

Fifth Grade Overview

Fifth grade is a time for students to take active roles in their learning and to assume leadership roles in the lower school through the ambassador program. In the classroom, students are challenged with more in depth critical thinking assignments and real world problem solving activities. Fifth graders become adept at using computer applications to complete assignments and projects as 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

The reading curriculum is designed to meet the standards of building vocabulary with the *Vocabulary Through Morphemes* program, 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 help students develop a love of writing 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 drafting process to edit their works and are required to exercise a full understanding of the organizational patterns of writing. Mechanics are practiced in daily work and through weekly editing exercises. Research skills, composition and organizational skills, and oral presentation techniques are developed 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 the *Koobits* and *ST Math* online applications, encourage students to persevere through challenging problems.

Science

The fifth grade science curriculum offers a rigorous hands-on approach to learning and uses *EduSmart Science* as a foundation. Students experience the adventure of discovering science through inquiry-based activities, project-based learning assignments, laboratory investigations, and STEAM projects. The program engages students in four strands of science proficiency and

develops strong foundations in content and skills in four major areas of science: matter; force, motion, and energy; earth and space; and organisms and environments. From investigating the periodic table to debating energy resources, students gain an understanding of scientific principles, important contributions, and the world around them. Fifth graders apply the scientific method throughout the year as they conduct investigations and experiments in the school's science lab.

Social Studies

The *Core Knowledge* curriculum begins with a study of 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. Connections between history, geography and current events will be explored as a means of challenging students to think critically and more deeply about the five components of social studies: geography, history, culture, politics, and economics. After a unit study of economics and entrepreneurship, students form student-driven businesses, develop business plans, pitch products at a "shark-tank" type event, prepare market analyses, order supplies, manufacture products, and man sales booths at 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 a developmentally appropriate chapel daily. They also regularly attend the following co-curricular classes: art, library, music, Spanish, STEAM, technology, and physical education.