides developmentally appropriate readiness, handwriting, and fine-motor practice.

- **Pre-writing skills:** Focuses on grip, posture, and letter formation.
- **Ease of use:** Uses songs, wood pieces, and engaging materials to make writing approachable.
- **Transition support:** Prepares children for kindergarten expectations in handwriting and classroom routines.



NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Atautchikun Iñuuniatigun (Through Our Way of Life Together as One)

Pre K

Ikayusralikun / Uqayus(r)alikun

Program Goals

■ Language Revitalization	Increase fluency in Iñupiaq among new generations to keep the language alive.
■ Cultural Identity & Continuity	Ground children in Iñupiaq values, worldview, and traditions; strengthen pride and
■ Academic & Holistic Readiness	Blend Iñupiaq language/culture with social-emotional, cognitive, and motor growth
■ Equity & Connection	Ensure Iñupiaq children see their culture reflected in school and access culturally

Program Strengths

■ Authentic & Culturally Grounded	Instruction in Iñupiaq builds identity, pride, and engagement.
■ Early Start Advantage	Beginning immersion in PreK makes language learning natural and effective.
■ Community Involvement	Elders, fluent speakers, and families enrich and validate the program.
■ Place-Based & Flexible	Content tied to local land, animals, and seasons makes learning meaningful.
■ Momentum & Support	Statewide interest, grants, and public commitment back revitalization efforts.

How Strengths Support Goals

- Early immersion and community involvement directly advance language revitalization.
- Cultural grounding and place-based learning strengthen identity and continuity.
- Flexible, holistic content supports both cultural growth and academic readiness.
- Regional momentum ensures equity and sustainability for Iñupiaq children.



Why This Matters for NWABSD

Together, these programs provide a **balanced PreK experience**:

- A research-based, comprehensive core curriculum (Creative Curriculum).
- Supplemental supports that **strengthen math and fine-motor/early writing skills** (TouchMath and Learning Without Tears).
- Flexibility for teachers to **incorporate local culture and language** while ensuring students are prepared for kindergarten and beyond.



HMH Into Reading (Grades K–2)

Program Overview

Into Reading is a comprehensive, research-based literacy program that provides K–2 students with the essential skills to become confident readers, writers, and communicators.

■ Foundational Skills	Explicit instruction in phonics, phonemic awareness, high-frequency words, and handwriting.
■ Rich Texts	Authentic literature and informational texts build comprehension and engagement.
■ Vocabulary & Language	Direct vocabulary teaching and oral language practice support comprehension.
✍ Writing Integration	Daily writing activities connect reading and writing development.
■ Differentiation & Support	Built-in scaffolds for struggling readers, English learners, and advanced students.
■ Assessment & Data	Regular progress checks and digital tools help teachers adjust instruction.

Why This Matters for NWABSD

- Builds strong foundational reading skills required under the Alaska Reads Act.
- Provides a consistent approach across schools while allowing for local cultural integration.
- Supports all learners with differentiated pathways and progress monitoring.

In short: Into Reading K–2 develops lifelong readers who can think, communicate, and connect ideas.



NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Atautchikun Iñuuniatipigun (Through Our Way of Life Together as One)

K - 2

Carnegie Learning – Clear Math (Grades K–2)

Program Overview

Clear Math for K–2 is a student-centered, problem-based curriculum that builds deep conceptual understanding while developing essential skills in number sense, operations, and problem solving. It is aligned with state and national standards.

■ Conceptual Understanding	Focus on why math works, not just how, emphasizing number sense and place value.
■ Hands-On & Visual	Uses manipulatives, drawings, and interactive tools to move from concrete to abstract.
■ Problem-Based Learning	Real-world problems spark exploration and discussion of multiple strategies.
■ Balanced Practice	Mix of exploration, guided practice, and fluency-building routines.
■ Differentiation	Supports struggling learners and challenges advanced students; encourages collaboration.
■ Teacher Support & Data	Clear lesson structure, embedded guidance, and progress-monitoring tools.

Why This Matters for NWABSD

- Builds strong early math foundations that predict later achievement.
- Encourages student-centered, culturally relevant learning opportunities.
- Provides differentiation to meet diverse student needs across the district.

