

LANGUAGE ARTS CURRICULUM FOR FIFTH GRADE

The fifth grade language arts program encompasses a variety of literature appropriate to the interests and needs of fifth grade students. It provides practice in developing those skills necessary to appreciate and understand literature as it relates to language, composition, and thinking skills. Students participate in an independent reading program and are guided through an analysis of several novels and short stories. Students are encouraged by the diversity of materials offered to help them prepare for the many types of reading they will encounter in the future.

The fifth grade expands on the grammar learned in fourth grade, reinforcing parts of speech through application in a rigorous and diverse writing program. Organized paragraphs are developed with details in support of a main topic. Formatting, typing, and grammar skills include descriptive, narrative, persuasive, and expository styles of writing, as well as poetry.

Opportunities for writing are provided, both formal and unstructured. Writing is integrated across the curriculum. The editing and revising processes are two main areas of focus. Creative writings include poems and stories. The Wordly Wise series introduces new vocabulary words and expands the use of the words in reading and writing activities. The study of root words enhances the students' understanding and use of languages. Handwriting is reviewed and improved using the Zaner-Bloser series. Students are expected to apply handwriting skills and techniques across the curriculum. Handwriting focuses on the refinement of cursive writing skills while reviewing manuscript.

Reading

| Topics Covered | Skills Acquired |
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| Literary Genre Studies Short stories, Poetry, Drama, Nonfiction | Identifying author's point of view and purpose; Understanding cause and effect; Drawing conclusions; Comparing and contrasting; Distinguishing between fact and opinion; Recognizing main idea and supporting details; Making inferences; Sequencing; Ability to classify and categorize; Literature circles; Comprehension skills; Identifying elements of different genres; Story mapping; Novel studies accompanied by detailed examinations including - Discussions, Review questions, Paragraphs regarding comprehension, Making inferences and offering personal insights and opinions, Projects. |
| Novels Fables, Fairy tales, Mystery, Historical and realistic fiction | |
| Comprehension skills Vocabulary, Context clues, Literary skills and story elements | |

Grammar

| Topics Covered | Skills Acquired |
|---|--|
| Sentence Types & Structure Parts of Speech Adverbs, Prepositions, Nouns, Verbs, Adjectives Mechanics Subject-verb agreement, Pronoun usage, Punctuation All grammar concepts attained and practiced through reading, speaking, and writing | Correcting fragments and run-ons; Writing complete sentences; Using punctuation and capitalization; Using correct verb tense; Using a variety of sentence types. |

Writing

| Topics Covered | Skills Acquired |
|---|---|
| Writing Process Narrative, Descriptive, Expository, Persuasive, Writing Letters, Book Reports, Book Reviews, Poems, Research Reports, Fractured Fairy Tales, Plays Brainstorming and Planning, Debates, Individual Research Reports, Reference pages | Using the writing process that involves - Prewriting, Drafting, Revising, Proofreading, Publishing; Research skills; Public speaking; Citing sources; Vocabulary studies. |

SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM FOR FIFTH GRADE

In the fifth grade Social Studies program students learn the history and geography of the United States. Texts include the Geography Learn and Explore Series, Houghton Mifflin's Social Studies, as well as the Center for Civic Education "We the People." The time period covered is from the arrival of the Native Peoples through the Civil War. Subsequent periods are introduced through individual research papers that are presented during the final month of the school year. Students journey through US history by reading the textbook, doing research projects and writing a research paper.

Students are encouraged to develop critical thinking skills as they study the history of our nation. Fifth graders are given an opportunity to take a three-day trip to St. Augustine to learn about early Spanish settlements. Fifth graders also participate in a Social Studies/Math cross-curricular unit and field trip entitled “BizTown.” As part of the Social Studies portion, students learn real-life interviewing and business skills. As a viable part of the curriculum, current events, map skills, and note taking skills are taught. In geography, students learn the capitals and locations of countries of the different continents.

