WILLIAMSVILLE
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Est. 1893

GRADE 5

OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION

GRADE LEVEL EXPECTATIONS

New York State learning standards outline what students should know and be able to do by the end of fifth grade while strengthening critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity, and independence. As students begin middle school, they take greater ownership of their learning, build organizational skills, and apply their knowledge across increasingly rigorous academic experiences. The skills identified below represent a consolidated list of the most important grade-level learning priorities. They are not intended to represent a comprehensive list of all standards or content taught during fifth grade. Instruction encompasses the full range of New York State grade-level standards across all subject areas.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)

- Determine the theme of a story and how it is supported by key details.
- Quote accurately from a text to support inferences.
- Analyze how an author's tone changes the reader's experience.
- Develop narrative complexity by using sensory details and dialogue to "show" a character's emotions rather than just "telling" the reader.
- Engage in opinion and information writing with increasing sophistication with a focus on organizing thoughts logically.
- Paraphrase and take notes to avoid plagiarism during research.
- Understand mechanics of meaning including punctuation for dialogue and correlative conjunctions to expand sentences.
- Develop morphological awareness to decipher academic vocabulary.
- Distinguish between action verbs and linking verbs to improve sentence precision.



MATH

- Apply place value understanding to read, write, compare, and round whole numbers and decimals.
- Fluently compute with whole numbers and decimals using efficient strategies and standard algorithms.
- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions and solve real-world problems involving fractional quantities.
- Analyze numerical patterns and relationships to make mathematical predictions.
- Graph points in the first quadrant and interpret coordinate relationships.
- Convert measurement units and solve problems involving volume of rectangular prisms.

SCIENCE

- Demonstrate that matter is made of particles too small to see and that total amount of matter remains conserved even when matter changes state, dissolves, or mixes.
- Trace how energy from the Sun fuels ecosystems and how matter continuously cycles among plants, animals, decomposers, and the environment.
- Explain how Earth's gravity pulls objects toward its center and how Earth's orbit and rotation cause daily shadows, day and night, and seasonal star patterns.
- Model interactions among Earth's four main systems (geosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, and biosphere) and analyze the distribution of fresh and salt water across the planet.
- Evaluate how human activities impact Earth's natural resources and ecosystems, and explore ways communities work to protect the environment.

SCREENING

- Grade-level assessments are designed to measure student progress, guide instruction, and ensure students receive the appropriate resources and support to meet grade-level expectations.
- Reading: The Aimsweb Universal Screener is utilized three times per year to assess each of the following: silent reading fluency, vocabulary, and reading comprehension.

STATE ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- NYS ELA Assessment
- NYS Math Assessment
- NYS Science Assessment
- WIDA Access for students identified as English language learners
- NYSAA for ELA
- NYSAA for Math
- NYSAA for Science



GRADE 5

SOCIAL STUDIES

- Explore the geography of the Western Hemisphere, including major landforms, waterways, and how they influence where people live and work.
- Compare the civilizations of the Maya, Aztec, and Inca, examining their governments, cultures, achievements, and daily life.
- Investigate the impact of European exploration and contact on Indigenous peoples and the lasting effects on the Americas.
- Examine how governments, economies, and trade connect countries throughout the Western Hemisphere.
- Make connections between historical events and contemporary issues involving democracy, equality, and human rights across the Americas.

ART

- Create original artwork by developing ideas, exploring materials, and applying artistic techniques and processes.
- Refine and present artwork by revising, completing, and sharing creative work with purpose and intention.
- Respond to artwork by analyzing, interpreting, and evaluating artistic choices using art vocabulary and criteria.
- Connect art to personal experiences, cultures, history, and other disciplines to deepen understanding.

MUSIC

- Create musical ideas through composing, improvising, and arranging using voice, instruments, and technology.
- Perform and present music with skill, expression, collaboration, and appropriate performance practices.
- Respond to music by analyzing, interpreting, and evaluating musical works using music vocabulary and criteria.
- Connect music to personal experiences, cultures, history, and other disciplines to deepen understanding.
- Curricular Band, Orchestra and Chorus also available to students in grades 4-12.

WORLD LANGUAGES

- Understand basic words and phrases in spoken and written messages about familiar topics such as school, weather, and daily activities, especially when supported by pictures, gestures, or context.
- Share information by speaking or writing short sentences to describe places and things using colors..
- Use common language structures to communicate, such as telling time and the date, describing weather
- Use common language structures to communicate about how they are and what they need.
- Explore cultural connections by identifying everyday products, traditions, and practices from French- or Spanish-speaking cultures and comparing them to their own experiences.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Demonstrate competency in a variety of motor skills and movement patterns.
- Applys knowledge of concepts, principles, strategies, and tactics related to movement and performance.
- Demonstrate the knowledge and skills to achieve and maintain a health enhancing level of physical activity and fitness.
- Recognize the value of physical activity for overall wellness, enjoyment, challenge, and/or self expression.

TIPS FOR PARENTS/ GUARDIANS

Vocabulary Fun: Play word games like Scrabble and keep a "word log" where your child can record interesting new words they discover.

Math: Encourage your child to solve computation problems mentally before using paper and pencil. Ask questions like, "Is there an easier way?" or "Can you break the numbers apart?" to build flexible strategies.

Real-World Application: Involve your child in household tasks that require math, such as measuring for a project or cooking.

Problem-Solving: Allow your child to make mistakes so they can practice the skill of problem-solving with a better solution.

Expressing Ideas: Ask your child to communicate and defend their thinking on various topics to build confidence and critical thinking.

Civic and Global Engagement: Ask your child to explain what they learned about communities, cultures, history, or governments using evidence from their textbook, notes, or class discussions.

Home Language Use: Use your native language at home with your child. Strong native language skills help students to succeed in school.