



OFFICE OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Fifth Grade Curriculum Guide

• ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS · AMPLIFY CKLA • MATHEMATICS · ENVISION • SCIENCE · SAVVAS ELEVATESCIENCE
• SOCIAL STUDIES · MCGRAW HILL IMPACT • ELECTIVES

About this guide: This document describes the instructional programs, standards, pacing, and expectations for all Fifth Grade students at Southfield Public Schools. It is intended to support teachers, families, and administrators in understanding what students learn and why.

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SECTION 1

Our Instructional Philosophy

Southfield Public Schools provides rigorous, joyful, and equitable instruction for every student. In Fifth Grade, students complete their elementary journey as confident, independent readers, writers, and thinkers, ready to carry strong research, argument, and analysis skills into middle school.

ALL STUDENTS CAN AND WILL READ

We use the Science of Reading to deliver explicit, systematic literacy instruction to every child. Amplify CKLA (Grades K–5) completes its K–5 arc in Fifth Grade with the most complex texts and content of elementary school, while still supporting any student who needs continued foundational skills practice.

CURIOSITY DRIVES SCIENCE LEARNING

Students learn by investigating real phenomena. SAVVAS elevateScience anchors every unit in a question worth investigating and builds authentic scientific thinking from day one.

KNOWLEDGE FUELS COMPREHENSION

Decoding alone is not enough. Students who build rich background knowledge across history, science, geography, and literature become stronger readers over time. Our programs deliberately build this foundation at every grade level.

SECTION 2

English Language Arts

• Amplify CKLA — Third Edition • Grades K–5

Southfield Public Schools has adopted *Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA), Third Edition* as the core ELA instructional program for *Grades K–5*. CKLA is among the nation's highest-rated literacy curricula for alignment to the Science of Reading and the Common Core State Standards.

INTEGRATED INSTRUCTION • DAILY

As in Fourth Grade, CKLA's Fifth Grade lessons integrate foundational skills, grammar, vocabulary, and morphology directly into rich, content-based reading and writing. Fifth Grade includes an End-of-Year Assessment to confirm students are well prepared for the demands of middle school reading and writing.

Grade 5 ELA Learning Priorities

FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS (RF.5)

- Use combined knowledge of letter-sound correspondences, syllabication patterns, and morphology to read unfamiliar multisyllabic words in and out of context
- Read grade-appropriate irregularly spelled words
- Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension (RF.5.4)

LANGUAGE (L.5)

- Explain the function of conjunctions, prepositions, and interjections
- Form and use the perfect verb tenses
- Use correlative conjunctions
- Use punctuation to separate items in a series and to set off introductory elements
- Use context as a clue to the meaning of figurative language, including similes and metaphors

READING LITERATURE & INFORMATIONAL (RL.5, RI.5)

- Determine a theme from details in the text, including how characters in a story respond to challenges
- Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events, drawing on specific details in the text
- Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences
- Explain the relationships between two or more individuals, events, ideas, or concepts based on specific information
- Integrate information from several texts on the same topic to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably
- Analyze multiple accounts of the same event or topic, noting important similarities and differences

WRITING (W.5)

- Write opinion pieces, supporting a point of view with logically grouped reasons and information
- Write informative/explanatory texts that group related information logically, using formatting, illustrations, and multimedia when useful
- Write narratives using narrative technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences
- Conduct short research projects that use several sources to build knowledge through investigation

Fifth Grade Knowledge Domains

Domain	Content Focus	Writing Connection
D1. Personal Narratives	Nonfiction works written by a first-person narrator, with attention to sensory details and reflection on real experiences	Write an original personal narrative reflecting on a meaningful experience
D2. Early American Civilizations	Large, complex civilizations of the Maya, Aztec, and Inca; their geography, innovations, and myths	Informative essay on an innovation or myth from an early American civilization
D3. Drama: A Midsummer Night's Dream	An abridged Shakespeare comedy; character, plot, and the language of classic drama	Literary analysis: how a character's choices drive the plot
D4. Poetry: Voice and Form	Figurative language, form, and meaning across poems from many time periods and cultures	Write and analyze original poems; compare two poems on a shared theme
D5. The Renaissance	The rebirth of art, science, and learning in Europe; major figures and their lasting contributions	Informative essay on a Renaissance figure or invention
D6. The Reformation	Religious and political upheaval in Europe; the printing press, Martin Luther, and the rise of science	Informative writing connecting the printing press to the spread of new ideas
D7. Native Americans	How Native American peoples were connected to their landscapes, and how 1800s government policy and westward expansion affected their cultures	Persuasive essay on a public policy issue affecting Native American communities
D8. Ecosystems and the Food Web	How producers, consumers, and decomposers form interconnected food chains and webs	Informative writing explaining an ecosystem's food web
D9. Stars and the Solar System	The Earth, Sun, Moon, and stars; patterns in the sky and the planets of our solar system	Research writing: a planet or astronomical phenomenon
D10. Matter and Chemical Reactions	Properties of matter, solutions, and simple chemical reactions; the particulate nature of matter	Informative writing explaining a chemical reaction or property of matter

