

## **Fifth Grade Teachers**

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## **Grade Five Web News**

The fifth grade team is comprised of approximately 85 students.

Fifth grade content is taught in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and Humanities (English/language arts and social studies) blocks. This cross-curricular approach facilitates a rigorous learning experience for students with a goal of career readiness.

Math takes students from the point they were brought to last year, and continues to extend and broaden their mathematical base. The addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, decimals, and fractions are familiar fixtures, but they will take on an additional dimension as the students delve deeper into the concepts to learn more. All of these facts and concepts are expected to be mastered and used with logical reasoning processes in problem solving. A constant review of facts is helpful in a student's understanding of math.

Science is more of a "hands-on" experience for students. In the Earth Science units, the students find out through their own investigations the value and use of the "dirt" under their feet. Students also study astronomy and our environment. They are given the opportunity for scientific research. We are looking forward to the investigations in these areas.

A variety of learning activities are offered in fifth grade, all grounded in a foundation of basic skills and knowledge. In ILA we continue to develop those skills and knowledge in spelling, writing, language, and reading while encouraging students to develop an enjoyment in their reading and writing. This is done by asking students to read chapter books in a variety of styles such as historical fiction, realistic fiction, mystery, fantasy, and adventure. Students study the elements of reading and then use the elements in their writing. The three main types of writing expected of students are writing to persuade, writing to inform, and writing for literary expression.

The fifth grade social studies curriculum gives the students an opportunity to explore many topics. The students learn about the Revolutionary period through 1790 and democratic government. The "History Alive" text is used which includes many hands-on lessons as well as student collaboration and discussion. This program also includes an online tutorial which gives students extra support at home and in the classroom.

We intersperse the students' busy days with special activities throughout the year to help pull the classes together as a learning unit. These activities may range from things such as get acquainted activities at the beginning of the year to their promotion ceremony at the end of the year. In between activities may include class projects, being reading buddies to first grade, and field trips.

As you can see, the days of a fifth grader are quite busy and flow quickly. Each student is a unique individual, and it is a privilege to help parents with the molding and shaping of their lives. We are proud to be part of each student's growth in fifth grade!