



# SHÄRP Literacy

## Press Kit



## Mission

**SHARP partners with educators to foster a love of learning and brighten children's futures through innovative STEAM-based experiential programs.**

We bring learning to life by actively engaging students with hands-on activities, educational tours, collaborative summer and after-school programs, mural projects, multi-generational reading programs and more.

At SHARP, we strive to strengthen critical thinking, science and math knowledge and appreciation for the arts in our students, helping to shrink the opportunity gap.

## Our Objectives

- Reach More Underserved Children
- Strengthen and Deepen Relationships with Teachers and Administrators
- Emerge as a leading organization in the advancement of STEAM-based programs in Southeastern Wisconsin
- Broaden Funding Sources & Program Sustainability
- Expand SHARP's Outreach and Inclusiveness Initiatives



## Testimonials

"The group of students I had today were a bunch of superstars! They learned that the E in STEAM stood for engineering, and the words "sequence" and "algorithm." We did a few examples of why it is important to know what order to do things in, then planted our seeds. We talked about how smart people behind computers and robots are the ones that make things happen. People use coding to tell computers and robots what to do."

– Adelle White, Design Through Code 3 educator at Milwaukee Academy of Science

"When we went on a field trip as a class to the Urban Ecology Center, my students got to see salmon! We learned about salmon with Ms. Becky; they were swimming up the Milwaukee river at the time and my students were using the vocabulary and saying things like, "I wonder if that is a spawning adult!"

– Amanda Heggem, 2nd grade teacher at St. Martini Lutheran

"We learned about the water cycle. They learned many new vocabulary words like evaporation, condensation, etc. They also learned the states of matter. We tied colors, hand movements and faces to emotions we feel. The students then reported on their meteorologist worksheet using colors, words, shapes to describe their feelings."

– Aime Osting Tcheng, 2nd grade educator at Rogers Street Academy

From hands-on learning to educational tours to collaborative after-school programs, SHARP partners with educators to ensure that all students, no matter their circumstances, are provided opportunities to achieve academic success.

**Fall and Spring In-School STEAM Workshops:** SHARP's arts-integrated workshops utilize hands-on learning and STEAM concepts to enhance students' confidence in their ability to read and do math and science. Each workshop includes collaborative activities geared toward visual, kinesthetic and auditory learners.

## Grade Level Themes

- K3: Science – Physical Science
- K4: Science – Animal Habits & Habitats
- K5: Science – Plants, Seasons & Climates
- First grade: Science – Pollinators
- Second grade: Science – Cycles in Nature
- Third grade: Social Studies/Science – Explore MKE
- Fourth grade: Geography & Architecture in Wisconsin
- Fifth Grade: Journeys of Home (Spring 2023 Pilot)



## Design Through Code (DTC):

- DTC 2: 2nd grade – Algorithms and loops through coding games (Spring 2023 Pilot)
- DTC 3: 3rd grade – Coding basics through a fun gardening theme
- DTC 4: 4th grade – Problem-solving, logic, critical thinking through the language of coding
- DTC 5: 5th grade – Coding and engineering through technology and physical computing

**Curriculum-based Educational Tours:** These experiential learning opportunities provide K4-5th graders with the chance to visit museums, universities, ecology centers and experiential education sites. All programs above feature an educational tour aligned with the curriculum, increasing students' knowledge retention and awareness of their community.

## Educational Tour Sites

- Discovery World
- Frank Lloyd Wright's Burnham Block
- Friends of the Domes
- Lynden Sculpture Garden
- Milwaukee Art Museum
- Milwaukee School of Engineering
- Prairie Springs Environmental Education Center
- Quad
- Urban Ecology Center
- Waukesha County Historical Society & Museum

**View SHARP's  
2021-22 annual report**

## Professional Development

SHARP is continuously adapting its program around teacher feedback and offers personalized, professional development to help teachers make the most of our program within their schools. Educators, teachers, SHARP guides and tour partners can receive training on a variety of current educational trends, including the Artful Thinking Palette, culturally-responsive teaching and trauma-informed care.

