



# Overview of Fifth Grade Learning Goals

## Washington Irving Intermediate School

Our 3-5 curriculum builds on the foundational skills and dispositions of our **Portrait of a Learner**. Through more complex and challenging activities, we continue to enhance communication, executive functioning, creativity, and critical thinking. Students are encouraged to explore their curiosity, persevere through obstacles, develop socio-cultural competence, and engage in civic-minded projects. This approach ensures they grow into thoughtful, innovative, and responsible individuals, well-prepared for future academic and personal success.

### Literacy



**Oral Language** – Students engage in discussions and presentations, summarizing key points, retelling narratives, and delivering clear and coherent presentations. In writing, they organize ideas coherently, elaborate with details, and effectively present their arguments.

**Phonological Awareness** – Students needing support will receive appropriate interventions based on individual needs.

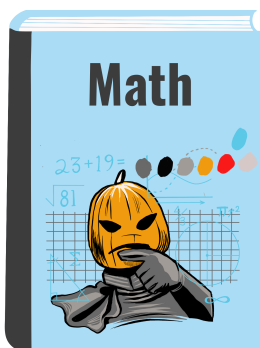
**Phonics** – Students needing support will receive appropriate interventions based on individual needs.

**Vocabulary** – Students expand word knowledge, with explicit vocabulary instruction through definitions, examples, and contextual usage. Students determine the meaning of unfamiliar words and phrases in texts using context clues and word parts. In writing, students use precise language and specific vocabulary to convey meaning effectively through deliberate word choice, demonstrating proficiency in using domain-specific vocabulary related to various content areas.

**Fluency** – Students read grade-level texts accurately, increasing their reading rate while maintaining comprehension. Students read with expression, using appropriate intonation and emphasis to convey meaning effectively. In writing, students generate ideas, draft compositions, and revise and edit their work for organization, clarity, and accuracy.

**Comprehension** – Students analyze texts across genres, identifying main ideas, themes, and key details, while inferring meanings and author's intentions using text evidence. In writing, students organize compositions coherently, elaborate with details and examples, and support arguments with text evidence.

### Mathematics



Students deepen their mathematical understanding by mastering concepts such as place value, **decimal operations**, and **fraction arithmetic**. They will fluently **multiply multi-digit whole numbers** and apply models and strategies to multiply and divide decimals with precision. Additionally, they will use equivalent fractions to add and subtract fractions, extending their understanding to multiplication and division of fractions. Graphing points on the coordinate plane, **representing and interpreting data**, and understanding **volume** concepts will enhance their ability to **analyze and solve real-world problems**. Students will classify **two-dimensional figures** and analyze patterns and relationships in **algebraic expressions**.

## Science



**Space Systems: Stars and the Solar System** – Students identify stars and planets, investigate planets in their orbits, and explore how Earth's position influences day, night, and the seasons.

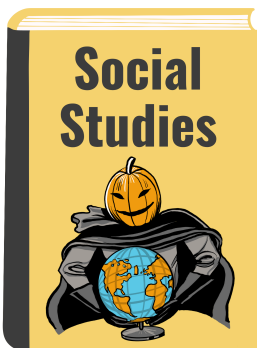
**Structure and Properties of Matter** – Students explore the properties of solids, liquids, & gasses before investigating how matter changes physically and chemically and mass conservation.

**Earth's Systems** – Students explore the interconnected systems that shape our planet. Understanding the water cycle and its impact on weather patterns will be key. They also examine the delicate balance of ecosystems and how human activities can disrupt this balance.

**Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems** – Students explore matter and energy within living things and their ecosystems. They trace the flow of energy through food webs, analyze how energy transfers occur, and discover how matter is recycled within ecosystems.

## Social Studies

Our curriculum uses essential questions to ignite critical thinking around the interconnectedness of regions, the forces shaping nations, the influence of geography on culture, and the complex motivations behind exploration and colonization.



**How does an interdependent region meet the challenges of modern living?** – Students investigate interdependent regions, analyzing how countries rely on each other for resources, trade, and cooperation. They research current challenges like climate change or resource scarcity and explore how regions work together to address them.

**How do key forces and events shape nations?** – Students delve deeper into historical events and movements that shaped the development of nations. Research projects on revolutions, wars, or social reforms showcase how these events influence a nation's identity and structure.

**To what degree does geography determine culture?** – Students explore the complex relationship between geography and culture, considering how landforms, climate, and resources influence traditions, food, and social structures.

**How do power, wealth, and morality issues influence exploration and colonization?** – Students move beyond narratives of exploration and colonization; they explore the complex motivations of power, wealth, and morality that fueled these endeavors by analyzing historical documents and perspectives. Discussions examine the impact on both colonizers and colonized populations.

## STEAM & Computer Science



**Digital Literacy & Citizenship** – Students focus on *digital literacy* skills, such as understanding how computers work using inputs, outputs, and a processor. This happens alongside *digital citizenship* skills around being kind and safe online, and preventing cyberbullying.

**Computer Science & Robotics** – Students in 5th grade explore computer science concepts including the iterative design process and text-based coding. Students apply these skills to program robots through digital and "unplugged" (tech-free) activities.

**STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)** – Through hands-on activities, students use the engineering design process, applying problem-solving skills to real-world challenges.

