

## **5th Grade Curriculum**

### **Literacy**

The fifth grade reading curriculum gives students the opportunity to further develop and improve reading fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary through the workshop approach. Strategies that are characteristic of good readers are utilized to improve inferential and analytical skills that will be critical to success in middle school text book reading. Teachers help students to achieve high levels of literacy through mini-lessons, guided reading, small group strategy sessions, and individual conferences. During independent reading, students are encouraged to choose from a leveled selection of books. As they become proficient, literacy circles will provide a forum for meaningful discussion and exchange of ideas related to the books that they are reading.

### **Writing**

Writers' Workshop gives children unbelievable power as readers, thinkers, and composers of meaning. A writing community is created in each classroom, the craft of writing is taught, and every student becomes an author. Throughout the year students will master the 6 step process of prewriting, drafting, revising, conferencing, editing and publishing. Students will learn how to write personal narratives, essays, historical fiction, editorials, memoirs, and poetry. Students will participate in daily writing that is focused on target skills, which build upon one another.

### **Math**

Students will begin to master fractions and develop a further understanding of decimals and their usage within the place value system. They will begin to understand and investigate algebraic mathematical expressions. Students will begin to identify the relationship between decimals, fractions and percents. Knowledge in geometric shapes and relationships will be enhanced. Students will investigate, develop and evaluate mathematical arguments.

### **Social Studies**

Fifth grade has an extensive hands-on map skills program using Nystrom wall maps, individual atlases and interactive maps. In addition to map skills, the students will be given ample opportunities to read graphs and charts. The lessons explain the relationship between people and the land. Additionally, we will be using the maps and atlases to supplement the reading the students do in their social studies text. Students will study explorers, colonization, The Revolutionary war, the movement west, The Civil war, and modern America. Students will also stay up to date on current events by reading Time for Kids and participating in class discussions.

### **Science**

The goal of fifth grade General Science is to provide an opportunity for students to observe the world around them through the study of simple living things, matter, energy and electricity, basic chemistry, ecology and changing ecosystems, and the earth and its resources.

**Spanish**

Students start to create mini- dialogues, skits based on basic conversation related to the themes covered. The language is taught with emphasis on both writing and speaking.  
Media Center

**Technology**

Students spend the first quarter using the typing program “Mavis Beacon Typing Tutor”. Throughout the year students are introduced to computer basics while using PCs and Apple computers. Students create cross-curriculum projects using a variety of programs and applications. Applications include but are not limited to multimedia, Microsoft: Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Publisher, and I-Work: Numbers and Pages.

**Band**

Open to all 5th grade students regardless of experience. Each student selects their particular instrument and continues to further develop their skills all year. Students perform at least three times each year: Grandparent’s Day, Christmas and Night of the Arts.

**Art**

Students continue to expand their knowledge of art materials, method, style and vocabulary in their weekly 45 minute classes. Students mix colors to study value, tints, shade, and moods of color. They learn to express feeling and emotion through their art. They gain an understanding that many artists express themselves and their cultural identities through their artwork. Students will begin to learn about proportions of the face and human form. Students develop an understanding of the importance of art in different time periods and cultures. They will identify and practice the styles of famous artists and categorize art as portraits, landscapes, abstracts, still life’s or narrative art.

**Physical Education**

In fifth grade students to continue to master the basic skills of a variety of team sports such as soccer, capture the flag, team handball, basketball, floor hockey, volleyball and lacrosse. Circuit training is used to master skills such as: jump rope, sit-ups, catching & throwing, dribbling, and kicking. This year students participate in the President’s Physical Fitness Challenge and they have the opportunity to win the President’s Physical Fitness Award.