

# 5th Grade Syllabus-Outline First Semester

**Mrs. Rubio, Mrs. Westbrook, Mrs. Klar, Mrs. Mack– Lake Dallas Elementary School**

**Fall 2025**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to Fifth Grade at Lake Dallas Elementary! This syllabus outlines what your child will learn this semester, and how you can support their success. As required by Texas law (Senate Bill 12), this document serves as the instructional plan and is available for your review. We are excited to partner with you for a great semester!

## **What Your Child Will Learn**

This semester, we'll focus on building skills in the following subjects, based on Texas state standards (TEKS). This is the instructional plan for your child's class:

### **1. Reading & Language Arts**

- Unit 1: Personal Narratives: Let Me Tell You a Story
  - Learning objectives: This unit expands students' experience with the genre of personal narratives, as they apply what they learn from reading personal narratives to their own writing. Students read five personal narratives, identifying the elements of the genre in each. They are encouraged to write frequently and descriptively and to begin to identify themselves as writers. Most of the writing assignments are connected to practicing a skill, such as writing dialogue or using strong descriptive verbs, which students study along with the narratives they are reading. Over the course of the unit, students will have multiple opportunities to share their writing in safe and supportive sessions, with their classmates offering concrete and positive feedback. .
- Unit 2: The Renaissance: Art and Culture
  - Learning objectives: This unit provides students with broad exposure to the art and literature of the Renaissance Era, including the works of Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Cervantes, and Shakespeare. Students will recognize the Renaissance as a cultural movement which began in Italy and swept through Europe, increasing trade among countries and creating opportunities for merchants to support artists as their patrons. Throughout the unit, students engage in an extended writing project by conducting biographical research about a famous Renaissance artist.
- Unit 3: Early American Civilizations: Myths, Pyramids, and Kings
  - Learning objectives: This unit teaches students about the geography, climate, flora, and fauna of the Americas while presenting an overall history and timeline highlighting the rise and fall of the Maya, Aztec, and Inca civilizations. Students explore innovations and discoveries made by the Maya, Aztec, and Inca and create an informative project comparing and contrasting all three civilizations. Writing instruction includes paraphrasing and note-taking, planning and drafting a

paragraph, and incorporating images along with their writing into the final product.

- Unit 4: Don Quixote: A Hopeful Knight's Tale
  - Learning objectives: In this unit students focus on literary elements such as character, plot, and characterization, while reading a full-length, adapted version of *The Adventures of Don Quixote*. They trace the development of plot, characters, and literary elements over the course of the novel. Students identify the differences between fact and fiction as they enjoy the quixotic nature of the primary character, Don Quixote, and his relationships to the people around him. Students write a four-paragraph persuasive essay arguing whether or not they think Don Quixote's good intentions justify his often calamitous actions and support their claims with reasons and evidence from the text.
- Unit 5: Poetry: Collage of Words
  - Learning objectives: This unit teaches students tools and strategies for approaching poetry, training them in the methods and devices poets use, and equipping them to read and interpret both formal and free verse poems. Students have many opportunities to create poems themselves, allowing them to practice what they have learned. The poems in this unit represent numerous cultures, and range from William Blake's 18th-century verse to the work of such contemporary writers as Virgil Suárez and Marie Howe. Throughout the unit, students practice close reading and writing as they learn about many of the formal elements of poetry, and demonstrate their understanding and analysis of the poems through their own writing.

## 2. Math

- Module 1: Place Value and Decimals
  - Learning objectives: This module extends understandings of the patterns in the base ten system to include decimals to the thousandths place and decimal operations through the hundredths place. According to the Texas Education Agency, TEKS Mathematical Process Standards for Grade 5, including application, a problem-solving model, representations, relationships, and justifications, should be integrated (when applicable) with content knowledge and skills so that students are prepared to use mathematics in everyday life, society, and the workplace.
- Module 2: Multi-Digit Whole Number and Decimal Operations
  - Learning objectives: This module bundles student expectations that apply the patterns of the base-ten system to mental strategies and the multiplication and division algorithms with multi-digit whole number and decimal operations. According to the Texas Education Agency TEKS Mathematical Process Standards for Grade 5, including application, a problem-solving model, communication, and relationships should be integrated (when applicable) with content knowledge and skills so that students are prepared to use mathematics in everyday life, society, and the workplace.
- Module 3: Addition and Subtraction of Fractions
  - Learning objectives: This module bundles student expectations that address adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators using a concrete to pictorial to abstract approach. According to the Texas Education Agency, TEKS Mathematical Process Standards for Grade 5, including application, a problem-solving model, tools and techniques, and justifications, should be integrated (when applicable) with content knowledge and skills so that students are prepared to use mathematics in everyday life, society, and the workplace.

