

Fifth Grade Instructional Plan: First Semester

Course Overview

Fifth grade Reading and Language Arts, our goal is for every student to read fluently, understand and think deeply about what they read, and express themselves clearly in writing. Students will work with a variety of challenging and engaging texts, build strong vocabulary, and practice discussing and analyzing ideas. They will write in different styles and for different purposes, learning how to plan, draft, revise, and edit their work. Through these experiences, students will become confident readers, critical thinkers, and effective communicators, ready for middle school and beyond.

Throughout the year, students will:

- Strengthen word knowledge through phonics, spelling patterns, and understanding roots, prefixes, and suffixes
- Read fluently with expression and accuracy
- Expand vocabulary using context clues, word origins, and reference tools
- Understand and use figurative language, such as similes, metaphors, and idioms
- Use strategies like predicting, inferring, and summarizing to understand texts
- Identify key ideas, details, and themes in what they read
- Discuss and write about texts using evidence to support ideas
- Retell, paraphrase, and summarize while keeping meaning and order
- Explore different genres, including fiction, poetry, drama, myths, folktales, informational texts, and persuasive writing
- Recognize literary elements such as plot, setting, characters, and theme
- Analyze an author's purpose, message, point of view, and use of language
- Notice how text structure and features (like headings, timelines, or graphics) help understanding
- Write for different purposes and audiences, using clear introductions, organized ideas, and strong conclusions
- Follow the writing process: plan, draft, revise, and edit
- Use correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling in writing
- Participate in discussions, listening to and building on others' ideas
- Ask and answer questions to deepen understanding of texts
- Conduct short research projects using print and digital sources

Fifth grade math focuses on building a strong foundation in number sense, place value, operations, decimals, fractions, and the ability to reason mathematically using models, manipulatives, and precise mathematical language. Instruction is based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), with an emphasis on ensuring all students develop the conceptual understanding and procedural fluency necessary to become proficient mathematicians. Conceptual understanding is the WHY behind the math, and procedural fluency is the HOW. The students will engage in high-quality, rigorous tasks, purposeful math discourse, and be given opportunities to engage in problem solving that fosters mathematical reasoning and analytical thinking. Students will be encouraged to show their thinking through verbal and written explanations, or "Math Talk." Instruction will be explicit, systematic, and scaffolded to ensure all learners can master grade-level expectations and demonstrate readiness for STAAR.

Throughout the year, students will:

- Engage in a daily Do Now (warm-up) to spirally review previous skills
- Participate in Daily Numeracy activities to increase student number sense
- Engage in a variety of hands-on, rigorous tasks through Accelerate STEMScopes daily lessons
- Engage in math talk with their teacher and peers to justify their thinking, address misconceptions, and connect their thinking to the real world

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- Take notes in their Math Interactive Notebooks to solidify their understanding of vocabulary and math skills
- Receive small group instruction with the teacher
- Participate in math station activities
- Receive targeted math practice through iReady and IXL specific to their needs
- Learn that it is okay to make mistakes as long as we learn from them and have a growth mindset. We can do hard things!

Fifth grade science in Texas is an integrated science course with physical, earth and life sciences. Instruction is based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), with a focus on building a deep understanding of key concepts through hands-on lab investigations, STEM experiences, and real-world application. Students will engage in scientific practices, use evidence to construct explanations, and learn how science connects to everyday life.

Throughout the year, students will:

- Hands-On Investigations: frequent TEKS-aligned labs
- Interactive Notebooks: Used for vocabulary, diagrams, notes, and reflections
- Modeling & Simulations: Digital and physical models to support abstract concepts
- Collaborative Learning: Group activities, peer discussion, and cooperative lab work
- STEM Challenges: Engineering design activities tied to real-world problems
- Spiraling Review: Reinforcement of previously taught standards across the year

Fifth Grade Social Studies in Texas is an integrated course focused on the rich and complex history of the United States. Aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), the curriculum emphasizes a deep understanding of key historical concepts, events, and figures that shaped the nation from its early beginnings through its development as a modern democratic republic. Students explore a chronological timeline of U.S. history, developing critical thinking skills as they analyze causes and effects, make historical connections, and evaluate the lasting impact of major events on the United States today.

Throughout the year, students will:

- Geography of United States
- Interactive Notebooks: Used for vocabulary, diagrams, notes, and reflections
- Collaborative Learning: Group activities and Peer Discussions
- Spiraling Review: Reinforcement of previously taught standards across the year

Classroom Expectations

Our classroom is a safe learning place, which encourages teamwork, positive feedback, and academic achievement. All students will be respectful to others. We will be good listeners to the teacher and to other's ideas. All students will be hard working contributors in the process of getting their education in order to be successful and reach their full potential.

