

Fifth Grade Curriculum Highlights

Concord Elementary



Math

Everyday Mathematics

This year fifth graders will be continuing with the Everyday Math series. The program is challenging and offers a variety of hands-on activities. Edina's district Math objectives will continue to be the focus of the math program i.e. multiplication and division, fractions, estimation, problem solving, place value, geometry concepts and constructions, probability, etc. In general, there will be math homework every night.

Math Facts

It is very important that students know their basic math facts for all four operations! They are expected to do 30 problems in one minute with 90% accuracy. Although some class time will be spent on drill, students who have not yet mastered their math facts, especially multiplication and division through 9, must spend time at home learning them.

Enrichment

For students who enjoy mathematical challenges, enrichment is available. This can be arranged with the student, teacher, and a resource teacher.

Language Arts

Reading

There are several aspects of the Reading program: trade books, book reports, skill building, and read-a-louds. We will be reading out of our classroom text as well as other leveled reading books. We will be practicing reading strategies such as questioning, summarizing, clarifying and predicting.

Trade Books

Students will be reading various trade books during the Fifth Grade school year. These books will be read individually, in small groups, in whole group, or during class read-aloud time. In most cases, students will read books that are "just right" for their individual reading level. It is important that students are reading books that aren't too easy or too challenging for their particular reading level.

Book Reports

Students will read a variety of genres to fulfill book report requirements. Book BINGO is an independent reading program that requires students to read at least four books or differing genres each trimester. More details will be given in classrooms.

Silent Reading

As appropriate, students will read independently in class. This is a chance for students to read books of their choice that they enjoy. This is also an opportunity for students to read their book report book. In addition to this in class reading, students should read a minimum of twenty minutes at home each night.

Read-aloud

Throughout the year, teachers will be reading aloud to the students. Research shows that it is beneficial to read aloud to students of all ages. This process builds comprehension, fluency, and listening skills.

Skills

Reading skills will be developed throughout reading class as well as across the curriculum. Skills include but are not limited to comprehension, main idea, prefixes, suffixes, context clues, and figurative language.

Spelling

Weekly pre and post spelling tests will be given. Students who qualify will have an opportunity each week to take a Challenge List. Spelling lists will be posted on the 5th grade team websites as well as teacher websites.

Me Books

We will be making Me Books this year as part of the language arts curriculum. Each assignment includes a language arts skill, and each topic will address biographical topics from the children's experiences. Examples of assignments include *First Grade Memories*, *Happiest Moment*, and *Words of Advice*.

Research Papers

Students will use research skills to write reports related to the curriculum. Research will be integrated with traditional textbooks and technology.

Social Studies

The Fifth Grade Social Studies curriculum covers American History from exploration and colonization to the Revolutionary War, and the writing of the Constitution. The text will be supplemented by a variety of integrated learning activities, which blend language arts into the history program. Children will role play reenactments of the lives of explorers and colonists, read literature with historical fiction settings and themes, and conduct research to gather information for their own writings including journals, news stories and factual reports about the people, places, and events that comprise our American heritage.

What a fun and exciting year we have planned in Social Studies!

Science/Health

FOSS (Full Option Science System) kits are the heart of our Science curriculum. They provide students with science experiences that are appropriate to their cognitive stages of development and serve as a foundation for more advanced ideas that prepare them for life in an increasingly complex scientific and technological world. Edina's district Science objectives, as in Math, will be the focus of the program. The district's required units will be in the following areas:

- Mixtures and Solutions
- Environments
- Variables
- Levers and Pulleys
- Family Life

Activities

Field Trips/Events

There will be several fifth grade field trips and events this year. General times follow and further details and dates will be forthcoming.

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Discipline</u>
MAPs*	September	Reading and Math
Richardson Nature Center	October/April	Science
Kindness Retreat	November	ICCCAR
Colonial Village Projects	November/December	Social Studies
Winter Party	December	

MCA*s*	April and May	Reading and Math
Science Museum	March	Science
State Capitol/Sibley House	May	Social Studies
Southview Orientation	May	
End of the Year Party	June	
Fifth Grade Graduation	June	

***Testing**

MAPs (Measure of Academic Progress) are district tests used to show achievement levels as well as academic growth. MCAs (Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments) are state tests given in the areas of reading and math.

Class Parties

Fifth graders participate in two parties each year, a winter party and an end of the year party. The winter party is organized as individual classroom room parents. The end of the year party is an all fifth-grade party. Details will be forthcoming.

Graduation

There will be a graduation ceremony for fifth graders on the afternoon of the last day of school.

Miscellaneous

Behavior

Basic school rules will be followed in the classroom.

- ✚ Be kind to others,
- ✚ Be safe
- ✚ Listen
- ✚ Follow directions
- ✚ Care for property.

Technology

Technology skills will be integrated throughout the curriculum. Examples include keyboarding, word processing, Kidspiration, Excel, Internet, iMovie, PowerPoint, etc.

Communication

You can contact your teacher by phone, e-mail or by sending notes with your child. We want to keep in close contact with you so that we can best meet the needs of your student.



Hopes and Dreams

*Create a vision of who you want to be, and then live into that picture,
as if it were already true.*

Arnold Schwarzenegger

This year you will hear a lot about your child's Hopes and Dreams. In fifth grade at Concord Elementary we begin the year asking the students what their hopes and dreams are for the school year. It is important to hear what parents see as Hopes and Dreams for their children as well. Please take some time to think about what you would Hope and Dream for your child in this last year in Elementary School.

Using the students Hopes and Dreams for the school year we will set the expectations and rules for our classroom. This approach to creating a set of classroom expectations and rules allows the students to feel ownership for their responsibilities in the classroom, in the school, and to each other. These expectations will be posted in our classroom throughout the year and will allow us to successfully make our Hopes and Dreams come true!

Once our class has established our expectations and rules we will implement a program called “**Choice Time.**” Choice Time is extra time given to students who have followed our classroom expectations and rules. A student will be allowed to participate in Choice Time if they do not sign the classroom clipboard three or more times in one week. The clipboard is simply a tool to record what expectation was not followed. If a student signs the clipboard three or more times, their choice will be to attend a Study Hall instead of choice activity. Each week the student has another chance to make Choice Time.

Choice Time takes place from 2:45 – 3:05 on Friday afternoons and the students have a choice to be outside or stay inside.

Please be in conversation with your child around classroom expectations, homework responsibilities and their successes or challenges in attending Free Choice Time. Thanks for your support!

"It's not where you start but where you finish that counts."

