

The Fifth Grade Curriculum

Religion:

Fifth grade religion series delves into the basic tenants of the Christian faith. Interactive lessons provide insight and application into the Ten Commandments and Lord's Prayer. Students hear how God makes himself personally known to us in the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion. The "One in Christ" curriculum is designed to share the Word and Promises of God so children develop a personal relationship with God, seeking His guidance and forgiving love in Christ. Students see themselves as reconciled, redeemed children of God and vital members of the body of Christ, the Church. Christian principles of repentance and forgiveness are explored as students interact with one another.

Language Arts:

The Fifth grade reading program provides a comprehensive approach to the study of literature and vocabulary development. We use a theme-based anthology text. Students enhance classroom reading assignments with work in the Accelerated Reader program. Through Language Arts lessons, students will learn:

- Language: Practice usage, mechanics, spelling, definition, pronunciation, sentence structure
- Communication: Develop listening skills, basic speaking skills
- Writing: Write for a variety of purposes to different audiences; write in various modes and genres, resources for the six steps of the writing process
- Research: Identify and narrow a topic, gather information from a variety of sources, present research results in a written report
- Logic: Enhance thoughtful reasoning, make inferences and draw conclusions, apply logic skills
- Informational Text: Comprehend informational text, recognize the different features of informational texts (e.g., separate text boxes, diagrams, captions, charts, graphs)
- Media: Recognize that media can be a source of information and/or entertainment, use media to publish and present information
- Literature: Develop comprehension strategies before, during, and after reading; review various literary genres and their characteristics, define basic literary terms (e.g., setting, point of view, simile, metaphor, rhythm)

Handwriting:

Grade 5 students focus on maintaining their manuscript and cursive handwriting skills as they become fluent writers.

Mathematics:

During fifth grade, students will:

- Develop an understanding of multiplication and division of whole numbers and the ability to calculate fluently.
- Find the prime factorization of whole numbers less than 50 and express them in exponential notation.
- Understand the relationship between fractions, decimals, and percentages and use fractions to describe division statements.
- Perform basic computations with fractions, mixed numbers, and whole numbers using models and strategies.
- Write, interpret, and use ratios; find equivalent ratios.
- Know and convert among measurement units (length, area, volume, weight, and time)
- Find the area of geometric shapes using formulas and partitioning.
- Understand the concept of volume.
- Know the different types and characteristics of angles including how to measure them with a protractor.
- Construct and interpret line graphs.
- Find and interpret range, mean, median, and mode for a given set of data.

SCIENCE:

The science program develops concepts through inquiry, observation and investigation. Students master basic science principles using a hands-on discovery approach. Students develop an understanding of how God designed the human body to sustain life via organ systems. They design and create dioramas to depict the habitat of an imaginary animal and its niche in the ecosystem. We examine both rapid (volcanoes, earthquakes) and slow (weathering, erosion) geologic processes. Students learn basic astronomy, exploring space and learning about stars and constellations. Our study continues with a discussion of matter, the atomic model, and phases of matter (gas, liquid, solid). Students use physical and chemical properties to identify mystery substances. We finish the year with a look at the impact of technology on our lives.

SOCIAL STUDIES:

The Fifth grade social studies curriculum takes a chronological look at the history of America, beginning with a study of American Indian cultures and continuing through the arrival of European settlers, colonization, the French and Indian War, events leading up to the Declaration of Independence, the American Revolution, founding of our government and the United States Constitution, and finally the Civil War. Throughout the curriculum, students gain an understanding of the many cultures and ethnicities involved in creating the great country we live in today. Students learn to appreciate and value all people regardless of race or nationality. A highlight of the year is a close look at the inner workings of our government on a field trip to Washington DC.

FIFTH GRADE HIGHLIGHTS

- Students participate in school-wide Science or Social Studies Fair each year.
- Field Trips (i.e., National Aquarium in Baltimore, National Museum of the American Indian, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Fort McKinley, Mount Vernon, Williamsburg, Jamestown, and Yorktown.
- Service Projects
- Fifth Grade Students participate in Junior Choir
- Students become proficient with recorder and hand chimes

FOURTH GRADE CURRICULUM

RELIGION:

Fourth grade religion series presents the stories of the Old Testament focusing on the hand of God at work in the lives of His people to accomplish His will. Students read about heroes of the Bible, their struggles and triumphs, and how God used their strengths and weaknesses to accomplish miraculous things. Lessons apply these concepts to the lives of students who begin to discover how God is preparing them to be of service to Himself and others. The “**One in Christ**” curriculum is designed to share the Word and Promises of God so children develop a personal relationship with God and seek His guidance and forgiving love in Christ. Students see themselves as reconciled, redeemed children of God and vital members of the body of Christ, the Church. Christian principles of repentance and forgiveness are explored as students interact with one another.