- Module 4: Multiplication and Division of Fractions
  - Learning objectives: This module bundles student expectations that address multiplication of a whole number by a fraction and division of a whole number by a unit fraction and a unit fraction by a whole number. This module also applies multiplication of whole numbers, fractions, and decimals to Personal Financial Literacy. According to the Texas Education Agency, TEKS Mathematical Process Standards for Grade 5, including tools and techniques, communication, and relationships, should be integrated (when applicable) with content knowledge and skills so that students are prepared to use mathematics in everyday life, society, and the workplace.

### **3. Science**

- Unit 1: Investigating Physical Properties of Matter
  - Learning objectives: This unit bundles student expectations that address the examination of measurable, testable, and observable physical properties of matter. Students will use these observations to compare and contrast the properties of different materials.
- Unit 2: Investigating Mixtures
  - Learning objectives: This unit bundles student expectations that address the properties of substances before and after they are combined into mixtures. Students will use these observations to understand how some substances, when combined, maintain their physical properties, including how the mass of substances is conserved (maintained). Then, students will use evidence from observing the dissolving that takes place in solutions to illustrate how matter is made up of particles too small to be seen.
- Unit 3: Investigating Force and Motion
  - Learning objectives: This unit bundles student expectations that explore forces and motion. Students will first investigate and explain equal and unequal forces. Then, they will design their own simple experimental investigation to test the effect of force on an object and to collect observations and measurements as evidence.
- Unit 4: Investigating Energy Transformations Through Circuits
  - Learning objectives: This unit bundles student expectations that address energy transformations with a focus on transformations in circuits. Students will investigate energy transformations within various systems, explaining where the energy comes from, where it is going, and at what points in the system it transfers. Students will apply this understanding to circuits as they explore the energy transformations between the battery, bulbs, buzzers, motors, etc., while learning the parts of a circuit system.
- Unit 5: Investigating Light
  - Learning objectives: This unit bundles student expectations that address light. Students will use tools such as prisms, lenses, laser pointers, and mirrors to investigate how light behaves with different objects. They will use their observations of light to explain how light travels and what causes it to reflect, refract, or be absorbed.

### **4. Social Studies**

- Unit 1: These United States: A Varied Landscape
  - Learning objectives: This unit bundles student expectations that address the geography of the United States. Students begin their study of U.S. history by examining current geographic patterns in the United States. An understanding of

geographic patterns along with having a mental map of the United States facilitates students' study of the history of the United States and the processes that have brought about those patterns, such as the process of migration.

- Unit 2: Thinking Like a Historian
    - Learning objectives: This unit bundles student expectations that relate to the critical thinking skills associated with historical inquiry. A rigorous study of history requires that students employ strategies for the close reading of historical sources, both primary and secondary. Mastery of the skills used by historians is necessary for students to become resourceful consumers of information readily and abundantly available in twenty-first century society.
  - Unit 3: Coming to America: Exploring and Colonizing America
    - Learning objectives: This unit bundles student expectations that address the exploration and colonization of North America, specifically the British colonies. Beginning with the 1565 founding of St. Augustine, the colonization of the Americas resulted in changes in global trade patterns and new settlement patterns in the Americas. The establishment of colonies in North America by the British was the first step towards the eventual creation of the United States. A study of United States history is rooted in an understanding of the heritage of the British colonization.
  - Unit 4: Unrest and Rebellion: Fighting for Independence
    - Learning objectives: This unit bundles student expectations that address the America Revolution and its effects. The rising tensions between colonists and British officials eventually erupted into a war for independence. Studying the causes and consequences of the American Revolution facilitates understanding the political system of the United States and the importance of liberty and freedom to Americans.
  - Unit 5: A New Nation: Founding of the United States
    - Learning objectives: This unit bundles student expectations that address the events related to the writing of the U.S. Constitution and the creation of a government for the United States. Following the Revolutionary War, it became apparent that a stronger central government was needed to keep the former colonies united. The Founding Fathers worked to compromise and created a republic with three branches based on a system of checks and balances. A study of the U.S. Constitution is important for understanding the political system that protects the freedoms and liberties of U.S. citizens.
- 

Thank you for partnering with us to make this semester successful for your child! If you have any questions, feel free to reach out.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Rubio, Mrs. Westbrook, Mrs. Klar, Mrs. Mack