Expectation 1: Be respectful

- Use appropriate voice level
- Raise your hand, and wait your turn to speak
- Listen to all instructions and directions
- Stay in your seat and wait for teacher permission

Expectation 2: Be responsible

- Complete all assigned tasks
- Be prepared: Have all necessary materials

Expectation 3: Be safe

- Always keep your hands and feet to self

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- Walk at all times
- Report problems to an adult
- Handle lab equipment and materials with care

Expectation 4: Be ready to learn and try your best every day

- Come to class on time
- Prioritize daily attendance
- Engage in class discussions, writing tasks, labs, and learning opportunities

Positive reinforcement and clear routines will help students learn and meet these expectations. If expectations are not met, the teacher will first reteach and remind the student(s) of expectations. If a student continues to fail to meet expectations, they will be redirected, then parents will be contacted. If a student is unable to meet expectations after these preventative measures, an office referral will be made.

Attendance Policy & Its Importance

Please make every effort to have your child here by 7:45 each morning. We start class promptly at 7:45. If your child eats breakfast at school, please try to have them here around 7:30. Breakfast is 7:30-7:45. Regular attendance is vital to your child's academic development. We have so much to learn in such a short amount of time in 5th grade math. Math skills build upon one another every single day, so when students attend daily they stay current with new skills and practice important habits that support lifelong learning. Missed days make grasping the new content a challenge for students and can be overwhelming at times if they are missing key skills to support their new learning due to absences, tardies, or leaving early. Even arriving 10-15 minutes late each day easily compounds to about an hour of missed instruction each week. Coming to school daily and on time is crucial to your child's success.

Please notify the school if your child will be absent at 432-240-8500. Frequent or extended absences may make it more difficult for your child to learn necessary foundational skills that ensure student success this year and in future school years.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the first semester, students will be able to:

Math:

- Solve problems using multiplication & division algorithms
- Problem solve using the 4 operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division)
- Represent and compare decimals to the thousandths place
- Add and subtract decimals
- Multiply and divide decimals
- Add and subtract fractions
- Multiply and divide fractions

Social Studies:

- Geography of the United States (Aug. 19-Sept.19)
- Celebrate Freedom Week (Sep. 15-Sept.19)
- Colonia America (Sept.22-Oct.24)
- American Revolution (Octob.27-Nov.14)
- Constitution and Government (Nov. 17-Dec. 19)

Science:

- Safety and how to conduct an investigation
- Matter and energy. The student knows that matter has measurable physical properties that determine how matter is identified, classified, changed, and used.

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- Force, motion, and energy. The student knows the nature of forces and the patterns of their interactions.
- The student knows that energy is everywhere and can be observed in cycles, patterns, and systems.
- Earth and space. The student recognizes patterns among the Sun, Earth, and Moon system and their effects.
- The student knows that there are recognizable patterns and processes on Earth.

ELAR:

- Personal Narratives (Aug 21-Sept 23)
- The Renaissance: Art and Culture (Sept 24-Oct 31)
- Early American Civilizations: Myths, Pyramids, and Kings (Nov 4-Dec 19)
- Cursive Writing
- Writing using the writing process

Course Resources

- Amplify Texas
- iReady Reading
- IXL Reading
- Accelerate Learning STEMscopes
- iReady math program
- IXL math program
- Lowman
- SS Weekly
- Chromebook (provided by Midland ISD)
- Journals and writing utensils (part of the school supply list)

Grading Policy

According to Midland ISD Grading Policy:

- At Yarbrough Elementary, communication about student grades is a shared responsibility between teachers and families.
- Teachers will notify parents via Skyward during progress reports, end-of-grading periods, or if a student's grade drops significantly, including receiving a 50 or failing mark.
- Parents are encouraged to reach out with any concerns about grades, missing work, or patterns of low performance. Before contacting campus administration, parents should request a conference with the teacher to resolve concerns.
- Grades are updated in Skyward weekly and teachers typically respond to parent inquiries within two school days.
- Students in grades 3–6 receive at least two minor and two major grades per six-week period, with timely feedback—minor grades within 3–5 days, major grades within 10 days.
 - Major assignments - 40%
 - Minor assignments - 60%
- Make-up work is allowed after absences, with one day given per day missed.
- Grades are confidential, and missing work may be indicated by a 50 in Skyward.
- Students consistently missing assignments will require a parent-teacher conference, and late work may be limited.
- For lesson concerns, families should first meet with the teacher.

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- Regular communication may be electronic through an email or ClassDojo. Teachers will maintain a parent communication log during each grading cycle.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. We are excited to work together to make this a successful year of learning!

Please fill out the portion below and return this portion to your teacher.

We acknowledge that we have read and that we understand the expectations in 5th Grade. We agree to contact the teacher should we have any questions or concerns regarding this instructional plan.

Parent Name: _____

Student Name: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

E-Mail: _____

Parent Signature : _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____