



MANHEIM TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

GRADE FIVE
CURRICULUM SUMMARY

LANDIS RUN INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

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Our Mission: Nurture and Challenge for Success.

INTRODUCTION TO FIFTH GRADE CURRICULUM

This curriculum guide provides an overview for students and parents of the courses designed for all fifth grade students within the Manheim Township School District. In carrying out the mission of our school district, fifth grade becomes an important transition year where students expand their knowledge and skills through a team approach.

Every fifth grader becomes a member of a section on a team within a school that brings together all same- grade students in the district for the first time in their educational career. Students receive instruction in art, music, content applications, and physical education.

This booklet will help to explain what fifth graders will be learning during this first year of intermediate education. While the curriculum standards and content areas are the same for all fifth graders, each team and each teacher deliver the curriculum through a variety of instructional strategies and creative approaches in order to educate our students, who learn in a variety of ways.

Core Subjects

LANGUAGE ARTS

The fifth grade language arts curriculum focuses on the integration of reading and writing skill development within a double-block period. Based upon the five components of reading (Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Fluency, Comprehension, Vocabulary), language arts will be taught through a comprehensive approach to literacy consisting of Explicit Instruction, Small Group Instruction, Independent Reading and Read Aloud.

Using a variety of engaging fiction and non-fiction selections as springboards to learning, essential reading and writing skills and strategies are introduced, practiced, and applied within whole-class and small-group settings. Specific focus is given to phonics, fluency, comprehension, vocabulary development, the writing process and writing genres, grammar, and spelling. Additionally, students are challenged to develop higher-level thinking processes such as analyzing, inferring, and synthesizing information.

Language Arts instruction is supported by Harcourt StoryTown, Write Source, novels, and other high-interest texts, all of which are used to help expand students' awareness of and interest in the many different kinds of genres they encounter in their world. For those students identified

as non-proficient in reading based on multiple measures of fourth grade data, more targeted interventions will occur within the classroom environment in order to maximize learning.

SOCIAL STUDIES

European exploration and early American history are the focus of the fifth grade Social Studies curriculum. The course will focus specifically on European exploration and the historical context and impact of it, Colonial America, The American Revolution and the political, economic, and social shifts that resulted. Students will study and demonstrate their growth in the knowledge of the peoples, culture, history, geography and economy of early America. Map Skills are integrated into the social studies curriculum with a variety of relevant sources. Students will keep abreast of current events and develop skills related to the analysis of primary and secondary sources. Emphasis will be placed on the development of critical thinking skills necessary for the broader understanding of the social sciences.

In addition, students will participate in the Junior Achievement BizTown program, which will provide “first-hand experiences in economics and entrepreneurship that will help them comprehend our free enterprise system and their roles, responsibilities, and opportunities within it.” Ultimately, the students will learn first-hand, the skills needed in the areas of business development, management and supervision, city government and personal money management so they may have a basic understanding of future roles in the workplace. The program is designed to place children in authentic situations in which they engage in real-time collaborative problem solving through a wide range of integrated tasks in economics, governance and career exploration.

Humanities Approach

In fifth grade, the study of language arts and social studies is integrated where possible. There are natural connections between the two disciplines in terms of both skill development and content. The integrated approach will allow for a deeper and comprehensive understanding that expands beyond a single subject.

MATHEMATICS

The main objectives of fifth grade mathematics are for students to develop their mathematical reasoning and problem solving abilities, to become proficient in the use of mathematical tools and computation, to explore and discover mathematical ideas in cooperation with others, and to make connections between mathematics and the real world. The content includes the place value system; all four operations with whole numbers, decimals, and fractions; numerical

expressions and patterns; the coordinate plane; two-dimensional figures; measurement conversions; representing and interpreting data; and volume.

Our district fifth grade math curriculum is based upon the Pennsylvania Core Standards. All students utilize the My Math and Math Connects programs. Activities and investigations are carefully selected to allow students to explore and develop a conceptual understanding of the mathematical content. This is followed by guided and independent practice of applying this understanding in many different contexts. All students have access in school and at home to IXL, an online program that allows students to practice the math concepts that they are learning in class.