In short: Clear Math K–2 helps students become flexible problem solvers, not just memorizers of steps.



McGraw Hill Networks – Social Studies (Grades K-2)

Program Overview

Networks Social Studies for K-2 introduces children to community, citizenship, history, geography, and culture. It builds civic understanding, respect for diversity, and the early skills students need to make sense of the world.

■ Civic Foundations	Rules, fairness, responsibility, and understanding roles in classroom, school, and community.
■ History & Culture	Introduces important people, traditions, holidays, and symbols; values heritage and diversity.
■ Geography & Place	Develops map skills, spatial awareness, and connections to Alaska and local culture.
■ Integrated Literacy	Engaging texts link social studies with reading, writing, and oral language practice.
■ Inquiry & Thinking	Age-appropriate inquiry tasks foster questioning, comparing, and problem-solving.
■ Digital & Print	Interactive online resources, visuals, and videos bring concepts to life.

Why This Matters for NWABSD

- Builds civic awareness and social responsibility from the earliest grades.
- Connects national standards with local culture and community identity.
- Prepares students with critical thinking, discussion, and informational text skills.

In short: Networks Social Studies K-2 introduces students to their roles as community members and citizens while linking literacy, culture, and inquiry.



NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Atauchikun Iñuuniatipigun (Through Our Way of Life Together as One)

K 2

National Geographic Exploring Science (Grades K–2)

Program Overview

Exploring Science is an inquiry-based, hands-on science program that sparks curiosity and builds a foundation in physical, life, and earth sciences. It emphasizes exploration, real-world connections, and cross-curricular integration.

■ Inquiry-Based Learning	Lessons follow the 5E Model (Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, Evaluate) to support deep learning.
■ Hands-On Investigations	Students conduct simple experiments, make predictions, collect data, and share results.
■ Rich Visuals & Connections	National Geographic photos, videos, and maps tie science concepts to the natural world.
■ Literacy Integration	Short, leveled readings support science vocabulary and early reading comprehension.
■ STEM & Cross-Curricular	Introduces early engineering challenges and links science with math, literacy, and social studies.
■ Digital & Teacher Support	Interactive resources, assessments, and teacher guides for easy classroom use.

Why This Matters for NWABSD

- Encourages curiosity and critical thinking through hands-on discovery.
- Provides a highly visual and engaging approach for diverse learners.
- Supports place-based connections to Alaska's land, animals, and culture.

In short: Exploring Science K–2 helps students learn science by doing science—building curiosity, confidence, and real-world connections.



NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Atauchikun Iñuuniatiptigun (Through Our Way of Life Together as One)

Pre K

Common Sense Digital Citizenship (Grades K–2)

Program Overview

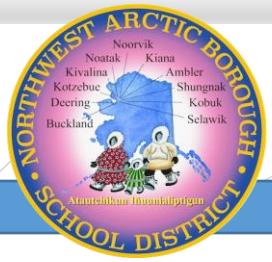
The Common Sense Digital Citizenship curriculum helps young learners develop safe, responsible, and respectful digital habits. For K–2, lessons are short, engaging, and focused on online safety, balance, respect, and privacy.

■ Safety First	Protecting personal information, recognizing safe vs. unsafe online behavior, and s
■ Balance & Healthy Use	Learning to balance screen time with other activities and making healthy technolog
■ Respect & Responsibility	Promoting kindness online, respecting others' work, and understanding early copyr
■ Privacy & Security	Basics of not sharing passwords, names, or private details; understanding public vs
■ Interactive & Fun	Stories, videos, and role-play make lessons engaging and age-appropriate.
■ Free & Trusted	Developed by Common Sense Media, aligned with ISTE standards, and used in sc

Why This Matters for NWABSD

- Builds safe and responsible digital habits starting in the earliest grades.
- Supports district goals for preparing students for responsible 21st-century technology use.
- Promotes kindness, balance, and security both in school and at home.

In short: Digital Citizenship K–2 equips students to be safe, kind, and responsible online.



NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Atautchikun Iñuuniałiptigun (Through Our Way of Life Together as One)