| Topics Covered | Skills Acquired |
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| Native Americans and the 13 Colonies | Identify origin, similarities, and differences of Native People; Learn about settlement challenges and development of the first 13 colonies. |
| BizTown | Learn business skills -Interview process, How to write a resume, How to manage a work day. |
| American Revolution | Learn the underlying causes, events, and outcomes of the American Revolution. |
| Government | Understand the political process; Differentiate and identify the three branches of the government and their functions; Familiarity with the Constitution and the Bill of Rights; The voting process. |
| Westward Expansion | Learn reasons for and dangers of westward expansion; Lewis and Clark Expedition and their role in opening up the West |
| Civil War, Urbanization and Immigration, Progressives and Suffrage, The World Wars | Understand and identify the causes and effects of the Civil War; Connecting the impact of the industrial and technological evolution with the urbanization and immigration following the wars (Civil and World Wars) |
| Cold War, Civil Rights, Industrial and Technological Revolutions, Turn of the Century, Recent Events | Learn about rights movements following the abolition of slavery (Suffrage and civil rights); Identify and be able to describe major World War events and participants; Develop a basic understanding of major world events after World War II, including the Cold War; Complete an in-depth research project from a selected or self-selected topic covering modern history. |

MATH CURRICULUM FOR FIFTH GRADE

Mathematics in fifth grade is accelerated and a year above grade level. The main focus of the program is the acquisition of sound addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers, decimals, fractions, and positive and negative integers. Students expand on the following skills: ratios, rates, proportions, percents, algebraic expressions, equations, functions, and order of

operation. Students are also introduced to two step equations and how to graph functions. Fifth grade also learns how to write checks, balance check registers, figure out taxes, and how to use debit cards through the JA Biztown curriculum. Students are taught problem solving strategies and encouraged to think outside of the box. Students have opportunities to practice and apply skills. Critical thinking techniques offer students new strategies for more efficient problem solving. Activities allow for both independent and cooperative learning situations.

| Topics Covered | Skills Acquired |
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| Place Value; Whole number addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division; Computations with decimals; Problem solving; Algebraic expressions and equations; Graphing; Addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of fractions and mixed numbers - Improper fractions, Ratios, Rates, Percent, Basics of banking, Integers, Exponents, Order of operation, Equations and functions, Two step equations, Graphing functions | Identifying place value; Simplifying algebraic expressions; Solving algebraic equations; Dividing multiple digit numbers; Understanding techniques of problem solving; Logic and reasoning skills; Adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing of decimals and fractions; Reducing fractions to lowest terms; Comparing and ordering fractions; Exponents; Divisibility; Prime factorization; Writing and balancing checkbooks; Writing ratios; Finding unit rates; Writing percents as fractions and decimals; Writing decimals and fractions as percents; Solving proportions; Adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing positive and negative integers; Solving equations with functions; Solving two step equations; Graphing functions. |

SCIENCE CURRICULUM FOR FIFTH GRADE

The fifth grade Science program incorporates science experiments in the school's laboratory, hands-on science activities in the classroom, Internet research on science topics, and additional materials along with the textbook (Houghton Mifflin Science, Level 5) to provide a well-rounded curriculum. Students refine their ability to observe, questions, predict, and draw conclusions while conducting experiments. They learn to create Science Fair projects independently using the scientific method and proper writing conventions learned in their language arts class. Students research a variety of scientific topics in order to create various projects such as posters, brochures, and advertisements. Each student is required to participate in the STEM Fair for Hillsborough County. All students submit a project and two are chosen to compete at the county level. Field trips, video clips, and guest speakers are used to supplement the units.

| Topics Covered | Skills Acquired |
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| Life Science | Life Processes; Cells; Plant systems; Traits of living things; Single |

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| | <p>celled organisms; Organizing cells; Populations and Ecosystems; Food webs; Cycles in an ecosystem; Biodiversity; Living things form communities; Biomes; Observing; Researching; Note taking; Inferring; Predicting; Hypothesizing; Understanding cause and effect; Comparing and contrasting; Giving oral reports; Organizing data; Creating a science board; Fine tuning of test taking and organizational skills.</p> |
| Earth Science | <p>Solar System - Star Characteristics,. Planets, Galaxies, Space Travel; Weather and climate; Earth and its moon; Exploring space; Solid Earth; Identifying minerals and rocks; Earth's changing surface; Earth's structure; Using resources wisely; Fossils; Faults; Mountains; Observing; Researching; Note taking; Inferring; Predicting; Hypothesizing; Understanding cause and effect; Comparing and contrasting; Giving oral reports; Organizing data; Creating a science board; Fine tuning of test taking and organizational skills.</p> |
| Physical Science | <p>Matter and Energy; States and characteristics of matter; Forms of energy; Changing matter; Forces and motion; Waves; Temperature and heat; Light and Sound; Properties of light; Types of lenses; Properties of sound; Observing; Researching; Note taking; Inferring; Predicting; Hypothesizing; Understanding cause and effect; Comparing and contrasting; Giving oral reports; Organizing data; Creating a science board; Fine tuning of test taking and organizational skills.</p> |