SECTION 3

The Science of Reading in Practice

The *Science of Reading* refers to decades of research from cognitive science, linguistics, and education defining how the brain learns to read. Amplify CKLA (K–5) is built on this research, providing structured literacy instruction that works for all learners.

1 Phonological Awareness Hear, blend, and segment sounds in spoken words	2 Phonics & Decoding Map sounds to spellings systematically	3 Fluency Read with accuracy, rate, and expression	4 Vocabulary Build word knowledge through wide reading and discussion	5 Comprehension Apply strategies to understand complex texts
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STRUCTURED LITERACY IN EVERY CLASSROOM

In Fifth Grade, CKLA lessons combine close reading of the most complex literature and informational texts in elementary school with continued grammar, morphology, and writing instruction. An End-of-Year Assessment helps confirm students have the foundational skills and content knowledge to succeed with Grade 6 instruction. End-of-unit assessments guide differentiation and intervention at all grade levels K–5.

SECTION 5

Mathematics

• enVision Mathematics • Grades K–5

Southfield uses *enVision Mathematics* for Grades K–5. In Fifth Grade, students build new efficiencies for operations with multi-digit whole numbers, decimals, and fractions, including standard algorithms. Geometric topics move from sorting shapes by attributes to building hierarchies of shapes, and students develop the concept of volume and begin working with the coordinate plane. Each lesson opens with a problem-based *Solve & Share* task that builds conceptual understanding.

OPERATIONS & ALGEBRAIC THINKING (5.OA)

- Use parentheses, brackets, and braces in numerical expressions and evaluate them
- Write simple expressions that record calculations with numbers
- Generate two numerical patterns using two given rules; form ordered pairs and graph them

NUMBER & OPERATIONS IN BASE TEN (5.NBT)

- Understand the place value system, including powers of 10 and decimal place value
- Read, write, and compare decimals to thousandths
- Fluently multiply multi-digit whole numbers using the standard algorithm
- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide decimals using strategies based on place value

NUMBER & OPERATIONS — FRACTIONS (5.NF)

- Add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators, including mixed numbers
- Interpret and compute products of fractions;

MEASUREMENT & DATA (5.MD)

- Convert among different-sized standard measurement units within a given system
- Represent and interpret data using line

multiply fractions and mixed numbers

- Apply and extend understanding of division to divide unit fractions by whole numbers and whole numbers by unit fractions

plots with fractional measurements

- Understand concepts of volume and relate volume to multiplication and addition

GEOMETRY (5.G)

- Graph points on the coordinate plane to solve real-world and mathematical problems
- Classify two-dimensional figures into categories based on their properties
- Understand that attributes belonging to a category of shapes also belong to all subcategories

Quarterly Pacing Overview

	Months	Topic Focus
Quarter 1	September – October	Understand place value; use models and strategies to add and subtract decimals; fluently multiply multi-digit whole numbers; use models and strategies to multiply decimals
Quarter 2	November – January	Use models and strategies to divide whole numbers and decimals; use equivalent fractions to add and subtract fractions; apply understanding of multiplication to multiply fractions
Quarter 3	January – March	Apply understanding of division to divide fractions; represent and interpret data; understand volume concepts; convert customary and metric measurement units
Quarter 4	April – June	Write and interpret numerical expressions; graph points on the coordinate plane; analyze patterns, graphs, and relationships; classify two-dimensional figures

SECTION 6

Science

- SAVVAS elevateScience · Grades K–5

Southfield has adopted SAVVAS *elevateScience* for Grades K–5. In Fifth Grade, students investigate increasingly complex phenomena and develop stronger science and engineering practices. All units are aligned to the *Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)*.