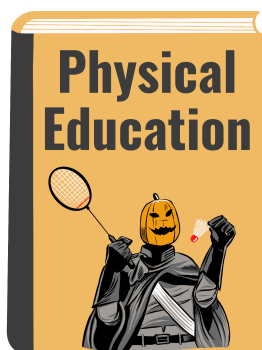
## Visual & Performing Arts



**Art** – Students further develop their visual arts skills by creating *artworks that demonstrate mastery of artistic processes and techniques*. They analyze and interpret artworks using advanced art vocabulary, connecting art to personal experiences and cultural contexts. Students reflect on their own and others' artworks, developing *critical thinking skills and a greater appreciation for diverse artistic expressions*. They also learn about art history and contemporary artists, broadening their understanding of the significance of art in society. Concepts include *mixed media landscapes and their legacy project*.

**Music** – Students refine their music skills by analyzing and evaluating musical works, demonstrating an understanding of musical concepts such as structure and expression. They perform with *increased technical skill and interpretive understanding, creating musical compositions demonstrating creativity and intent*. Students explore music from various cultures and historical periods, deepening their appreciation for diverse musical traditions. *Band and String instrument lessons continue with small group instruction*.

## Physical Education & Health



**Motor Skills and Movement Competency** – Students combine locomotor and non-locomotor skills in activities, showing proficiency and adaptability in these skills.

**Application of Skills in Physical Activities** – Students identify strategies, tactics, and communication techniques in small-sided games and other activities, understanding how to contribute to effective performance and teamwork.

**Achieving Health-Enhancing Fitness** – Students learn how behaviors influence overall wellness, including regular physical activity, proper nutrition, and rest.

**Responsible Behavior in Physical Activity** – Students cooperate with others in physical activity settings, promoting a positive and inclusive environment for all participants.

**Recognizing Wellness Benefits** – Students compare the benefits of participating in various physical activities, highlighting how different activities contribute to physical fitness, mental health, social interaction, and personal enjoyment.

## Social Emotional Learning (SEL)



**Growth Mindset & Goal Setting** – Students focus on setting goals and planning to reach them. They evaluate their progress, identify roadblocks, and reflect on their goal-setting practice.

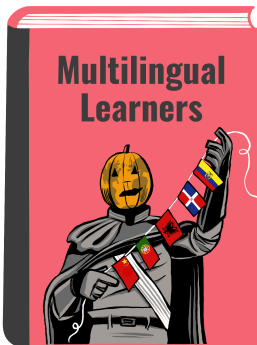
**Emotion Management** – Students learn the purpose and impact of emotions, recognizing that strong emotions make it hard to think clearly and that managing emotions is vital to making good decisions.

**Empathy and Kindness** – Students identify empathy and kindness to help solve a community problem. They use empathy to identify a problem and solution in their community.

**Problem-Solving** – Students learn to feel calm before solving a problem. They learn to state the problem without blame, name-calling, and what each person wants or needs. They explore outcomes of possible solutions by considering the points of view of everyone involved.

## Multilingual Learners

Our language learners focus on the *4+1 language domains* (Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking, & Metalinguistic awareness). The following are assessed based on the student's English language proficiency level (entering, emerging, transitioning, expanding, commanding)



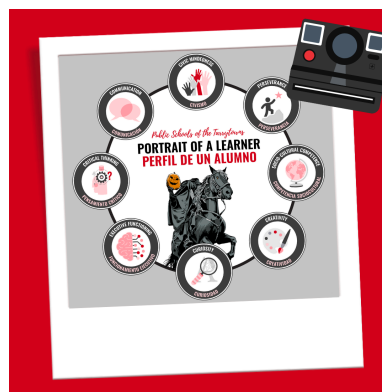
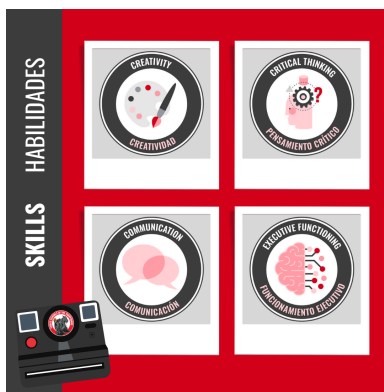
**Reading** – Students identify words, phrases, or sentences that signal important individuals, main ideas, supporting ideas, concepts, events, points of view, and/or the message or theme in a text.

**Writing** – Students use appropriate language to orient the reader, logically develop ideas using transitions, and provide closure in a written text.

**Listening** – Students identify words, phrases, or sentences that signal or describe key details, sequence, connections, relationships, and/or conclusions in spoken discourse

**Speaking** – Students use appropriate language to analyze a topic and provide an opinion or a claim supported by reasons.

## Portrait of a Learner



### Skills:

**Communication** – We empower students to express themselves clearly, thoughtfully, and persuasively in written and spoken forms, fostering understanding of diverse perspectives.

**Executive Functioning** – Students develop organization, time management, and problem-solving skills to navigate life's challenges and opportunities.

**Creativity** – We encourage students to think imaginatively, generate innovative ideas, and approach issues from fresh angles, cultivating open-mindedness and adaptability.

**Critical Thinking** – Students will evaluate information, analyze complex situations, and make informed decisions, inspiring intellectual curiosity and a commitment to lifelong learning.

### Dispositions:

**Curiosity** – We nurture a sense of wonder and inquisitiveness, motivating students to explore, question, and seek answers, propelling personal growth and a love of discovery.

**Perseverance** – Students learn to face adversity with determination and push forward to pursue goals, setting the stage for personal achievement and resilience.

**Socio-Cultural Competence** – Students engage respectfully and effectively with diverse individuals, fostering empathy, inclusivity, and a deeper understanding of global issues.

**Civic Mindedness** – We cultivate a strong sense of civic responsibility, inspiring students to impact their community and promoting active engagement for the betterment of society.