



5th Grade Curriculum Conference: September 2016
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English Language Arts: English Language Arts State Exam - March 26th, 27th and 28th

Our literacy instruction is focused on the goal of developing active and critical thinkers who use and create texts to build knowledge and broaden worldviews. To accomplish this goal our program is designed around a balanced approach to instruction that responds to the specific needs of each individual student, incorporates information and media literacy, and prepares students for the increasing literacy demands of the 21st century. Each component of our literacy block is described below.

Read Aloud: An essential requirement of the Common Core State Standards for Reading is that all students are expected to comprehend texts of steadily increasing complexity. During our read aloud periods we focus on sharing challenging and engaging texts that meet this requirement. Through exposure and interaction with these texts students develop an enhanced ability to approach these texts in the future. During our read aloud time students will be expected to listen attentively in order to be able to demonstrate an understanding of the text through a verbal or written response.

Reading Workshop: Our reading lessons will be focused on building independence, stamina, proficiency, and the comprehension of texts across a variety of genres. During the lessons students will be taught a skill, and have a chance to immediately practice that skill using a grade-appropriate text and with the support of the whole group. Students will then have additional time to practice that same skill in books matched to their individual reading level. Further, students will be expected to track their reading progress through the daily use of a book log. These will be collected weekly and must be signed by a parent.

Reading Conferences: Throughout independent reading students will participate in conferences with the teacher and/or their peers. Conferences will be used initially to collect assessment data (running records, stamina observations, and book log reviews). Once collected, assessment data will be used to guide future conferences. Teachers will use the data to formulate and implement instructional plans for each child. Students will be given individual assignments on RAZ kids, an online reading program. Fifth graders are expected to complete these assignments independently. Data collected through the use of this program will help teachers further differentiate instruction.

Word Work:

Word work includes all spelling, phonics, and grammar work. Our spelling work this year will focus on “etymology” the study of words and their origins in the Greek and Latin languages. Different, nightly homework tasks will be assigned based on these words, followed by an assessment. Our grammar work is focused on the practice of all skills needed for the mastery of the English language

Writing Workshop:

Writing workshop follows the same format as reading workshop. Students will be taught a skill in a lesson; where they will have a chance to immediately try the skill, followed by independent work time. During independent work time students will participate in conferences with the teacher and sometimes with their peers. Focused on meeting the expectations of the Common Core State Standards for Writing, our units will develop an ability to write a variety of essays, opinion pieces, informative or explanatory texts, and narratives. There will be a strong emphasis placed on the student’s ability to use text based evidence to support their responses.

in order to foster and facilitate communities of writers who practice for authentic audiences, students will also participate in writing celebrations. Writing celebrations will vary in format giving students the opportunity to develop an ability to present and collaborate for different groups of people.

Social Studies:

The fifth grade social studies curriculum consists of the history of the United States and the study of different cultures such as Canada, Mexico and Brazil. The units include: Geography and Early People of the Western Hemisphere, the United States, Latin America and Canada. During our studies students will complete various reading, mapping, writing, art, and music projects. There may be an extended project for a unit, which will be completed at home. In this case plenty of notice and information will be given out in advance.

The Common Core State Standards calls for an integration of nonfiction reading experiences across the primary grades. In response, our social studies curriculum will be supplemented with a print and digital subscription to Time for Kids and Scholastic News. Designed specifically for use with interactive whiteboards, our students will be able to use modern technology to explore. Informative videos and slide shows, which accompany each edition, will allow our students to research world topics through different sources, while interactive maps and charts will create shared learning experiences.

Science:

Science instruction will be based on an inquiry method of learning. Scientific processes such as observing, comparing, recording and analyzing data will be utilized.

The science curriculum is broken down into four units: Nature of Science, Earth Science, Food and Nutrition and Exploring Ecosystems. Students will build knowledge of the content through both text reading and hands-on lab experiments inside the classroom.

Mathematics: Mathematics State Exam – May 2nd, 3rd and 4th.

We are using the Go Math Program this year which is aligned to the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. As a result, students will be given the opportunity to think deeply about each math strand. Students will have a chance to use manipulatives, discovering that there are many different routes to get the answer to any given math problem. In the classroom we will differentiate instruction according to student need using flexible groupings. Students will receive reinforcement, practice, and enrichment. The fifth grade units are as follows: Place Value, Multiplication and Division of Large Numbers, Decimals, Algebra, Interpreting Data, Geometry, Volume and Fractions. There is a strong emphasis on working through multi-step problems, as well as, explaining mathematical thinking through writing. Students will be assigned independent work using the Ten Marks program and Think Central. Students are expected to complete this work by specified due dates.

Homework:

Fifth graders receive homework planners, which are used in class every day to copy all homework assignments. All homework is expected to be completed in full and on time. Students will receive homework daily in reading, grammar, mathematics, and spelling. Additional subjects may also be assigned throughout the week. Any missing or incomplete work must be submitted the next day, and no later than the end of the week. Homework that is consistently missing or late will require an in-school conference between the teacher, student, and parent. Missing work makes it difficult for your child to master necessary skills and meet the required standards.

Please make sure your child gets to school on time. School begins at 8:20 am and instruction begins right away. Lateness takes away from your child's (and the class's) learning. **All absences require a note, from the parent or the doctor, regardless of the cause of absence. All extended absences require a medical note.**

Fifth Grade Activities:

We hope to have students continue to participate in enrichment programs such as Ballroom Dance, Debate Club and the Stock Market Game. (These are contingent upon funding).

Instruction will be enhanced through different field trips throughout the year and culminate with an end of the year trip, and a moving up celebration and ceremony.