## ***We Love To Learn Books***

SHARP students collaborate with artists and writers to research, write and illustrate books. To date, SHARP has published 17 books in the *We Love to Learn* series, aligned with state-mandated curricula. [Visit our website to view all available books for purchase.](#)

## **Most Recent Books**

- *Journeys of Home: Migration, Perseverance, and Culture* (2022)
- *The Didactic: A Design Through Code Space Adventure* (2021)
- *Discover Waukesha* (2019)



## **Community Art**

Under the guidance of local artists, students work together to create large-scale community art projects, encouraging teamwork and an appreciation for the visual arts. Each publicly displayed piece of art becomes a visual exploration of the subject as seen through the eyes of our students. [Visit our website to view all community art.](#)

## **Most Recent Installations**

- *Helping Hands* – Milwaukee  
Artist Vedale Hill collaborated with St. Augustine Preparatory Academy, Kluge Elementary, Rogers Street Academy and Swallow Elementary students on this Bronzeville mural.
- *Our Eyes On The Future* – Malaika Early Learning Center  
Malaika 3rd graders used math problems to design paint by number panels assembled by artist Vedale Hill into a finished mural.
- *Caras de Waukesha* – Frame Park  
Alberto Villalobos and Banting and Summit View Elementary students worked together on this sculpture marking the contributions of the city's Latino community.



## Reading With Programs

In our Reading with the Golden Eagles (Marquette University) and Reading with the Pios (Carroll University) programs, young learners bond with college athletes through mentorship and reading. Students discover that you have to be able to read, do math and pursue education to do well in sports. Our participating athletes learn how to give back to their community and inspire youth to pursue higher education.



## Intergenerational Programs

Through a unique partnership with a school and a senior center, SHARP Literacy brings together elementary school children and older adults through reading and art. SHARP's Intergenerational program gets students out of the classroom and into their community. Through reading, writing, conversation and art, students and seniors build meaningful relationships with each other.



## Johnson Controls Greenhouse and Garden

At Browning Elementary and Silver Spring Neighborhood Center, students learn sustainable gardening methods - aquaponics, composting, solar dehydration and rainwater harvesting. Students also dig deep into urban agriculture, food justice and nutrition.

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Civic Volunteer

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## President/CEO

Lynda Kohler



# SHARP

— Literacy —



Inspire a lifetime of learning.

[sharpliteracy.org](http://sharpliteracy.org)

Bringing learning to life for students through  
hands-on education and partnerships with educators.



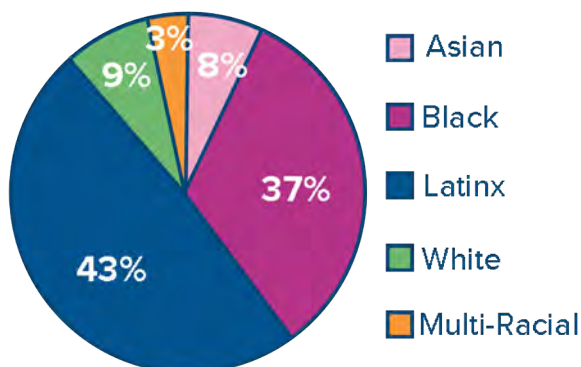
# Our Mission



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## Why SHARP Works

### Student Demographics



### At a Glance

- 8,500 students served in K3 - 5th grades
- 51 schools in Milwaukee, Racine, Waukesha (public, choice, charter)
- \$180 cost per student/year (free to schools)
- 85% of students come from homes classified as economically disadvantaged