Disciplinary Core Ideas

The key science concepts students need to know

Science & Engineering Practices

How scientists investigate and engineers design

Crosscutting Concepts

Ideas that apply across all science disciplines

Fifth Grade Science Units

Unit & Focus	Phenomenon & Key Questions	Core Concepts
Unit 1: Ecosystems and the Food Web	How do organisms depend on one another in an ecosystem?	Producers, consumers, and decomposers form interconnected food chains and food webs
Unit 2: Water Cycle and Earth's Systems	How does water move through and shape Earth's systems?	Water cycles through Earth's systems and affects human societies; engineering solutions can address water-related challenges
Unit 3: Stars and the Solar System	What patterns can we observe in the sky, and what lies beyond Earth?	The Earth, Sun, Moon, and stars show observable patterns; the solar system includes planets and other bodies
Unit 4: Chemical Reactions and Properties of Water	How can mixing substances create something new?	Matter has properties that can be observed; dissolving and chemical reactions reveal the particulate nature of matter

NGSS STANDARDS ADDRESSED

Fifth Grade science units are aligned to 5-LS1, 5-LS2, and 5-PS3 (Ecosystems and the Food Web), 5-ESS2 and 5-PS1 (Water Cycle and Earth's Systems), 5-ESS1 and 5-PS2 (Stars and the Solar System), 5-PS1 (Chemical Reactions and Properties of Water), and 3-5-ETS1 (Engineering Design).

SECTION 7

Social Studies

● McGraw Hill IMPACT Social Studies · Grades K–5

Southfield uses *McGraw Hill IMPACT Social Studies* for Grades K–5. In Fifth Grade, students complete their elementary social studies sequence with an integrated study of early United States history. IMPACT uses an inquiry-based approach anchored in compelling questions, primary sources, and evidence-based discussion.

GRADE FIVE FOCUS OF STUDY — INTEGRATED UNITED STATES HISTORY

Fifth Grade United States History is divided into three eras. Era 1, Beginnings to 1620,

examines how early European exploration and colonization resulted in cultural and ecological interactions among previously unconnected peoples. Era 2, Colonization and Settlement (1585–1763), examines how European values and institutions were transferred to and modified in the colonies, and how slavery reshaped life in the Americas. Era 3, Revolution and the New Nation (1754–1800), investigates the causes of the American Revolution and the reasons for the American victory.

Fifth Grade Social Studies — Units

Unit	Focus
Unit 1	Era 1: Beginnings to 1620 — early European exploration and colonization; cultural and ecological interaction among previously unconnected peoples
Unit 2	Era 2: Colonization and Settlement (1585–1763) — European values and institutions in the colonies; the reshaping of life through slavery
Unit 3	Era 3: Revolution and the New Nation (1754–1800) — causes of the American Revolution and reasons for the American victory
Unit 4	Forming a Government — the ideas and interests that shaped the new nation's founding documents
Unit 5	Geography of a Growing Nation — how geography shaped settlement, conflict, and opportunity in early America
Unit 6	Civic Participation — analyzing a public policy issue, evaluating alternatives, and communicating a reasoned position

INQUIRY PROCESS (C3 FRAMEWORK)

- Construct compelling questions
- Gather and evaluate sources
- Develop claims with evidence
- Communicate and take action

KEY STANDARDS (MICHIGAN GLCE)

All IMPACT units are aligned to Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations for Social Studies, with a Fifth Grade focus on integrated United States history through 1800, geography, civics, and economics.

SECTION 8

Electives

Elective offerings at Southfield Public Schools depend on the individual school building. Fifth Grade students may have access to one or more of the following enrichment and specialty areas. Please contact your child's school directly for the specific elective schedule at your building.

WORLD LANGUAGE — SPANISH

Continued conversational vocabulary and listening and speaking skills, with growing fluency in reading and writing in Spanish, preparing students for continued language study in middle school.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Continued development of motor skills, teamwork, and strategy in games. Students build habits of physical wellness aligned to Michigan Health Education Standards.

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS — DANCE

TECHNOLOGY

Creative movement, rhythmic awareness, and expressive dance forms, with growing attention to choreography and group composition.

Growing digital literacy including typing fluency, responsible technology use, and continued coding concepts, aligned with ISTE Standards for Students.

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS — MUSIC

Continued music literacy including rhythm, melody, and dynamics, with growing fluency reading notation, aligned to Michigan Visual and Performing Arts Standards.

