



# Parent Guide to the Curriculum

at the **BROADALBIN-PERTH** Central School District

## Fifth Grade

### HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR CHILD SUCCEED?

You play a very important role in your child's academic performance. Here are some things you can do to support your child's learning:

- ▶ Encourage your child to read.
- ▶ Help your child practice math facts.
- ▶ Know what your child is expected to learn in fourth grade.
- ▶ Help your child set high short-term and long-term academic goals.
- ▶ Designate a time and location to complete homework.
- ▶ Talk to your child about what is happening in school and constantly monitor progress.
- ▶ Advocate for your child.
- ▶ Share your child's strengths with your child and your child's teacher.

### ONLINE RESOURCES

- ▶ Find books at your child's reading level at [scholastic.com/bookwizard](http://scholastic.com/bookwizard)
- ▶ Practice math facts at [multiplication.com](http://multiplication.com)
- ▶ Learn about the New York state curriculum at [NYSED.gov](http://NYSED.gov)

Broadalbin-Perth Elementary School is the first stop along our students' journey to graduation and college and career readiness. While each grade brings with it an increase in rigor and student accountability, we are dedicated to preparing our students academically, socially, and emotionally for the many exciting challenges that lie ahead.

At BPES, we work to foster in our students independence, a strong work ethic, and a sense of pride in self, school, and community. Our teachers collaborate with each other and with families, and we expect similar collaboration among students as they develop the tools necessary to build the future they want.

This guide is designed to provide you with an overview of what your child is learning. While we hope this will be a useful resource, we encourage you to partner with us, communicate with us, and celebrate with us as we work together to provide an outstanding experience for our students.

### Questions to Ask Your Child's Teacher

When speaking with your child's teacher about academic progress, here are a few questions you may want to consider asking:

- ▶ What are the learning goals? Can you show me examples of student work that meets the learning goals?
- ▶ May I see an example of my child's work? How does it or doesn't it meet these learning goals?
- ▶ Is my child at or above grade level? What extra support is available? What can I do at home?
- ▶ What classroom routines do you have that should also be used at home?
- ▶ What kinds of questions could I ask my child on a daily basis about your class?

### Talking to Your Child

Good conversations help our children see that we are interested in their lives. Here are a few conversation starters you may want to consider using:

- ▶ Tell me about the best part of your day.
- ▶ What was the nicest thing you did for someone today?
- ▶ What was the hardest thing you had to do today?
- ▶ Can you show me something you learned today?
- ▶ What's the biggest difference between this year and last year?
- ▶ What rules are different at school than our rules at home? Do you think they're fair?



# Language & Literacy

Highlights of what your child will learn in fifth grade include:

- ▶ Quoting accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
- ▶ Determining the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language, such as metaphors and similes.
- ▶ Describing how a narrator's or speaker's point of view influences how events are described.
- ▶ Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a fifth-grade topic or subject area.
- ▶ Comparing and contrasting the overall structure (e.g., chronology, comparison, cause/effect, problem/solution) of events, ideas, concepts, or information in two or more texts.
- ▶ Analyzing multiple accounts of the same event or topic, noting important similarities and differences in the point of view they represent.
- ▶ Drawing on information from multiple print or digital sources, demonstrating the ability to locate an answer to a question quickly or to solve a problem efficiently.
- ▶ Integrating information from several texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.
- ▶ Writing opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.
- ▶ Writing informative or explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.
- ▶ Writing narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective techniques, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.
- ▶ Producing clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- ▶ Conducting short research projects that use several sources to build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.
- ▶ Engaging effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on fifth-grade topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.
- ▶ Adapting speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, using formal English when appropriate to the task and situation.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF BOOKS FOR PROFICIENT FIFTH-GRADE READERS

- ▶ Informational texts, high fantasy, science fiction, realistic fiction, traditional literature including myths and legends, biography, memoir, autobiography, historical fiction, mysteries, genre combinations, satire
- ▶ Chapter books, series books, graphic texts, diaries, logs, photo essays
- ▶ Variety of underlying structures (description, comparison/contrast, sequence, problem/solution, cause/effect) and formats (question/answer, paragraphs, boxes, legends)
- ▶ Narratives with complex plots, multiple storylines, and multidimensional characters to understand
- ▶ Narratives with unusual text organizations (flashbacks) and a variety of structures (parallel and circular)
- ▶ Many texts requiring knowledge of history and current world events
- ▶ Content requiring reader to take on diverse perspectives (culture)
- ▶ Critical thinking required to judge authenticity of texts
- ▶ Complex themes that build social awareness and reveal insights into human condition
- ▶ Use of descriptive language, figurative language, and symbolism important to understanding story elements
- ▶ Long strings of unassigned dialogue; some switching through dialogue, including time change

## CHARACTERISTICS OF PROFICIENT FIFTH-GRADE READERS

- ▶ Process full range of genres with longer texts requiring readers to connect ideas over multiple days of reading
- ▶ Automatically adjust strategic actions to skillfully use genre
- ▶ Encounter mature themes that expand their knowledge of social issues
- ▶ Encounter abstract forms of literature, such as satire, and literary devices, such as irony
- ▶ Themes are multidimensional
- ▶ Most reading is silent; fluency and phrasing in oral reading are well established
- ▶ Able to read aloud with expressiveness after practice
- ▶ Can read and understand descriptive words, complex content-specific words, and technical words that require using a variety of readers' tools to determine meaning
- ▶ Search for and use information in an integrated way



# Mathematics

Highlights of what your child will learn in fifth grade include:

- ▶ Understanding the place value system.
- ▶ Performing operations with multi-digit whole numbers and with decimals to hundredths.
- ▶ Converting like measurement units within a given measurement system.
- ▶ Writing and interpreting numerical expressions.
- ▶ Using equivalent fractions as a strategy to add and subtract fractions.
- ▶ Applying and extending previous understandings of multiplication and division to multiply and divide fractions.
- ▶ Analyzing patterns and relationships.
- ▶ Understanding concepts of volume and relating volume to multiplication and to addition.
- ▶ Classifying two-dimensional figures into categories based on their properties.
- ▶ Representing and interpreting data.
- ▶ Graphing points on the coordinate plane to solve real-world and mathematical problems.