# 86%

of teachers rated SHARP 7 out of 10 or higher

*\* Based on 162 surveys conducted for 2019-20*



# SHARP Programs

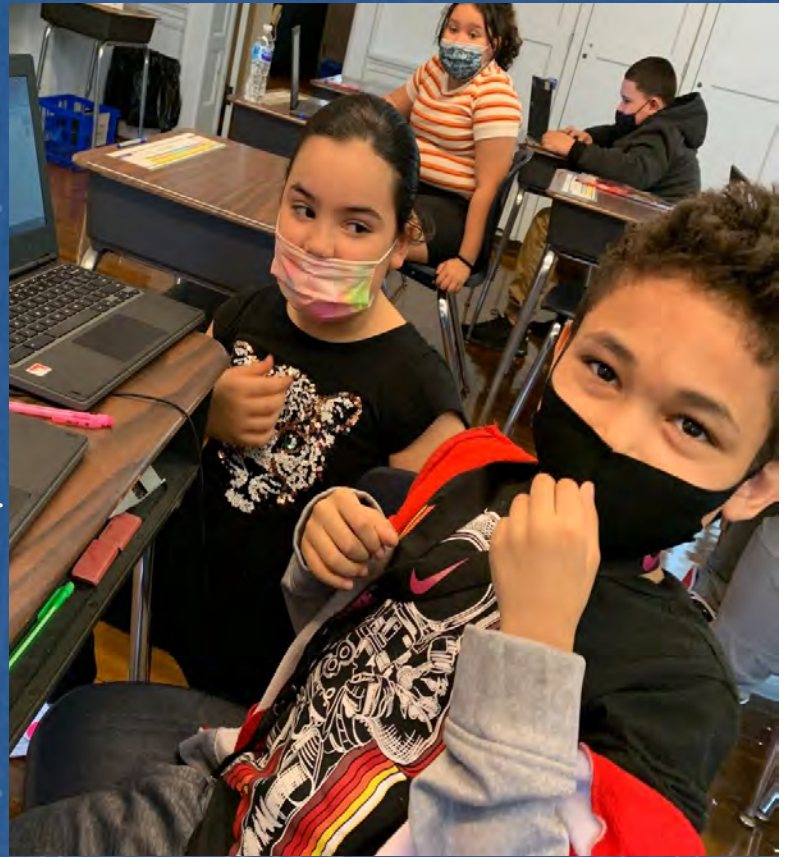
- **STEAM Core Program**

K3-5th graders explore STEAM concepts through arts integration. Each class explores a topic ranging from living things, plants, seasons, and pollinators to financial literacy, culture and social studies.

- **Design Through Code**

2nd through 5th grade students learn the basics of coding and essential skills that are valuable across a variety of disciplines from problem-solving and logic, to collaboration, critical thinking and creativity.

- **After-School Learning Program** provides a modified version of our school-year curriculum through learning opportunities at partner sites. Reading and academic content blend with hands-on art projects and experiential learning.



- **Summer Learning Program**

reaches an average of 800 students in 26 schools/learning centers. This lessens the “summer slide” experienced by urban students in summer months

- **Educational Tours**

provide K3-5th graders with the opportunity to visit museums, ecology centers and experiential education sites. All programs above feature an educational tour, increasing students’ knowledge retention and awareness of their community.

- **Enrichment Programs**

Intergenerational Program: Through reading, writing, conversation and art, students and seniors build meaningful relationships.

In our Reading with the Golden Eagles and Reading with the Pios programs, young learners bond with student athletes through mentorship and reading.



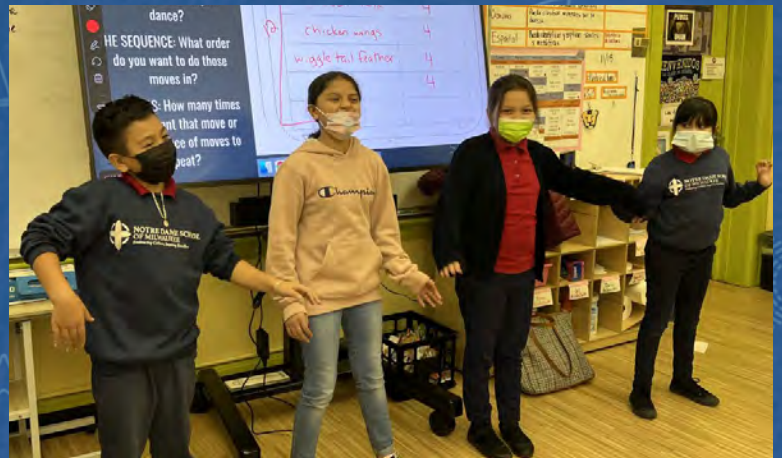


# History



Over the past 25 years, SHARP Literacy has grown exponentially, geographically, and technologically to be a driving force for educational excellence throughout southeastern Wisconsin. The organization operates on the core belief that children can be inspired to achieve academic goals through creative expression, no matter their circumstances.

Today, SHARP Literacy is led by President and CEO Lynda Kohler and has evolved to stay relevant to today's youth, offering a wide range of comprehensive science and technology-focused programs. These programs encourage curiosity, creativity and discovery and help to sharpen critical thinking, problem-solving & communication skills.



## Upcoming Events

SHARP's fundraising events help support the STEAM-based programming so vital to students and educators success!

- **February 2023:** Unwrapped Waukesha
- **May 18:** Unwrapped MKE at the Gage



Join SHARP in sparking a desire for life-long learning, bridging the opportunity gap, and impacting families, communities and businesses in southeastern Wisconsin.



