

Fifth Grade Curriculum

Welcome to Grade 5! This year is all about exploring new ideas, developing critical thinking skills, and deepening our understanding of various subjects. From exciting science experiments and engaging literature to math challenges and creative projects, Grade 5 is a year filled with discovery and fun. Students will learn how to work together as a team, take on responsibilities, and express their thoughts clearly.

English Language Arts

We have adopted a new districtwide K-5 curriculum called Bookworms which will assist in providing the instruction that each of the students needs and deserves as they are actively reading, writing, listening, and speaking about complex ideas every day. A Bookworms classroom has three designated literacy blocks each day: Shared Reading, English Language Arts, and Differentiated Instruction.

- Within the *Shared Reading* block, children will partake in rereading activities and discussions to build students' ability to read fluently, build vocabulary, and to think critically about text.
- The *English Language Arts* block features a read-aloud to build language and vocabulary knowledge, build world knowledge, and improve students' inferential thinking. During this time, students participate in genre-based writing with embedded grammar instruction.
- In the *Differentiated Instruction* time, children work through cycles of teacher-led and student-driven activities addressing specific individual needs.

Another component of the Bookworms Reading and Writing day is a dedication to word study. Word study is a type of spelling instruction that is designed to help children link sound and pattern so that they can read and spell unknown words. Students in all grade levels have a daily designated time for word study instruction and time to practice the words across the week.

Math

IM Math™ (Illustrative Mathematics) is fully aligned to the focus, rigor, and coherence of the standards, and has been given the stamp of approval by EdReports, earning perfect scores in the areas of Focus & Coherence and Rigor & Mathematical Practices. The scope and sequence of units, activities and representations are designed to help students develop a deep understanding of mathematical concepts, build fluency with procedures and solve mathematical problems that reflect and connect to their lived experiences.

A problem based curriculum, IM places a focus on student thinking and reasoning, mathematical discourse, and student collaboration.

Link to family website: [Illustrative Mathematics Website](#)

Topics of Study for Grade 5

1. Finding Volume
2. Fractions as Quotients and Fraction Multiplication
3. Multiplying and Dividing Fractions
4. Wrapping Up Multiplication and Division with Multi-digit Numbers
5. Place Value Patterns and Decimal Operations
6. More Decimal and Fraction Operations
7. Shapes on the Coordinate Plane
8. Putting it All Together

Science

Fifth grade uses the Science21 program which is aligned with the Next Generation Standards. The program is inquiry based, student-directed, and relevant to students' everyday lives. Students engage in minds-on and hands-on science tasks that integrate practices and concepts learned in their other academic subject areas. Our units of study include:

1. Space Systems: Stars and the Solar Systems
2. Structure and Properties of Matter
3. Earth Systems
4. Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems

Reading in the content area is a regular part of our science work. (Scholastic SuperSTEM and other media)

Social Studies

Throughout the school year the fifth grade social studies curriculum will focus on the Western Hemisphere. The perspectives emphasized will be geographic, historic, economic, and cultural. We will review a number of social studies skills, especially the analysis of primary and secondary source documents.

Our units of study include:

1. Migration
2. European Exploration
3. Geography
4. Government
5. Economics
6. Cultural Diversity

Springhurst Spanish FLES Program

The Spanish FLES curriculum for fifth grade is a sequential model in which all students receive instruction that is structured into units. The duration of lessons is 15 minutes. Spanish FLES instruction is proficiency-oriented with a focus on meaningful communication rather than on grammatical structure. Students are encouraged first to understand and then to produce words in the target language. Using an immersion approach, similar to the way children learn their first language, students participate in language activities that are geared to their interest level and include experiences with cultural practices and integration of thematic content. These experiences emphasize listening, speaking, reading and comprehension in meaningful, communicative contents:

social/cultural situations, games, songs, and rhymes in addition to experiences with arts, crafts, movement and total physical response (TPR).

Each lesson lays the foundation for the next one, and children gain confidence in listening and speaking in the target language. They also learn to read and write short sentences to complement their learning of the Spanish language.

Character Education

Developing caring, responsible, and respectful community members through education and active participation is one of our primary goals as elementary school educators. Parental and guardian support is key to the success of some of these programs and initiatives. In 5th grade, students learn about recognizing, reporting, and refusing bullying. The role of bystanders and their responsibilities in preventing bullying is emphasized. Cyberbullying is also covered through our Second Steps Program and Digital Citizenship lessons.

Homework

English Language Arts: Instead of traditional homework, we encourage families to engage in reading together, discussing the themes and characters, and sharing personal reflections about the texts. The type of text chosen does not matter. Students can choose magazines, books, newspapers, blogs, informative texts, or fiction texts. All of these provide an opportunity for children to build vocabulary, world knowledge, and understanding of text structures. You can also talk to your child about the books they are reading in class to where you will likely find them willing to share much about the road to becoming a bookworm this year. Also in line with Bookworms' philosophy around homework, they do not suggest sending spelling lists home, as the goal is to move away from rote memorization and to help students develop a strong understanding of spelling conventions and concepts.

Math: Homework will be given Monday through Thursday. The purpose of these assignments is simply the practice of concepts that the child is working on. Please set aside a quiet time and place for homework. Allow your child to work independently as much as possible. Your interest in your child's work is a very important component in the beginning development of good work habits and a positive attitude.

Communications

Please remember that any changes to your child's dismissal need to be made through the school's Dismissal Manager System. Throughout the year, we will be observing your child's growth and development so that we can support his/her individual needs. We are always available to discuss any thoughts, questions or concerns.

We look forward to a wonderful year with your child! Thank you!