READING/LANGUAGE ARTS:

The fourth grade reading program provides a comprehensive approach to the study of literature and vocabulary development. We use a theme-based anthology text. Students enhance classroom reading assignments with work in the Accelerated Reader program. Through Language Arts lessons, student will:

- Language: Practice usage, mechanics, spelling, definition, pronunciation, sentence structure
- Communication: Develop listening skills, basic speaking skills
- Writing: Write for a variety of purposes to different audiences; write in various modes and genres, resources for the six steps of the writing process
- Research: Identify and narrow a topic, gather information from a variety of sources, present research results in a written report
- Logic: Enhance thoughtful reasoning, make inferences and draw conclusions, apply logic skills
- Informational Text: Comprehend informational text, recognize the different features of informational texts (e.g., separate text boxes, diagrams, captions, charts, graphs)
- Media: Recognize that media can be a source of information and/or entertainment, use media to publish and present information
- Literature: Develop comprehension strategies before, during, and after reading; review various literary genres and their characteristics, define basic literary terms (e.g., setting, point of view, simile, metaphor, rhythm)

HANDWRITING:

Grade 4 students work on mastering cursive handwriting. Through self-evaluation, students improve their speed and fluency while gaining automaticity in handwriting.

MATHEMATICS:

During fourth grade, students will develop skills in the following areas of mathematics:

- Count, read, write, and compare numbers using word form, expanded form, and standard form. Students will demonstrate an understanding of decimal place values for tenths and hundredth as well as whole numbers to the billions.
- Determine factors and multiples of numbers and understand their relationships to multiplication and division, prime and composite numbers.
- Multiply whole number by single and double digit numbers.
- Divide numbers up to four digits by one-digit numbers and by 10.
- Read, interpret and compare decimals with up to 2 decimal places.
- Locate and compare fractions and decimals on the number line, including improper fractions and mixed numbers with denominators of 12 or less.
- Understand fractions as parts of sets of objects and do basic operations with fractions and decimal fractions.
- Measure using common tools, benchmarks and appropriate units.

- Understand the meaning of perimeter and area; using formulas, calculate the perimeter and area of rectangular shapes.
- Identify and use basic two- and three-dimensional geometric shapes and their properties (including symmetries) to solve problems.
- Record, read and interpret data in tables and bar graphs, and order the data to determine the median and range.

SCIENCE:

The science program develops concepts through inquiry, observation and investigation. Students master basic science principles using a hands-on discovery approach. Students learn to appreciate the impact of climate and geography on local flora and fauna. They are encouraged to live out the environmental stewardship commissioned to us all in Genesis through the study of renewable and non-renewable resources and methods of conservation. Additional topics covered in fourth grade include cells as the basis of life; food chains and webs, Earth's structure; characteristics of heavenly bodies (planets, stars, moons, asteroids, comets, etc.); and an introduction to matter, atomic models, and physical vs. chemical properties.

SOCIAL STUDIES:

Fourth Grade Social studies takes a comprehensive look at the five different regions of the United States. In each region, students learn the connections between local geographic features and the types of industries that develop. They explore the beauty, abundance, and wide variety of natural resources across our land and learn how our government has worked to best use, conserve and preserve these resources. During our study of the states, students create a PowerPoint presentation identifying the state capitals, birds, flowers, mottos, economies, and major attractions.

FOURTH GRADE

- Students participate in school-wide Science or Social Studies Fair each year.
- Field Trips (i.e., Smithsonian Museums, Sharpe's Farm, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Maryland Science Center, Annapolis, and Philadelphia.)
- Service Projects
- Fourth Grade Students participate in Junior Choir
- Students become proficient with recorder and hand chimes
- Rollercoaster construction to study energy and motion