5775 N Glen Park Road Suite 202  
Milwaukee, WI 53209



# SHARP 2022-23 Education Partners

## 2022-23 School Partners

ALBA (Academia de Lenguaje y Bellas Artes)  
Atlas Preparatory Academy  
Benjamin Franklin School  
Blessed Sacrament Elementary  
Browning Elementary School  
Cass Street Public School  
Catholic East School  
Doerfler School  
Escuela Vieau  
Forest Home Avenue Elementary School  
Granville Lutheran School  
Hadfield Elementary School (Waukesha)  
Hawley Environmental School  
Hawthorne Public School  
HAPA (Hmong American Peace Academy)  
Hope Christian School—Fidelis  
Kluge Elementary School  
La Casa de Esperanza (Waukesha)  
La Causa Charter School  
Malaika Early Learning Center  
Mary Queen of Saints Catholic Academy  
Messmer St. Mary  
Messmer St. Rose  
Metcalf Elementary School  
Milwaukee Academy of Science  
Northwest Catholic School  
Northwest Lutheran School  
Notre Dame School of Milwaukee  
Our Lady Queen of Peace  
Pilgrim Lutheran School  
Prairie Elementary School (Waukesha)  
Prince of Peace  
Renaissance Lutheran – Taylor (Racine)  
Renaissance Lutheran – Villa (Villa)  
River Trail Elementary School  
Rogers Street Academy  
St. Anthony School  
St. Augustine Preparatory Academy  
St. Catherine School  
St. Charles Borromeo School  
St. Margaret Mary School  
St. Martini Lutheran School  
St. Peter Lutheran School  
St. Rafael The Archangel School  
St. Roman Parish School  
St. Thomas Aquinas Academy  
Summit View Elementary School (Waukesha)  
Victory K8 and Milwaukee Italian Immersion School  
Waukesha STEM Academy - Randall Campus  
Westside Academy

## Summer Learning Program 2022

- COA Youth and Family Centers
  - Auer Avenue Elementary
  - Doerfler School
  - Hopkins Lloyd Community School
  - Oliver Wendell Holmes School
  - Riverwest Elementary
  - Westside Academy
- La Casa de Esperanza (Waukesha)
- Milwaukee Christian Center
  - Forest Home Avenue Elementary
  - Kosciuszko Community Center
- Milwaukee Public Schools
  - Bethune Academy
  - Browning Elementary
  - Clement Avenue School
  - Cooper School
  - Elm Creative Arts School
  - Escuela Vieau
  - Fifty Third Street School
  - Gaenslen School
  - Hopkins Lloyd Community School
  - Maple Tree School
  - Milwaukee Academy of Chinese Language
  - Morgandale School
  - Rogers Street Academy
- Neighborhood House of Milwaukee
- Notre Dame School of Milwaukee
- Neu Life Community Development
  - Brown Street Academy
  - Gwen T. Jackson
- Our Next Generation
- Silver Spring Neighborhood Center
- Silver Spring Neighborhood Center Childcare
- Waukesha Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department
  - Banting Elementary
  - Lowell Elementary



