

NORTH READING PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Curriculum Summary

GRADE FIVE

This brochure describes the critical
learnings for the Fifth Grade

NORTH READING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

The Language Arts Program in Grade 5 includes comprehensive instruction in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Reading instruction includes literal and inferential comprehension, main idea, and the use of figurative language. Challenging literary selections include a variety of genres among them biography, historical fiction, and narrative non-fiction. Writing instruction develops and refines students' skills in syntax and mechanics, in sentence and paragraph structure, in revising and editing skills as well as in spelling and vocabulary development.

Reading

- Summarizing and paraphrasing
- Reading for main idea and details
- Comprehension strategies
- Note taking and outlining skills
- Literary analysis of elements and genres
- Non-fiction selections
- Vocabulary expansion

Composition

- Sentence structure
- Paragraphing skills
- Parts of speech
- Functional writing: Persuasive, Descriptive, Narrative, Expository
- Proofreading: editing, revising skills
- Use of figurative language
- Forms of writing: poetry, journal, letters, news writing, research



MATHEMATICS

The math program in the fifth grade is designed to ensure a strong background knowledge and understanding of Mathematics to develop effective problem solving skills in Math literacy. Use of math manipulatives provides practice in developing and reviewing core skills and concepts.

- Adding and subtracting whole numbers and decimals
- Multiplication and division of whole numbers
- Multiplying and dividing decimals
- Collecting and organizing data
- Understanding fractions and mixed numbers
- Adding and subtracting fractions
- Ratio, percent, and probability
- Understanding and applying concepts of area and volume
- Geometry: polygons, three dimensional shapes, and graphs

HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

The four strands studied in grade 5 are: history, geography, economics, and government. Students learn about the effects of the interrelationships among people, places, and events. They also learn about the impact of geography on the development of regions.

- United States geography
- Mayan, Inca, and Aztec civilizations
- Native American history and cultures
- Exploration and trade around the world
- Colonization of North America
- Early colonial period
- Causes and effects of the Revolutionary War
- The new country: early presidents
- The Constitution and United States government
- The War of 1812
- Introduction to economics

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENGINEERING

The grade 5 program provides hands-on experiential learning for students. Lessons are designed on the inquiry based learning approach. In classes, students learn about earth and space science, life sciences, physical sciences, and technology/engineering. The specific topics include the following:

- Exploration of ecosystems
- Micro worlds
- Concepts and applications of mass, density, volume
- Principles of simple machines
- Investigation of light and light waves
- Heredity and genetics
- Investigation of sound and sound waves
- Application of the scientific method
- Cells and the body systems
- Food chemistry and the food pyramid
- Weather including temperature, moisture, wind speed and patterns

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Comprehensive health instruction includes health literacy, health promotion, and health education that enhance health and wellness. Using health information for self-management and to build healthy lifestyles is the overall goal. The program has four components: Physical health, social and emotional health, safety and prevention, and personal and community health. Topics are addressed in a developmentally appropriate sequence and depth.

- Fundamental physical skills
- Personal fitness
- Problem solving / cooperative activities
- Low organized games
- Specialized skills and sport activities
- Dance and Rhythms
- Tumbling stunts, apparatus
- Sportsmanship

THE ARTS

The Arts program consists of the study and practice of dance, music, theatre and the visual arts. These classes provide an opportunity for development of students' skills and understanding of creating, performing, and responding as well as learning about the historical and cultural content of the arts.

Music

- Develop head voice with purity of sound while singing in 2-3 parts
- Sing independently with sensitivity and accuracy
- Play piano in C position with both hands
- Play recorder with increased accuracy adding tones and skips
- Create rhythmic and melodic melodies, graphic notation
- Expand reading notation with more diverse expressiveness
- Listen to formal and informal concerts with correct protocol of an audience
- Use music as a means to connect all subjects together

Art

- Creates artwork that demonstrates a solid understanding of concepts of line, color relationships, texture, form and shape.
- Creates artwork using a variety of 2D and 3D processes such as drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, and ceramics.
- Draws from life
- Studies works of famous artists
- Is introduced to the concept of perspective.
- Is able to discuss connections made between art and different cultures.
- Uses art vocabulary to assess and discuss artwork.

To Parents/Guardians:

This brochure contains a brief description of the subjects your child will study at each grade level. It has been designed to provide you with a general overview of the content and skills that are taught throughout the year, as well as other pertinent information.

It is hoped that the combined use of this brochure and meetings with your child's teachers and principal will keep you informed of the curriculum goals of the North Reading Public Schools.

It is important to note that children learn and grow at different rates. Although a child will develop skills and learn at his or her own pace, each child will be challenged to demonstrate a level of progress during the school year.

The Mission of the North Reading Public Schools is to educate all students by providing a safe learning environment which challenges and encourages them to be thinking, creative, and responsible individuals who are confident and committed to excellence, service, and life-long learning.

WAYS PARENTS CAN HELP THEIR CHILD...

- Develop good nutritional, rest, and safety habits.
- Promote home study skills and self-discipline.
- Provide time at home to show an active interest in your child's daily school activities.
- Help your child select materials and ideas at home that will contribute to class activities.
- Plan family experiences that support topics studied at school.
- Encourage your child to pursue his or her own individual interests.
- Volunteer in your child's school.
- Attend individual conferences and other school events.
- Consult with the teacher about specific ways to help your child.
- Encourage the use of public resources (e.g. libraries, museums, theaters, concerts, community events, etc.)
- Provide a place and time for your child to comfortably and successfully complete homework assignments.
- Assist your child with the completion and correction of homework, but ensure the final product is reflective of the child's understanding of the assignment.

If you have questions about the curriculum summaries, please contact your child's teacher first. If you need additional assistance, you can call your child's principal or the Director of Curriculum.

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