

At Cape Henry Collegiate, 5th grade is the capstone of the lower school experience. Students deepen their academic knowledge while growing into confident, independent learners who are prepared for the opportunities and expectations of middle school. Through engaging, inquiry-based instruction, students are challenged to think critically, communicate effectively, collaborate with others and apply their learning in meaningful ways.

WHAT MAKES GRADE 5 DISTINCTIVE?

Rather than simply learning new content, students are expected to lead discussions, conduct independent research, solve authentic problems and present their thinking to real audiences. Teachers intentionally foster increasing independence while providing the support students need to grow as scholars, leaders and community members.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM A GRADE 5 CLASSROOM?

- Inquiry-driven lessons where students ask questions, investigate ideas and defend conclusions with evidence.
- Collaborative learning experiences that strengthen communication, leadership and accountability.
- Hands-on science, coding, robotics and design challenges that encourage creative problem solving.
- Rich discussions, writing and research projects that connect learning across disciplines.
- A supportive environment that prepares students academically and socially for middle school.

A GRADE 5 STUDENT WILL...

- Analyze increasingly complex texts and support ideas with evidence.
- Write narratives, literary analyses and informational pieces through a structured writing process.
- Apply mathematical reasoning to authentic, real world situations.
- Design, code, test and refine solutions using Python, artificial intelligence and robotics.
- Investigate scientific questions through experimentation, data collection and analysis.
- Develop global awareness through a yearlong interdisciplinary study of Africa.
- Present research and learning with confidence to classmates, teachers and families.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GRADE 5 CURRICULUM

Language Arts

Students build knowledge through rich literature, including studies of culture and beliefs, wordplay and the Civil War, while strengthening close reading, discussion, vocabulary and evidence-based writing.

Mathematics

Students develop fluency with fractions, decimals, ratios, percentages, geometry, measurement, data analysis, algebraic thinking and mathematical problem solving.

Science and Innovation

Students explore chemistry, physics, life science, and engineering while learning to code in Python, investigating artificial intelligence, and solving design challenges with robotics.

Social and Global Studies

Students examine the foundations of American democracy alongside a yearlong interdisciplinary study of Africa, culminating in a student-led presentation showcasing their research and learning.

Through engaging, inquiry-based instruction, students are challenged to think critically, communicate effectively, collaborate with others and apply their learning in meaningful ways. By the end of 5th grade, students leave lower school equipped with the academic skills, intellectual curiosity, resilience and independence needed to thrive in middle school and beyond.