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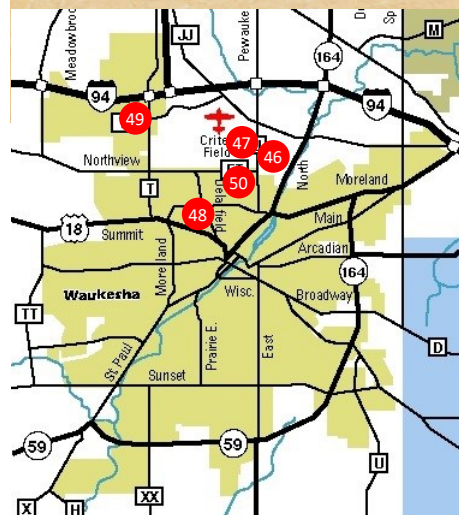
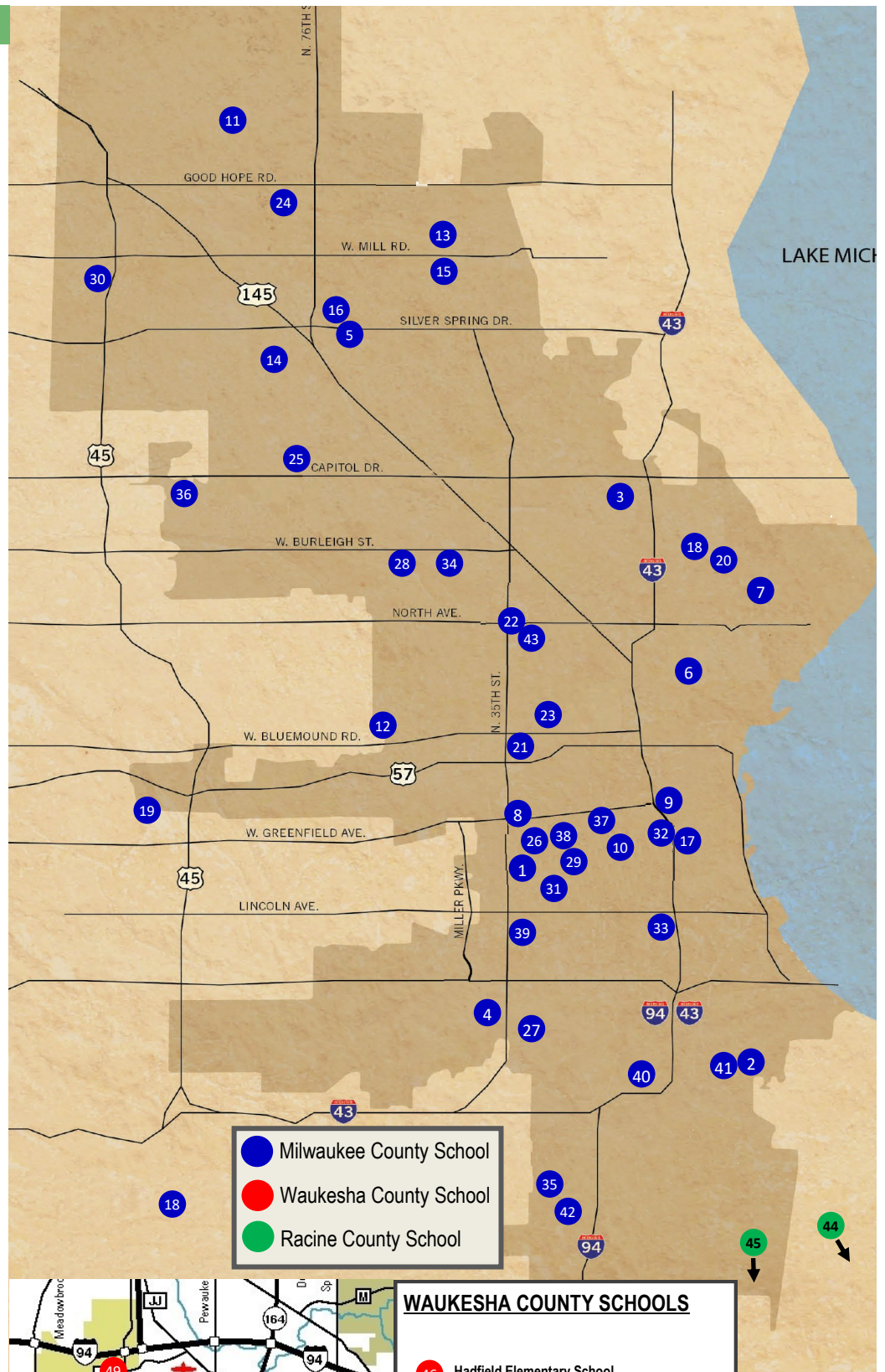
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## 2022-23 PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

- 1 Academia de Lenguaje y Bellas Artes (ALBA)
- 2 Atlas Preparatory Academy
- 3 Benjamin Franklin School
- 4 Blessed Sacrament Elementary
- 5 Browning Elementary School
- 6 Cass Street
- 7 Catholic East
- 8 Anna F. Doerfler School
- 9 Escuela Vieau
- 10 Forest Home Avenue Elementary School
- 11 Granville Lutheran School
- 12 Hawley Environmental School
- 13 Hawthorne Public School
- 14 Hmong American Peace Academy
- 15 Hope Christian School Fidelis
- 16 Richard Kluge Elementary School
- 17 La Causa Charter School
- 18 Malaika Early Learning Center
- 19 Mary Queen of Saints Catholic Academy
- 20 Messmer St. Mary
- 21 Messmer St. Rose
- 22 Ralph H. Metcalfe Elementary School
- 23 Milwaukee Academy of Science
- 24 Northwest Catholic School
- 25 Northwest Lutheran School
- 26 Notre Dame Primary School
- 27 Our Lady Queen of Peace
- 28 Pilgrim Lutheran School
- 29 Prince of Peace
- 30 River Trail Elementary School
- 31 Rogers Street Academy
- 32 St. Anthony School
- 33 St. Augustine Preparatory Academy
- 34 St. Catherine School
- 35 St. Charles Borromeo School
- 36 St. Margaret Mary School
- 37 St. Martini Lutheran School
- 38 Christ-St. Peter Lutheran School
- 39 St. Rafael The Archangel School
- 40 St. Roman Parish School
- 41 St. Thomas Aquinas Academy
- 42 Victory School for the Gifted and Talented
- 43 Westside Academy

## RACINE COUNTY SCHOOLS

- 44 Renaissance School — Taylor
- 45 Renaissance School — Villa



## WAUKESHA COUNTY SCHOOLS

- 46 Hadfield Elementary School
- 47 La Casa de Esperanza
- 48 Prairie Elementary School
- 49 Summit View Elementary School
- 50 Waukesha STEM Academy - Randall Campus