

# **A Parent's Guide to the Fifth Grade Curriculum**

## **Reading and Language Arts**

### **Student Learning Progression**

#### **Reading**

- Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including similes and metaphors
- Read, comprehend, and identify the theme in various literature, including stories, dramas, and poetry
- Analyze how visual and multimedia elements contribute to the meaning, tone, or beauty of a text
- Compare and contrast the overall structure (e.g., chronology, comparison, cause/effect, problem/solution) of events, ideas, concepts, or information in two or more texts
- Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension

#### **Writing**

- Write and understand narrative, informative, and opinion pieces
- Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience
- With some guidance and support from adults, use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others
- Conduct short research projects that use several sources to build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic
- Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research
- Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences

#### **Speaking and Listening**

- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher led) with diverse partners on grade 5 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly
- Summarize portions of a text read aloud or information presented
- Report on a topic or text or present an opinion, sequencing ideas logically and using appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details to support main ideas or themes; speak clearly at an understandable pace
- Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, using formal English when appropriate to task and situation

#### **Language**

- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking

- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing
- Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning word and phrases based on grade 5 reading and content
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings

## Mathematics

### **Major concepts**

- Numbers theory
- Estimation
- Computation: multiplication, division, addition, and subtraction
- Whole numbers
- Decimals, fractions, percentages
- Ratios, probability, rates
- Negative numbers
- Geometry
- Area, volume, capacity
- Coordinates
- Exponents
- Algebra concepts
- Problem solving

## Science

### **Life: Oceans**

- Water properties: salinity, desalination, solid, liquid, gas
- Geology:  
features  
natural resources  
pollution/ environment
- Movement/ Forces:  
temperature, wind, gravity, waves, tides, water cycle

### **Earth: Space**

- Stars:  
cycles, magnitude, color/ temperature, galaxies
- Patterns:  
sun shadows, seasons, constellations
- Technology:  
telescope, satellites, space probes, astronauts, space stations
- Solar System:  
asteroids, comets, meteors

## **Physical: Electricity**

- Atom:  
charges, neutrons, protons, electrons
- Static electricity:  
grounding, lightning
- Electricity and Magnetism:  
magnets, poles, electromagnets, batteries
- Current electricity: circuits: simple, series, and parallel conductors/ insulators

## **Social Studies**

In grades **5-8**, students build upon K-4 foundational content. Through instruction in U.S. History and World History/Global Studies, students begin to analyze the implications of government structures and economic policies for individuals, communities, nations, and global relationships. The study of migratory patterns and belief systems that in the past led to cooperation and conflict among groups of people enable students to realize the significance of cultural transmission in today's global society. Relevant activities that help students connect content knowledge to current issues and that promote service learning empower students to become civic-minded and socially active.

Historical Time Periods-

- Era Three Worlds Meet (Beginning to 1620)
- Era Colonization and Settlement (1585-1763)
- Era Revolution and the New Nation (1754-1820s)
- Era Expansion and Reform (1801-1861)
- Era Civil War and Reconstruction (1850-1877)

## **World Language**

Introduction to World Languages

The Introduction to World Languages class was designed to expose students to a review of the Spanish language with an introduction to the new languages of French and German. The use of various forms of technology, visuals, flashcards, and cultural activities will be a major part of this meaningful communicative experience. The process of assessing the students includes oral weekly evaluations of each unit and a written assessment after the completion of each language. This course will also enable the students to make a well informed choice of language for future study.

## **Talented and Gifted (TAG) Program Grades 4-5**

The program strand is designed to challenge our gifted learners with relevant activities to meet their academic needs. Identified students in these grades are invited *to* participate in weekly pull-out classes. Students are engaged in critical and creative thinking activities created to provide an emphasis on research through an in-depth study of differentiated learning strands. Learning activities focus student discovery on relationships, systems, and structures that exist

all around them. Topics are broad in scope, embracing such diverse topics as ecosystems, cultures, and engineering. Problem-based assessments draw on students to apply research and predict future trends in technology, education, and economics. The program addresses the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards as well as the national Common Core Standards at an advanced level and focuses on creative problem solving, research, critical thinking skills, communication skills, and leadership skills within a highly engaging format.