# Science

In fifth grade, students use the Amplify Science program. In every unit of Amplify Science, students take on the roles of scientists and engineers to figure out real-world phenomena. Students use books, hands-on lessons, digital tools, and simulations to actively investigate questions. They find and evaluate evidence and then develop convincing arguments.

## SCIENCE TOPICS

- ▶ Patterns of Earth and Sky
- ▶ Modeling Matter
- ▶ The Earth System
- ▶ Ecosystem Restoration



# Social Studies

In fifth grade, students continue to strengthen their geography and map skills. They learn and use the Five Themes of Geography to study the geography, cultures, and economies of places in the Western Hemispheres.

## LIBRARY/MEDIA PROGRAM

The media center supports the grade-level skills in the Empire State Information Fluency Continuum ([slsa-nys.libguides.com/ifc](https://slsa-nys.libguides.com/ifc)). Media center staff teach these skills in collaboration with classroom teachers on a variety of projects, particularly in the subject areas of social studies, English Language Arts and science.

In fifth grade, children learn to:

- ▶ Use sources to acquire background information and brainstorm ideas for further inquiry.
- ▶ Assess questions to determine what can be answered by simple facts, what cannot be answered, and what would lead to an interesting inquiry.
- ▶ Select and use multiple appropriate print, nonprint, electronic, and human sources to answer questions.
- ▶ Use navigation tools of a website to find information.
- ▶ Interpret information taken from maps, graphs, charts and other visuals.
- ▶ Determine important details.
- ▶ Use various note-taking strategies (e.g., outlining, underlining, bulleted lists, highlighting, graphic organizers).
- ▶ Use software (e.g., word processing, graphic organizing) to record and organize information.
- ▶ Identify and use the organizational structures of a nonfiction book (preface, foreword and introduction) to locate information.
- ▶ Make inferences with guidance.
- ▶ Cite all sources used according to model provided by teacher.
- ▶ Check for correctness and completeness.
- ▶ Identify and evaluate the important features for a good product.
- ▶ Assess and revise their own work with guidance.
- ▶ Work collaboratively using technology for research to meet information needs.
- ▶ Discuss responsible use and misuse of technology and describe personal consequences of inappropriate use of information and technology.

# Outside the Core

## Response to Intervention

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Response to Intervention (RTI) services are offered in reading and math for students who need extra instruction and support. Academic Intervention Services (AIS) falls within the tiered RTI model of increasingly strategic and intensive interventions that respond to student-specific needs (a continuum of instructional support provided to a student). Every September, the Literacy and Math Specialist administer a Universal Screening to every student in grades K-5. Students who are eligible for services score below benchmarks according to multiple assessment tools, including:

- ▶ DIBELS 8 and DIBELS Math (Universal Screening);
- ▶ Fountas and Pinnell running records; and
- ▶ iReady assessments.

Based on the level of need, students may receive intervention services during the school's Sunrise program; "pull-out" support, in which the student leaves the classroom during the day to work one-on-one or in groups with a specialist; or "push-in" support, in which a specialist goes into the student's classroom to work with them.

Reading intervention focuses on improving student skills in decoding, comprehension and fluency. Possible interventions include:

- ▶ System 44, a technology-based program that focuses on phonics;
- ▶ Small-group reading instruction that focuses on comprehension;
- ▶ Small-group reading instruction that focuses on phonics; and
- ▶ Individualized reading instruction that focuses on phonics.

Math intervention focuses on improving student skills in computation (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division), as well as solving word problems.

## Art

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During art class, students are challenged to explore the elements and principles of art as they create using a wide range of materials (traditional and technological). The art room is a place where interdisciplinary standards converge as math and ELA concepts are infused throughout different projects.

## Music

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In fifth grade, students continue to build on the foundation built in their elementary years. They continue to play the recorder and learn songs that connect to history and their classroom curriculum. All fifth-graders participate in chorus and prepare for and perform in three concerts.

## Physical Education

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During PE class, fifth-graders engage in a variety of activities. These activities are designed to not only to improve their gross and fine motor skills, but to help them learn to appreciate and value the importance of an active and healthy lifestyle. By the time they leave the elementary school, students will be able to:

- ▶ Demonstrate manipulative (throwing, catching, striking, etc.), non-manipulative (stretching, twisting, bending, extending, etc.), and locomotor skills (skipping, galloping, etc.).
- ▶ Demonstrate spatial awareness (self-space vs. general space) during activity through various pathways (curved, zig-zag, straight).
- ▶ Demonstrate responsible personal and social behavior while engaged in physical activity.
- ▶ Identify opportunities for extracurricular activities through local organizations, such as the YMCA and the Broadalbin and Perth youth commissions.

## Project Lead the Way

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Each Project Lead the Way (PLTW) module engages students in cross-disciplinary activities that spark a lifelong love of learning and build knowledge and skills in areas including computer science, engineering, and biomedical science. In addition, each module empowers students to develop essential skills such as problem solving, critical and creative thinking, communication, collaboration, and perseverance. Students become creative, collaborative problem solvers ready to take on any challenge.

In fifth grade, the PLTW modules are Robotics and Automation, Robotics and Automation: Challenge, Infection: Detection, and Infection: Modeling and Simulation.