



Lower School - 5th Grade Overview

Fifth grade is a time for students to take an active role in their learning and assume leadership roles in the Lower School. In the classroom, students are challenged with more in-depth critical thinking assignments and real world problem solving activities. In fifth grade, technology is integrated into all subjects. The St. George ambassador program gives students opportunities to serve God, the school community and peers. This concept of serving others is reinforced in our daily advisory program that arms students with the ability to be empathic and build positive relationships with others.

Reading and Vocabulary: As fifth graders tackle more complex text, they are constantly building their vocabulary. *Vocabulary Through Morphemes* is designed to increase student vocabulary. Instruction focuses on developing reading fluency, increasing reading comprehension, improving critical reading and media literacy, and refining listening, speaking and writing skills. The reading curriculum focuses on a variety of texts and genres and integrates with the social studies and science curriculums. Strategies are taught through the study of classroom novels, the use of literature circles, and current event magazines. Self-selected reading is incorporated through SSR time and reading responses, as well as homework. Culminating activities provide opportunities to use higher order thinking skills, create collaborative presentations, and to engage in the writing process in response to reading.

English Language Arts - Grammar and Writing: The grammar program is centered on the *Shurley English* curriculum which covers a wide set of fundamental and foundational objectives including the eight parts of speech, sentence types, sentence structure, capitalization, reference, usage, punctuation, and figures of speech. The fifth grade writing curriculum is designed to develop writing skills in both formal and informal settings such as narratives, autobiographies, original poems, formal and informal letters, persuasive texts, imaginative stories, and responses to reading. Students use the writing process to revise and edit their works. Students practice mechanics in formal assignments and “real life” writing. Students also develop research skills and oral presentation techniques through a variety of projects and activities.

Math: Students in fifth grade participate in engaging math lessons designed to motivate, support, and equip students to be successful and enthusiastic problem-solvers. The *Dimensions Math* program uses a concrete-pictorial-abstract lesson structure that allows students to view the same concepts over time with increasing levels of abstraction. Fifth grade math concepts include whole numbers, writing and evaluating expressions, multiplication, division, fractions, measurement, volume, decimals, geometry, data analysis and graphs, ratios, rates, and percentages. The use of manipulatives, models, hands-on investigations, games, response activities, and guided math stations create an enriching environment that nurtures the development of confident and determined mathematicians. Extra practice and extension activities, including online applications, encourage students to persevere through challenging problems.

Science: The fifth grade science curriculum offers a comprehensive and rigorous hands-on approach to learning. Building a strong science foundation for students allows for genuine scientific extensions unique to St. George Episcopal School. We will use the learning platform, EduSmart. EduSmart provides one place for all science resources, is aligned to state standards with bite-sized instructional videos, lab simulations, interactives, and assessments. EduSmart brings science to life by using real-world examples relevant to your students' everyday experiences. It is designed to stimulate each student's sense of wonder, desire to problem-solve, and think critically. Students regularly complete experiments and hands-on investigations in the science lab. Units include matter, force, motion, energy, Earth, space, organisms and environments.

Social Studies: The *Core Knowledge* curriculum begins with United States geography and a review of map terms and symbols. Students will investigate the people, places, and history of the Renaissance using internet sites, individual projects and reports, and presentations. As the curriculum progresses, students study United States history beginning with Westward Expansion after the American Revolution, the Civil War and reconstruction, and world lakes. Students explore connections between history, geography and current events which result in critical thinking and a deeper understanding of the five components of social studies: geography, history, culture, politics, and economics. This exciting year culminates with a unit study of economics and entrepreneurship. Students create a business from pitch to production to sales and profit analysis through the school-wide trade fair, Le Marché.

Social and Emotional Development: At St. George, the social and emotional curriculum is based on the *Responsive Classroom* model, which takes a proactive approach and focuses on creating a loving and respectful classroom community where each child feels valued and known by their teachers and peers. Students participate in a daily advisory meeting. During this time, teachers work with students on a variety of social, emotional, and academic competencies such as cooperation, assertiveness, responsibility, empathy, self-control, perseverance, learning strategies and other academic behaviors. These skills are discussed and modeled frequently by children and teachers alike. This approach provides each student with the tools to grow their own emotional intelligence and learn to be successful in and out of school, while also creating an environment of connectivity and care.

Co-Curricular Classes: Students attend the following co-curricular classes: music, and science lab once a week; Spanish, art, and STEAM twice a week; physical education three times a week, and recess daily. Students also attend a developmentally appropriate chapel daily. Our 5th grade students engage with Middle School teachers for art, Spanish, and music co-curricular classes.