

THE PARK SCHOOL

2019-2020

CURRICULUM GUIDE



GRADE 5

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OVERVIEW

Fifth graders have one foot in preadolescence and one foot in childhood. They are exploring their individuality while also cooperating with the group. They are able to think abstractly and communicate effectively while eagerly displaying a playful spirit. In Grade 5, students are cooperative and competitive; they enjoy family and peers, while honing conflict resolution skills. As leaders of the Lower Division, Grade 5 students are held to high standards of positive citizenship. They preview the Upper Division by attending Morning Meetings and participating in Upper Division school-spirit events such as Clash Day.

Teachers introduce and reinforce skills in all disciplines of the Grade 5 experience. Recognizing individual learning styles, teachers bolster students' strengths and address their areas of challenge. Teachers nurture and support students' self-reliance, perseverance, self-discipline, and true love of learning. Students reinforce lessons by completing reading, writing, and math homework assignments. Students are each assigned a Park School Google Account and a Chromebook for use at school, giving students and teachers the ability to access age-appropriate and collaborative tools whenever they are needed. Grade 5 students use technology for many aspects of their schoolwork: math programs, writing assignments on Google docs, and researching and presenting projects. Grade 5 affords students ample opportunity to develop research and presentation skills through individual and collaborative activities.

Highlights of the year include Book Character Day, a yearlong study of immigration, a free choice research project and opportunities to participate in Math Team, after-school intramural sports, and school spirit days.

LITERACY

The Grade 5 student is ready to make the transition into the more independent model of learning in the Upper Division. This year is a chance for students to solidify the skills they have learned and to begin taking a more active and independent role in their own learning. Through papers and projects, fifth graders experiment with various forms of research and writing while

learning more about the structure and function of language.

Reading

Students in Grade 5 read daily in books selected for personal interest, books shared by a small group, or books assigned by their classroom teacher. Whenever possible, readings incorporate literature – both fiction and nonfiction – from a variety of cultures, in coordination with the social studies curriculum. Students deepen their comprehension by reading more complex texts and focusing on such elements as character complexity and goals, conflict, the impact of setting on the story, theme, and symbolism. Using nonfiction, students learn to explore text structure, to distinguish topics and subtopics, as well as facts and opinions, and to use their reading to inform themselves and classmates about new ideas. Additionally, students learn and practice reading comprehension skills and strategies to bolster their literal and inferential comprehension in both fiction and nonfiction reading.

Writing

Grade 5 students write in narrative, informational, and persuasive genres. The Grade 5 program emphasizes a writing process in which students plan, draft, revise, and edit their work. Fifth graders become more confident using transitional words and phrases, sentence variety, and imagery while constructing sentences and refining paragraph structure. Students' writing improves by focusing on topic development, organization, and craft elements specific to each genre. In the fifth grade, students also become researchers, learning to take notes, present new information, and make arguments in written form.

Grammar, Mechanics, and Keyboarding

Students continue their study of the basic elements of grammar by analyzing and creating complex sentences. Students apply the skills taught through practice exercises and proofreading. Students compose many of their important writing projects on the computer.

MATHEMATICS

The goal of our math program is to promote deep understanding of mathematics and to develop mathematically proficient students who can think, reason, model, and solve problems. All students in Kindergarten – Grade 5 use the

Investigations 3rd Edition program. Park provides opportunities for all students to build a strong foundation of mathematical knowledge while engaging in rich, meaningful, and cognitively demanding activities. Students use mathematical tools and representations to model and solve problems and are asked to communicate their thinking clearly. Students are expected to do more than memorize steps and procedures; they are asked to develop a rigorous understanding of mathematical ideas, compute with fluency, and appreciate the breadth and depth of mathematics.

Number and Operations

Whole Numbers: Students practice, refine, and consolidate the strategies they know for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers as they improve computational fluency. They expand their knowledge of the structure of place value and the base-ten number system as they work with numbers in the hundred thousands and beyond.

Fraction and Decimals: Students work to develop and expand their understanding of the meaning of fractions and decimals, as well as the relationship between them. They practice computation using several operations. They make comparisons and identify equivalent fractions and decimals.

Geometry

Students deepen their understanding of the attributes of 2-D shapes and examine the characteristics of polygons, including a variety of triangles, quadrilaterals, and regular polygons.

Measurement

Students use standard units of measure to study area and perimeter, and to determine the volume of prisms.

Analyzing Patterns and Algebraic Thinking

Students create tables and graphs to represent the relationship between two variables in a variety of contexts and to articulate general rules using symbolic notation. Students use representations, contexts and arithmetic expressions to provide arguments about whether general statements hold true for all numbers.

Data Analysis

Students create graphs and describe, analyze, compare, and interpret data presented in many different formats, including coordinate line graphs representing the correspondence between two quantities.

