5th Grade Elective Course Descriptions (60 Minutes, Every Other Day)

In fifth grade, your student will attend an Encore Elective class of their choice every other day for 60 minutes.
Elective classes rotate with Wheel classes (Tech, Library, and PE) which all fifth graders take.

Band
Students will learn to play band instruments – woodwinds, brass winds, and percussion. Fifth grade students will choose one of five instrument options--flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, or percussion. Percussion consists of drums AND melody percussion such as mallet keyboard instruments. Percussion is on an "as available" option on some years in the 5th grade. All instrument choices will be determined by student interest and teacher recommendation during the first few weeks of school. The fifth-grade year will concentrate on "getting to know the instrument," and individual performance skills. Grade 1 music is typically played at this age. Selecting this Encore Elective requires instrument rental at a cost of approximately $25.00-$38.00 a month. Rental information will be sent home at the beginning of each school year. It is HIGHLY recommended (speak to director) that you DO NOT purchase an instrument; renting is strongly preferred. Fifth grade band meets three times a week for one hour. Also, information may be sent home later for those who wish to jumpstart their band experience with a summer band camp (this is not required for school year band participation; it is a fun summer activity for a "head start!"). A summer band camp experience is sometimes offered for Maryville Beginning Band.

Orchestra
In Orchestra, students will learn to play a violin, viola, cello or string bass. This beginning instruction focuses on correct hand positions, note reading, proper tone production, and personal performance skills. Most students rent an instrument for the first year from a local music dealer for approximately $20.00 - 45.00 a month. Rental information will be sent home at the beginning of next year. It is HIGHLY recommended that parents speak with the Orchestra Director before acquiring an instrument. Fifth grade Orchestra meets three times a week for one hour. Also, information will be sent home later for those who wish to jumpstart their Orchestra experience with a Summer Strings camp (this is not required for school year Orchestra participation; it is a fun summer activity for a "head start").

STEM
This course is called Computer Science Innovators and Makers. In this course, students learn to code by building carnival games using Lego Spike Essential Kits. As the students' coding skills grow, they learn to code micro: bits to complete a variety of challenges. Finally, students put all their skills together to create interactive toys and art projects. This is an interactive class that both boys and girls enjoy!

Art
"Artists in fifth grade will be studying "Art Through the Ages" while using a variety of media. Be ready to create art inspired by different time periods from prehistoric through contemporary times."

Chorus/Drama
This dynamic course blends vocal performance with theatrical creativity. Students build confidence as they learn foundational singing techniques, music theory basics, harmonization, and ensemble performance skills. In drama, they explore acting, character development, improvisation, and stage presence through hands-on activities and scene work. The class emphasizes teamwork, self-expression, and communication, culminating in a final performance that showcases both their musical and dramatic growth. The 2026–2027 musical will be *Matilda*!