FIFTH GRADE

Curriculum Guide for Parents

The Common Core State Standards (also known as the *North Carolina Standard Course of Study*) focus on English/Language Arts and Mathematics, and integrate literacy in all subject areas. The North Carolina Essential Standards provide standards for Social Studies, Science, Information and Technology, Arts Education, Healthful Living, and other subject areas. These standards describe what students are supposed to know from kindergarten through 12th grade. Each year builds on the next so that by high school graduation, young people are prepared to go to college or to enter the workplace.



The purpose of this brochure is to provide information to parents about what students will be expected to know and be able to do during their year in the fifth grade.

Other Curriculum Areas:



INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Students will learn to work with sources of information and informational text. They will use technology as a tool and understand the research process. Students will understand safety and ethical issues.



HEALTHFUL LIVING

Students will learn about feelings, nutrition, and physical activity. They will understand safety and will work on motor skill development, movement concepts, health related fitness, and personal/social responsibility.



MUSIC

Students will exemplify musical literacy. They will understand how to respond to music. Students will understand how music is relevant in many contexts



VISUAL ARTS

Students will use the language of visual arts to communicate effectively. They will apply creative and critical thinking skills to artistic expression, and will understand the interdisciplinary connections and life applications of the visual arts.

English/Language Arts

The Common Core State Standards set goals for student mastery in language arts. The study of language arts includes reading, writing, speaking and listening. The standards include examples of appropriate books for students to read at each grade level in literature and informational texts. Informational texts include literary nonfiction and historical, scientific and technical texts. Teachers will choose the reading assignments for their students using the examples as a guide.



English/Language Arts

Reading: Literature

Students will be learning how to quote accurately from a text and draw inferences from a text. Using details from the text, students will determine the theme and will determine how characters respond to challenges in the text. They will determine the meaning of words and phrases, including figurative language. Students will be able to read, comprehend, compare and contrast literature, including stories, dramas, and poetry appropriate for fifth graders.



Reading: Informational Text

Students will be learning to refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text. Using details from the text, students will determine two or more main ideas and explain events, ideas, or concepts in a historical scientific, or technical text. They will learn to draw on information from multiple print or digital sources, and locate an answer to a question quickly. Students will read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts appropriate for fifth graders.



Writing

Students will learn to write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information. They will write informative/explanatory texts on a topic and convey ideas and information clearly. With help from peers and adults, students will develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach. They will use technology to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others. They will demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to type a minimum of two pages in a single sitting. Students will learn to conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.

Speaking and Listening

Students will engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions and come prepared to explore ideas under discussion. They will summarize the points a speaker makes and explain how each claim is supported by reasons and evidence. They will add multimedia components (e.g., graphics, sound) to presentations when appropriate.

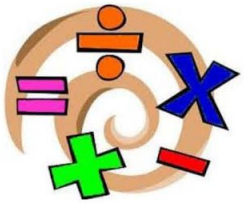
Language

Students will learn how to demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking (e.g., conjunctions, verb tense). They will demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing. They will use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening. Students will be able to determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade five reading and content. They will be able to demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

Reading: Foundational Skills

Students will know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words. They will learn to read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension. They will write narratives to develop real or imagined events using descriptive details and clear event sequences.





Mathematics

The Common Core Mathematics Standards place an emphasis on eight mathematical practices. These practices are strategies for thinking through and solving mathematical problems.

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
4. Model with mathematics.
5. Use appropriate tools strategically.
6. Attend to precision.
7. Look for and make use of structure.
8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

Using these practices, fifth grade students will learn about:



Operations and Algebraic Thinking

Students will learn how to write and interpret numerical expressions, using brackets, parentheses, and braces. They will generate patterns and analyze patterns and relationships.

Number and Operations in Base Ten

Students will understand the place value system and use it to round numbers. They will perform operations with multi-digit whole numbers and with decimals to hundredths.



Measurement and Data

Students will learn to convert like measurement units within a given measurement system. They will learn how to represent and interpret data (line plots) and solve problems involving information presented in line plots. Students will understand the concepts of volume and relate volume to multiplication and to addition.



Number and Operations - Fractions

Students will use equivalent fractions as a strategy to add and subtract fractions. They will apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to multiply and divide fractions. They will solve real world problems involving multiplication and division of fractions. Students will apply and extend previous understandings of division to divide unit fractions by whole numbers and whole numbers by unit fractions.



Geometry

Students will learn how to graph points on the coordinate plane to solve real-world and mathematical problems. They will also be able to classify two-dimensional figures into categories based on their properties.



Science



The North Carolina Essential Standards organizes Science into the domains of Physical Science, Earth Science, and Life Sciences. By the end of fifth grade, students should be able to conduct investigations, gather evidence, and grow in their understanding in the following areas:

Forces and Motion

Students will be able to understand force, motion, mass, and the relationship between them. They will explain how factors such as gravity, friction, and change in mass affect the motion of objects.

Matter: Properties and Change

Students will understand the interactions of matter and energy and the changes that occur. They will explain the effects of the transfer of heat. Students will summarize properties of materials.

Energy: Conservation and Transfer

Students will learn how heating and cooling affect some materials.

Earth Systems, Structures, and Processes

Students will understand weather patterns and phenomena, making connections to the weather in a particular place and time, and explain how global patterns influence local weather.

Ecosystems

Students will understand the interdependence of plants and animals with their ecosystem. They will be able to compare the characteristics of several common ecosystems, and classify the organisms within an ecosystem.

Evolution and Genetics

Students will understand why organisms differ from or are similar to their parents based on the characteristics of the organism and give examples of likenesses that are inherited and some that are not.

Social Studies



Continuing the history, geography, civics and government, economics and culture strands from previous grades, fifth grade students will study change and continuity in United States history. Students begin their study of United States history with American Indian groups native to the United States before the arrival of European settlers, and conclude with the Civil War and Reconstruction period. They will focus their study on the same time period as in fourth grade, but will transfer their understanding from the state to the national level. Using primary and secondary sources, fifth grade students will compare founding documents of the United States with those of North Carolina such as the United States Constitution and the North Carolina Constitution. Students will learn about the "Founding Fathers" as well as explore the contributions of diverse groups essential to the building of our nation. Building on their knowledge of economic principles, students focus on economic growth in the United States and begin to apply economic principles to their own lives as they learn to make responsible financial choices.

History

Students will learn how to analyze the chronology of key events in the United States. They will be able to understand the role of prominent figures in shaping the United States.

Geography and Environmental Literacy

Students will understand how human activity has and continues to shape the United States. They will learn how technological advances have allowed people to overcome geographic limitations and exemplify migration within or immigration to the United States.

Economics and Financial Literacy

Students will understand how a market economy impacts life in the United States, and that personal choices result in benefits or consequences.

Civics and Governance

Students will understand the development, structure and function of government in the United States. Students will learn to analyze life in a democratic republic through rights and responsibilities of citizens.