SCIENCE

Students in Grade 5 science are asked to think about the world creatively, critically, and quantitatively as they engage in an exploration of the physical world through engineering and design processes. The unit on light energy, for example, challenges students to apply their newfound knowledge and skills to craft pinhole cameras. In addition, students design, and build anemometers that showcase their understanding of weather and learn robotic programming skills that will be utilized in Upper Division Science. As students work independently and collaboratively to innovate and document the scientific process, they are encouraged to learn from their mistakes and empowered to find creative solutions to complex problems.

Growth Education in fifth grade begins with a review of the puberty topics presented the year before. This course introduces the basics of reproduction and breaks down misconceptions. Growth Education classes meet in homeroom sections in order to address questions around female and male anatomy and the changes that occur during puberty.

Fifth-grade science classes meet twice each week in one 45-minute session and one 75-minute session.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Students participate in a yearlong study of immigration, focusing on Ellis Island, Angel Island, and modern day immigration. Major projects include building a scaled replica of the Statue of Liberty, writing letters from the perspective of an immigrant, and engaging in an immigration simulation. Students engage in reflective thinking about the myriad reasons for immigration, the changing views on immigration, as well as the positive impact of immigrants on American culture. As a culmination of the yearlong study of immigration, students interview immigrants in the Park community and create exhibits to honor their stories.

Listening, questioning, visualizing, making connections and inferences, synthesizing, and comparing and contrasting skills are all emphasized. Students produce multiple paragraph research papers and give oral presentations.

ART

The Grade 5 art curriculum is focused on the elements and principles of three-dimensional design, which is a key element of “design thinking.” Students use familiar materials – newspaper, tape, computer paper, tissue paper, clay, and wood – in new ways. Fifth graders are increasingly able to focus on long-term projects as they practice technical hands-on skills and experiment with techniques to transform their ideas into artwork.

Over the course of the year, students rotate through three distinct art studios, which meet for 40-minute classes twice each week.

Studio I

Students create the facade of a house using clay. Learning methods and techniques of low relief sculpture, they carve into the clay and add shapes and texture. As inspiration, students are introduced to the work of architects past and present.

Studio II

Students create a lively sculpture of a papier-mâché animal. To start, students choose an animal and find realistic photos to use for reference. They plan, construct, and decorate the animal using paper, paint, and found materials. Their imaginative challenge is to invent a way to animate their sculpture using color, gesture, and form.

Studio III

In the woodworking studio, students construct a miniature tabletop meditation garden, inspired by Zen and Imperial Gardens. The project features a shallow wooden box with mitered corners to which many layers of finish are applied. In addition, students construct miniature wooden rakes and other optional components such as a wooden bridge to accompany the finished garden.

MUSIC

The Grade 5 music program provides an opportunity for all students to become actively involved in four basic areas of musical experience: creating, performing, listening, and history. Conversational solfege is used to support musical literacy instruction. Music notation and symbols are taught through singing, playing Orff instruments and recorders, and movement activities. These activities emphasize an

awareness of melody, harmony, rhythm, timbre, and form. Attention is given to the historical, cultural, and social context of the music. General music instruction at Park is aligned with the National Association for Music Education standards. Park’s music program helps to foster creativity and self-expression, while developing the student’s music skills. Performances and informances are used as learning tools and are opportunities for students to demonstrate what they are learning in music class.

Classes meet two times per week in 40-minute sessions.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

In Grade 5 the Physical Education program aims to provide an opportunity for each student to explore movement, continue to learn sports skills and concepts, and to develop proficiency in a variety of team and individual sports, while appreciating the importance of physical fitness.

Activities include softball, field hockey, volleyball, basketball, badminton, and track & field, while emphasizing the development of fundamental skills such as basic positioning, rules, and team play. Good sportsmanship and the enjoyment of working with others toward a common goal are part of the interwoven fabric of the program.

Students are exposed to a variety of fitness activities, functional movements, and concepts throughout the year, along with a variety of games and cooperative activities. Highlights in Grade 5 are the grade-wide tournaments, ice skating at Larz Anderson Park, and the annual grade-wide decathlon at the end of the track & field unit.

Classes meet three times per week in 40-minute sessions.

LIBRARY

Students visit the library once each week and are encouraged to use the library more frequently to explore individual interests and borrow books. In library classes, students continue to develop their individual reading tastes and share reading recommendations, while being encouraged to explore a variety of literary genres. They enjoy book talks and participate in reading incentives, such as the Massachusetts Children’s Book Award. Author/illustrator visits remain an important component of the library curriculum.

Grade 5 students continue to practice selecting and curating print and digital materials. They expand their information seeking and critical thinking skills as they undertake research projects in collaboration with grade-level curriculum. Games and activities further reinforce their understanding of how information is organized. The grade's one-to-one Chromebook program extends into the library curriculum. Through the study of citation and copyright, students learn to evaluate and appropriately engage with online resources, including databases, curated websites, and ebooks. Students are encouraged to create and share their ideas and understanding through a variety of multimedia formats.