

FIFTH GRADE CURRICULUM

Fifth grade students begin to demonstrate increasingly more abstract thinking through all content areas as more passions surface, new friendships arise, and personalities continue to flourish and mature.

Our math program provides opportunities for students to deepen their conceptual understanding and computational skills and also extend their learning with challenging real-world applications and projects.

Students deepen their exploration of literature through both classwide novel studies and small, student-led book clubs that foster independence, teamwork, and organization. Fifth grade is also a year where grammar concepts begin to solidify and writing takes off with enthusiasm and joy through student-friendly topics, more individual choice, and an abundance of opportunities for extra writing.

Each student enjoys the opportunity to share homework journals each Monday with the class and also has at least one chance to share with the entire school at Monday Morning Gathering, delighting the crowd with details and voice!

Unique experiences in fifth grade make this year one for the memory bank. The photo field trip to catch snapshots of downtown St. Louis architecture and a visit to the Lincoln Museum are two favorites among students and teachers. The first overnight camp experience is another trip students adore.

Fifth grade is also the year when students participate in D.A.R.E. with the Creve Coeur Police Department. This 10-week course helps students learn healthy life choices and provides a safe place for students to ask questions and discuss important topics with trusted adults.

Fifth grade also marks the first year that students participate in and help lead parent teacher conferences, an opportunity for leadership and ownership that builds into sixth grade.

Reading

Read class literature books across a variety of genres | Participate in two student-led book clubs based on books from different cultures from around the world and classic literature for the age group | Analyze nonfiction texts | Use comprehension strategies such as annotation and context clues | Develop skills including finding the main idea, recalling explicit facts, making inferences and predictions, determining the meaning of unknown words, identifying literary elements, identifying cause and effect, differentiating between fact and opinion, evaluating paraphrased statements, and generating summaries

Class literature includes: Zach's Lie | A Wrinkle in Time | A Long Walk to Water | Shades of Gray | Take Me to the River
Book Club Selections Include:

Cultures: Crossing the Wire | ChuJu's House | Homeless Bird | The Dreamer
Classics: Rascal | Secret Garden | Island of the Blue Dolphins | The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

Writing

Craft formal and informal pieces of writing in different forms, including journals, essays, poems, letters, reports, speeches, opinion pieces, presentations, advertisements and more | Practice different types of writing, including narrative, descriptive, creative, persuasive, informative and analytical | Learn about each of the 6 + 1 Writing Traits in greater depth through mini-lessons and self-assessments on rubrics | Study mentor texts to identify and learn from stylistic and rhetorical strategies, including metaphor, simile, personification, repetition, alliteration, allusion, dialogue | Write weekly journals on high interest topics to develop student voice authentic to personality and practice writing process and techniques | Regularly practice public speaking by sharing weekly writing journals every Monday | Engage in writing workshops with teachers and peers to revise and strengthen writing | Learn strategies for moving through each stage of the writing process, including pre-writing, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing | Complete timed writing prompts to practice idea development and navigate the writing process economically | Compose "inspired by" poetry to learn poetic form with guidance

Mathematics

Deepen computational skills, including estimation and understanding of number theory | Complete challenge opportunities woven into each class period to preview upcoming material and exposure students to advanced concepts | Regularly conference with teachers and collaborate with classmates for group reviews | Practice error analysis and several strategies for computation | Explore geometric properties of polygons, area, and volume | Investigate data collection and graphs | Organize and analyze data using line graphs, line plots, and circle graphs | Investigate primes, composites, and divisibility | Use reference frames (ordinal numbers, time of day, dates, time lines, thermometers) | Identify number and visual sequences | Practice multiplication and division concepts with fractions and mixed numbers | Explore pre-algebra concepts and formula models using variables

Resources include: Everyday Math

Grammar

Review four types of sentences (declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory) | Review main components of a sentence | Consider independent and dependent clauses and how they connect with coordinating and subordinating conjunctions | Identify subject and predicate, fragments, and run-ons to revise and create increasingly complex sentence structures | Practice capitalization and punctuation rules for sentences | Study comma uses and explore colons, semicolons, and dashes to increase sophistication of sentence structure | Review each of the parts of speech—nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions, prepositions, interjections and articles—at increasing depth from study in previous grades and explore how parts of speech operate as building blocks of sentences | Review and apply grammatical rules for written dialogue

