

Lower School Curriculum

5th Grade

Language Arts

Students will be exposed to a variety of literary genres: stories, poems, biographies, letters, and articles. They will be expected to read on grade level or above, identifying a story's plot; describing literary devices; analyzing a character's traits; comparing and contrasting themes and ideas; comprehending and interpreting the meaning of text; discussing the author's purpose; evaluating text in light of personal experience and from other's points of view; and, developing an understanding of similarities and differences in format and styles among the genres. Students will be encouraged to read one book per month for pleasure.

In fifth grade, students also write more detailed stories, poems, short compositions, and responses to questions. They are expected to apply spelling rules, including the correct use of homophones and grammar conventions (noun-verb agreement, pronoun-antecedent agreement) when writing. Rough drafts are turned into polished pieces of writing by editing, revising, and rewriting either by hand or using technology.

Mathematics

Students continue to employ higher level thinking skills with an emphasis on the continued development of computational skills. Fluent memorization and recall of multiplication facts are essential to students as they begin to explore the property of division. There is increased emphasis on learning about decimals and fractions, including computing fractions using addition, subtraction, and multiplication. Number theory and estimation are explored in greater detail; volume is introduced. Geometry theorems are introduced as students begin learning to create geometric proofs. Algebraic equations and properties are explored. Students are guided to devise, predict, and carry out mathematical experiments and simulations.

Social Studies

The fifth grade social studies curriculum focuses on American history and geography, including topics from the early settlement of the Americas through Reconstruction and the contemporary United States. Students learn about the physical features of the globe, water, landforms, climate, and vegetation. Students will

also learn about the Native American migration, routes of exploration and explorers, and the influence of the Europeans.

Art

Sophistication and maturity in artwork are refined. Students are very aware of each piece of art they create, and they try to make each artwork a masterpiece. Special emphasis is placed on individualism and creativity. Students start to use reference materials and will use art history to make judgments and demonstrate preferences. Students will acquire a basic knowledge of and a basic performance level in drawing.

Drama

Students expand upon previous course work, analyzing and constructing meaning of the human experience through imagined roles and situations. They engage in acting, examining roles, critiquing, and exploring relevance through creating, performing, and responding. Students continue to value the contribution of drama in bringing meaning to ideas and feelings. The nature of the drama classes reflects students' daily lives, as they connect with others, experience tension, resolve conflict, and create meaning in their world. They gain insight into life experiences, team building, body awareness, and confidence through structured dramatic play. Students put on a play each year, as they assume roles in structured dramatic play and execute artistic and technical elements of theater. Skills include using vocal elements of inflection, pitch, volume, and articulation to communicate a character's thoughts and emotions; collaborating and performing with an ensemble with a common goal in mind; identifying playing space; using simple objects in dramatizations; creating and performing characters based on imagination; and identifying and exploring character choices and relationships in a scripted play.

Innovation

In fifth grade, students expand on their understanding and application of measurement, design, and problem solving. Students will complete a variety of STEM projects, including several robotics challenges, as well as experiential lessons involving circuitry and simple electronics.

Library

The mission of the library is to encourage curiosity and to support instruction through collaboration with classroom teachers. Fifth grade students review how to use the online catalog. In addition to reinforcing research skills, they learn about the five kinds of nonfiction and how to write a book review. Students are introduced to the Newbery Medal as we discuss story elements. They use wordless picture books to develop writing skills, and they study illustrations in picture books as we dive into Caldecott winners. Fifth grade students have the opportunity to join the "Library Review Board." As board members, they meet once a month to discuss books of their choosing, write reviews which get published in the online catalog, and advise the librarian about what books to purchase and promote.

Music

The fifth grade music curriculum continues with a more specified study of fundamental musicianship and basic literacy skills through singing, Orff Xylophones, African drumming, handbells, spoons, and multicultural folk dance while creating, performing, reading, and responding to music. In addition, further enrichment of the arts is provided to teach the basics of strings and brass through unique whole-class programming. These opportunities for learning empower students to discover their musical abilities and serve as an excellent springboard to Lakeview's choral, orchestral, and band programs. The music curriculum continues to develop insights, awareness, and appreciation of people and cultures represented in our world and communities. Students perform in various programs throughout the year. Performances are viewed as an active process involving the development and application of musical skills, knowledge, and perceptions.

Physical Education

All fitness components continue to be developed with an emphasis placed on agility and gaining strength through using one's own body weight to exercise. Through team sports and play, sportsmanship and gamesmanship are discussed often, especially as various situations arise in class. In fifth grade, students are tested on the 10-meter run and vertical jump. Their scores are recorded to chart improvement and growth throughout their physical education classes at Lakeview. As we finish the "Build Healthy Kids" curriculum, students are challenged and encouraged to apply what they've learned about health, nutrition, and physical fitness in the years ahead.

Science

Each of the three branches of science (physical, life, & earth) is covered in a hands-on, minds-on format using

the scientific method. Students explore the laws of motion, electricity, and magnetism for physical science. Life science involves the study of plant and animal cells, animal classification and a study of animal interactions. Earth science focuses on the study of oceanography and atmospheric concepts. Nature walks throughout the school year help the students hone their scientific observation skills.

Spanish

The overall objectives of Spanish in fifth grade are to develop and reinforce communicative competency in listening, speaking, writing and culture. Students will gain an intuitive understanding of how the language is acquired and how they can use this knowledge to express themselves linguistically. By developing and refining their intuitive skills, students also acquire a basic understanding and appreciation of the diversity of cultures in the Spanish-speaking world. While the focus is not on fluently speaking Spanish, students will begin to develop competency and comfort, conversing in Spanish with their teacher and peers, using brief phrases and sentences.

Technology

Students are issued a device to use in the classroom. They are taught to care for their device, keeping it charged so it is ready to use when needed. Students may use their device at their teacher's discretion to complete in-class assignments and to work on programs to reinforce basic math facts and skills. Students may also use their devices to do some basic research for projects.

In technology class, students are taught how to use digital tools to communicate thoughts and ideas with creativity and innovation. Students will also engage in critical thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making activities to strengthen these skills. The concept of Digital Citizenship will also be expanded upon as students have access to technology on a more regular basis. Students come to understand that having access to a device is a privilege and creates a digital footprint, and they must be mindful of what they put in writing. Additionally, students are taught how to log onto the Lion Portal to begin checking for assignments, which is something that they will be required to do in Middle School.