Flexible grouping will be used to determine class makeup with students being tested at the beginning of each marking period. The goal is to place students in a math environment that will allow them to reach their fullest potential as they master the fifth grade mathematics content.

SCIENCE

Fifth graders will be both challenged and engaged through hands-on investigations in three main areas of science. Activities and design challenges will foster students' understanding of both the nature of scientific inquiry and meaningful science content about the world in which they live.

The three main units of study are:

- Life Science (How organisms live, grow, respond and interact within ecosystems)
- Earth and Space Science (Earth's place in the universe and in the solar system, Earth systems, weather, human interactions)
- Physical Science (properties, interactions and conservation of matter, matter, and gravity)

Related Area Subjects

ART

Through reading, writing, discussion and studio experiences in the fifth grade art room, students experience the creative process and use higher order thinking skills. Classes increase a student's broad base of art knowledge to include:

1. Aesthetics: an understanding and appreciation of the arts;

2. Art appreciation, criticism, and history: familiarity with various artists and art periods, an expanded art vocabulary, and the art of different cultures through correlation with other fifth grade curriculum subjects;
3. Studio experiences: use of critical thinking skills while experiencing the creative process. The techniques of drawing and shading, painting and color-mixing, printmaking and handbuilding with clay will be explored.

Students gain a measure of themselves that comes through the hard work of concentration and dedication it takes to make a work of art. They learn to solve problems, make decisions, develop informed perceptions, build skills in cooperation, and use their imaginations. They learn to weigh meaning and evaluate what is seen. Most importantly, students appreciate and begin to understand differences in culture and cultural values.

MUSIC

In the music classroom fifth grade students study, rhythm and steady beat, melody and vocal skills, melody and pitch identification, note identification, instruments, movement, listening, expressive elements, and form. Throughout the course, fifth graders are exposed to a broad array of musical styles other than the popular music of the day.

Three performing groups offer fifth graders an opportunity to develop their musical talents: the fifth grade band, the fifth grade chorus, and the fifth grade orchestra. These groups rehearse twice a week during REM periods. Students who play Band and/or String instruments receive small group instruction once a week during sectionals on a rotating schedule. One public concert is scheduled during the school year for fifth grade band and fifth grade orchestra, while fifth grade chorus performs twice. Occasionally, there are additional opportunities to perform in the community.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The physical education curriculum for the 5th and 6th grades seeks to accomplish the following objectives: to improve each student's proficiency and the level of skill progression in many of the physical activities previously learned (i.e. throwing/catching, striking/kicking, locomotor movements, and physical fitness and conditioning skills); to expose the students to a wider variety of physical activities that revolve around team sports and games (i.e. football, volleyball, lacrosse, handball, baseball, and racquet sports that can include pickleball and badminton); to develop teamwork and leadership skills through a variety of organized games, team challenges and sport game play; to develop an understanding of basic fitness/wellness concepts and principles; and to demonstrate an appreciation of personal fitness and wellness through a lifestyle of regular physical activity and other healthy choices. The 5th and 6th health curriculum

is designed to teach students about the different areas of Health (Physical Activity, Social and Emotional, Mental, Environmental, Nutrition, Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco, Growth and Development, Injury Prevention and Safety, Consumer and Community, and Disease). The goal is for students to understand how this knowledge will help them make informed decisions about their own health, and how to establish lifelong healthy habits.

LIBRARY

With information literacy as a hub, students will use problem solving/ inquiry process and 21st century skills. Students will complete projects connecting to grade level content. As digital citizens, students will explore issues related to: safety and security and ethics and community (digital reputation, responsibility as citizen and resource evaluation.) Students will participate in regularly scheduled book exchanges.

STEM

The STEM course has been designed to give students hands-on experiences through the interdisciplinary study of science, technology, engineering, and math. Students will think critically and creatively through engineering challenges, technology innovation, coding, and robotics. The focus of the STEM program is maintaining a growth mindset and putting effort above everything else. Students will be given the chance to demonstrate this mindset as they work through challenges using open-ended exploration and the STEM design process. They will communicate and work collaboratively to come up with solutions to problems that do not necessarily have one correct answer, setting themselves up with skills that will benefit them far beyond the classroom walls.