Social Studies

Explore American symbols and their significance | Select an American symbol to analyze in a cross-curricular research project | Study the American Revolution and the Civil War | Understand key figures and causes to the American Revolution and the significance of creating a new form of government | Consider how the economic, geographical, and cultural differences between the North and South influenced the Civil War | Examine key battles, figures, and circumstances to understand life during the Civil War | Explore the time period of Reconstruction | Study the three branches of government and the responsibilities of each | Complete weekly current events articles to foster critical thinking and global awareness

Science

Explore Earth's water, examining relative amounts of fresh water across the world and studying the watershed around Rossman School | Use computer simulation models to discover how our local watershed is connected to larger systems | Investigate pervious and impervious surfaces and the difference between point and nonpoint source pollution | Examine factors impacting water quality, including dissolved oxygen, turbidity, pH, and nitrates | Test and analyze water quality in the Rossman Creek | Study Ecosystems, examining relationships between living and nonliving factors and the interdependence of organisms | Apply knowledge of how and why populations change to decipher the ecological mystery of the zebra mussel invasion of the Hudson River, culminating in the dissection of a freshwater mussel | Explore foundational chemistry concepts, including states of matter and phase changes

Units of study include: Life Science (Ecosystems), Physical Science (Chemistry, States of Matter), Earth Science (Water and Watersheds)

Art

Learn about various artists to inspire and influence different art projects and methods | Explore scale and proportion by creating observational drawings of shoes | Discover 1 and 2-point perspectives to create depth and dimension | Make and glaze coil pots with clay | Select an artist to research and create a Rossman apple inspired by the style of the selected artist, including the techniques and materials often used by the artist | Explore the art of photography through perspective, visual texture, reflection, and the rule of thirds, including a visit to downtown St. Louis to capture photos representing concepts studied and architectural elements

Music

Explore the history and workings of the ukulele, learning how to read chord charts and play the instrument | Students work to practice and perform on ukulele, both singing and accompanying themselves | Develop an understanding of syncopated rhythms, identifying rhythms both by ear and in reading music notation | Learn and perform songs in rounds, two parts, and harmony | Study the six time periods of Western music history to understand the evolution of western music | Select and research an African American musician to present to the class, noting their significance and distinguishing qualities | Collaborate with Reading class to curate playlists to describe characters from class novels and capture their experiences | Determine how tempo and various dynamic markings influence expressive performance | Foster active listening skills through solfege pitch matching exercises | Build confidence performing in front of classmates | Perform in whole school concerts and performances

Spanish

Continue personalized Spanish language dictionaries | Complete independent Spanish reading in short chapter books | Design a personal flag and conduct a series of interviews to learn about each other while practicing high-frequency Spanish verbs in an authentic context | Utilize authentic memes and music videos to practice understanding of high-frequency verbs in context | Explore character traits by learning vocabulary for describing personality | Read biographies of artists, musicians, and athletes from around the Spanish-speaking world

Resources include: Mundo de Pepita Spanish mini-books | Storyteller's Corner Comprehensible Readers | Señor Wooly

Library

Present books to peers through various presentation methods | Understand and use the Dewey Decimal System | Explore Digital Citizenship concepts including authentic and credible sources and embodying character in digital spaces | Collaborate with core subjects on research methods and works cited practices

Physical Education

Our upper school curriculum is a sports based curriculum where students will move from skill development towards skill application. From our third to sixth grade, our curriculum fosters teamwork, character, and sportsmanship while also building individual skills and fitness in our students.

Units include: Soccer, Flag Football, Lacrosse, Field Hockey, Volleyball, Tumbling, Floor Hockey, Basketball, Dance, Racquet Sports, Track & Field, Softball, Cross Country, Fishing, Climbing, and Fitness

Specialty Subject Schedule

Science — 45 minutes, 4 times a week
Social Studies -- 45 minutes, 4 times a week
Art — 45 minutes, 2 times a week
Music — 45 minutes, 2 times a week
Spanish — 45 minutes, 2 times a week
Library — 45 minutes, once weekly
Physical Education — 45 minutes daily

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