

Fifth Grade Curriculum



Language Arts



This year in addition to independent reading, the students will be reading novels as a whole class. The focus will be on vocabulary development, close reading, and developing higher level thinking skills. Furthermore, students will be exploring nonfiction topics and texts through our integrated ELA/Social Studies curriculum. Students will continue to develop conventional language skills such as grammar, mechanics, spelling and vocabulary. Students will also go through the writing process on multiple pieces with a focus on essay and short response.



Math



The math curriculum in fifth grade is based on the Primary Mathematics Curriculum, developed in Singapore. The program features a balance of problem solving, mental math, and computational skill development. Primary Mathematics features a Concrete-Pictorial-Abstract approach.

When learning a new concept, students will often work with concrete materials, then use drawings and pictures to help them understand the concept, and then move toward abstract symbols. Students are given ample opportunities both for practice and application of new ideas learned. The program is closely aligned to the Next Generation Standards.

Mathematical ideas are developed through problem solving, and students will use the bar model drawing approach to help them make sense of word problems. Reasoning and communication skills are fostered throughout the program, as students are expected to explain their thinking to others. Assessments will be given both during units and at the end of a unit.

The topics that will be addressed this year include:

- Place Value
- Factors, Multiples, Prime & Composite Numbers, Prime Factorization & Exponents
- Operations with Whole Numbers
- Fractions and Operations with Fractions
- Measurement - Area, Perimeter, and Volume
- Geometry
- Decimals and Operations with Decimals



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 Super Science 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

FLES

Students in 5th grade receive 15 minutes of Spanish language immersion five days per week. During this time, students are fully engaged in the process of communication through visuals, manipulatives, songs, skits and age-appropriate games. In addition, students use their Chromebooks to create different learning artifacts.

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



Reading for at least 20 minutes each night is expected. This may be independently chosen or assigned by the teacher. You may read with your child, to your child or have your child read alone. It is important that you talk about the content, share your response and reactions with your child, and encourage your child to talk about what was read. Please make reading a priority in your home.

A combination of Math, Wordly Wise, and Grammar homework will be given regularly. The purpose of these assignments is simply the practice of some concept that the child is working on. It should take no more than approximately 70 minutes to complete homework including reading. 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!