

Fifth Grade Curriculum

Religion: Students learn about Jesus Christ and their Catholic faith through Scripture and tradition. They celebrate their faith by learning about and participating in the liturgy of the Mass and the sacraments. They choose to follow Jesus' example and his teachings, to live the commandments and the spirit of the Beatitudes. The students pray every day and in many different ways. They learn to share their faith with others, participate in the mission of the Church and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Students learn to give witness to the life and teachings of Jesus through their words and deeds.

Science and social studies will be taught throughout the year as period long classes. The students will be alternating between both science and social studies lessons every other day. The students will be testing on the material; however, will not be given trimesters or comprehensive exams in these subjects. The four units that science consists of are "Interactions of Matter", "Forces and Energy", "Earth and Beyond", and "Cells and the Human Body". The students will begin the year learning about the scientific method. The social studies units are "The Earliest Americans", "A Time of Exploration by European Countries", "English Colonies", "The Beginning of Our Country". Quizzes are made up from the notes given in class, and there will be a test at the end of each unit. There will be study guides given to each student that reviews the concepts the students will be quizzed or tested on.

Mathematics: 5th Grade Mathematics focuses on developing mastery of fundamental arithmetic skills in preparation for algebra and advanced mathematics in Junior High. These skills and topics include:

- Rigorous practice in the four basic operations: addition, subtraction, division, and multiplication
- Examination of place value and decimal numbers from the one thousandths place to the one hundred billions place.
- Comprehensive skills building with fractions; including performing the four basic operations, discerning proper and improper fractions, utilizing reciprocals and mixed numbers, and identifying common factors and common multiples.
- Sturdy reinforcement of geometric concepts and postulates; including identifying polygons, measuring angles, calculating perimeter and area, and employing the concept of pi to calculate circumference of circles.
- Exploration of probability concepts, bar graphs, line graphs, and circle graphs.
- Consistent practice and analysis of word problems and training in problem solving strategy.
- Introduction to algebraic concepts; including integers, equations, expressions, and inverses.

Reading: 5th Grade Reading aims to nurture an appreciation and love of literature. Students will explore a variety of story formats and reading strategies designed to improve students' active reading skills.

- Reading selections include novels, such as Dear Mr. Henshaw, Wonder, From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler, The Sign of the Beaver, and other award winning books and non-fiction articles. C
- Comprehensive analysis and discussion of Newbery Medal Award-winning novels; incorporating vocabulary, themes, and dialogue.
- Identification and development of reading comprehension strategies; including determining main ideas, exploration of settings, plot analysis, describing cause-and effect, forming predictions, discerning author purpose, and summarization.
- Developing a literature-based vocabulary; utilizing phonetic decoding techniques, identifying compound words, contrasting synonyms and antonyms, exploration of metaphors and analogies.
- Independent reading introducing a wide spectrum of literature genres; including humor, mystery, biography, adventure, and science fiction.

Language Arts/Composition: 5th Grade Language Arts prioritizes a comprehensive appreciation and understanding of the essential components of English grammar. By focusing on the fundamental components of language, students develop greater proficiency in expressing themselves in written composition.

- Reviews the major parts of speech; including nouns, verbs, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections.
- Guidance in improving competency in utilizing proper syntax and sentence structure; including lessons in punctuation and subject-verb agreement.

- Practice in composition writing; incorporating essays, expository writing, and research projects. Students develop skills in creating organized paragraphs as well as guidance in improving shorthand handwriting.

Fifth grade students will experience either chorus, band or orchestra daily. Gym and art are each taught twice a week.