NOTE TO FAMILIES

Elective schedules are determined at the building level and are subject to change. Contact your school's main office for the most current information about elective offerings and scheduling for your child.

SECTION 9

Social-Emotional Learning

Southfield Public Schools integrates social-emotional learning (SEL) throughout the school day. Fifth Grade students develop competencies aligned to the *CASEL framework*: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. SEL is embedded in daily routines, morning meetings, and subject-area instruction.

FIFTH GRADE SEL FOCUS AREAS

- Building self-awareness as a learner heading toward the transition to middle school
- Strengthening collaborative problem-solving and constructive conflict resolution in group work
- Practicing perspective-taking across complex historical events and difficult topics, such as colonization and slavery
- Building resilience and a growth mindset around increasingly rigorous academic tasks
- Taking ownership of personal responsibilities and modeling positive leadership for younger students

INTEGRATION ACROSS SUBJECTS

CKLA Knowledge domains — including early American civilizations, the Reformation, and Native Americans — provide rich opportunities to explore themes of resilience, justice, innovation, and cultural identity. Teachers intentionally connect SEL competencies to literature and content across the Fifth Grade year.

SECTION 10

Assessment & Reporting

Southfield Public Schools uses multiple forms of assessment to monitor student progress and guide instruction. Assessment data informs differentiation, intervention decisions, and communication with families.

Assessment Type	Program/Tool	Frequency	Purpose
ELA Skills Assessment	Amplify CKLA	End of each unit	Monitor foundational skills mastery; identify students needing support or enrichment
ELA Knowledge Assessment	Amplify CKLA	End of each domain	Assess vocabulary and comprehension; inform re-teaching decisions
Math Unit Assessments	enVision	End of each topic/unit	Measure mastery of CCSS-M standards; guide grouping and intervention
Science Performance Tasks	SAVVAS elevateScience	End of each unit	Evaluate NGSS science and engineering practices through authentic tasks
Social Studies Assessments	McGraw Hill IMPACT	End of each unit	Check understanding of United States history, geography, civics, and economics concepts
Progress Reports	Southfield SIS	4 times/year (quarterly)	Communicate student performance across all subject areas to families
Reading Fluency Check	CKLA / Teacher observation	Ongoing	Monitor reading accuracy, rate, and expression; flag for early intervention
State Assessments	Michigan M-STEP	Spring	Measure grade-level proficiency in ELA, mathematics, and science
End-of-Year Assessment	Amplify CKLA	End of year	Confirm readiness for Grade 6 reading, writing, and content demands

PREPARING FOR THE TRANSITION TO MIDDLE SCHOOL

Fifth Grade is the culmination of Southfield's elementary literacy, math, and science sequence. Teachers use ongoing assessment data, along with the CKLA End-of-Year Assessment, to ensure every student enters middle school with strong foundational skills and the content knowledge to succeed.

SECTION 11

Family Partnership

Families are essential partners in student success. Here are meaningful ways to support your Fifth Grader at home:

SUPPORTING ELA (CKLA) AT HOME

- Read together regularly — ask your

SUPPORTING SCIENCE AT HOME

- Talk about local ecosystems — “What

Fifth Grader to read aloud or discuss independent reading

- Discuss themes and perspectives: *"How might someone else have seen this event differently?"*
- Connect Knowledge topics to real life: talk about the Renaissance, early American civilizations, or Native American history
- Visit amplify.com/caregiver-hub/amplify-ckla for family resources

SUPPORTING MATHEMATICS AT HOME

- Practice multiplying and dividing decimals using money and shopping examples
- Look for volume around the house — estimate and then calculate the volume of a box
- Practice adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators using recipes

would happen if one part of the food web disappeared?"

- Look up at the night sky and talk about what you observe over the course of a month
- Try a simple kitchen chemical reaction together, like baking soda and vinegar

STAYING CONNECTED

- Review quarterly progress reports and reach out with questions
- Attend parent-teacher conferences in fall and spring
- Contact your child's teacher whenever you have concerns or want to celebrate successes

CURRICULUM CONTACTS

For questions about Fifth Grade curriculum, instructional programs, or assessment, please contact the *Southfield Public Schools Office of Curriculum & Instruction*. Your child's classroom teacher is always your first point of contact for questions about your child's specific progress and learning.



SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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