Parent Guide to Your Child's Fifth Grade Program

Christian Learner/Social Emotional Learner

Christian Learners/Social and Emotional Learners possess skills and attitudes that are the foundation of learning. Our thinking, approach and actions should show everyone we are Christians. Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) assists students to gain and apply knowledge, attitudes and skills to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships and make responsible decisions. The tenets of Christian living and SEL competencies support the individual throughout life. Acting as Jesus would want us to act is the goal of everyone in our Catholic school community- teachers, parents, students, staff, principals and pastors. The skills learned through understanding, adopting and practicing social and emotional competencies and the values of our Christian faith will help ensure your children have a fulfilling life. So, welcome to our Catholic school. We are pleased to partner with you in the education of your children. We promise our prayer and support, and we ask for yours. We trust Jesus to bless the education we offer in His name.

Religion

By the time a child is in fifth grade, his or her self-identity and conscience formation are greatly influenced by those he or she admires. This is an awesome challenge for parents and teachers. Your child will continue to delve deeper into the four pillars of the Catholic faith: Creed, Sacraments, Christian Life, and Prayer.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 5th Grade

- The purpose of a Christian's life and the call to be stewards of God's creation
- The mystery of the Trinity as the core of our faith
- The seven sacraments as sacred pledges: sacraments of initiation, sacraments of service, sacraments of healing
- The call to be disciples, to respect and protect life, to live in right relationship
- Jesus, model of prayer
- The kinds and types of prayer: meditation, the Angelus, Regina Coeli, Hail Holy Queen, and Act of Faith, Hope, and Love.

English Language Arts & Literacy

In fifth grade, your child will read widely and deeply from a range of high-quality, increasingly challenging fiction and nonfiction from diverse cultures and time periods. Building knowledge about subjects through research projects and responding analytically to literary and informational sources will be key to your child's continuing success. Your child will write stories or essays that are several paragraphs long. By devoting significant time and effort to producing numerous written pieces over short and extended timeframes throughout the year, he or she also will gain control over many conventions of grammar, usage, and punctuation as well as learn ways to make himself or herself understood.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 5th Grade

- Summarizing the key details of stories, dramas, poems, and nonfiction materials, including their themes or main ideas

- Identifying and judging evidence that supports particular ideas in an author's argument to change a reader's point of view
- Integrating information from several print and digital sources to answer questions and solve problems
- Writing opinions that offer reasoned arguments and provide facts and examples that are logically grouped to support the writer's point of view
- Writing stories, real or imaginary, that unfold naturally and developing the plot with dialogue, description, and effective pacing of the action
- Coming to classroom discussions prepared, then engaging fully and thoughtfully with others (e.g., contributing accurate, relevant information; elaborating on the remarks of others; synthesizing ideas)
- Reporting on a topic or presenting an opinion with his or her own words, a logical sequence of ideas, sufficient facts and details, and formal English when appropriate
- Expanding, combining, and reducing sentences to improve meaning, interest, and style of writing
- Building knowledge of academic words with an emphasis on those that signal a contrast in ideas or logical relationships: such as, on the other hand, similarly, and therefore
- Producing writing on the computer

Mathematics

Fifth grade is a milestone and a pivot point for students. The classroom focus on arithmetic during the elementary grades will develop into a more formal study of algebra in middle school. To be ready for algebra, students must have an understanding of fractional arithmetic, in part because even simple equations cannot be solved without fractions. Because of this, whole-number arithmetic comes mostly to a close in fifth grade, while multiplying and dividing fractions becomes a major focus.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 5th Grade

- Adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators (e.g., 21⁄4 - 11⁄3), and solving word problems of this kind
- Multiplying fractions; dividing fractions in simple cases; and solving related word problems (e.g., finding the area of a rectangle with fractional side lengths; determining how many 1⁄3-cup servings are in 2 cups of raisins; determining the size of a share if 9 people share a 50-pound sack of rice equally or if 3 people share 1⁄2 pound of chocolate equally)
- Generalizing the place-value system to include decimals, and calculating with decimals to the hundredths place (two places after the decimal)
- Multiplying whole numbers quickly and accurately, for example 1,638 × 753, and dividing whole numbers in simple cases, such as dividing 6,971 by 63
- Understanding the concept of volume, and solving word problems that involve volume
- Graphing points in the coordinate plane (two dimensions) to solve problems
- Analyzing mathematical patterns and relationships

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Science

In grade five your child will utilize previous scientific tools with understanding and ease and will be gradually introduced to more advanced one to measure, find volume, estimate weather elements, etc. Likewise, more emphasis will begin to be placed on source of research for information, reporting mechanism, ways to organize data and illustrations to accompany their scientific learning and application.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 5th Grade

- Identify and observe the properties of matter in their 3 states: solid, liquid and gas
- Measure and graph what happens to a state of matter as it is heated, cooled or mixed with another
- Observe and distinguish a physical change and a chemical change
- Observe how matter and energy flow (primarily through food) is used for body repair and maintenance
- Identify the interdependence in an ecosystem of the plants and animals in that system
- Define characteristics of the geosphere (soil, etc.), hydrosphere (water, etc.), biosphere (living things) and how they interact
- Investigate the solar system, the earth in relationship to moon, sun, stars and the rest of the universe

Social Studies

In grade five your child will be challenged to utilize the sub-disciplines of social studies as they apply them to and study the Western Hemisphere. A strong focus will be their own country, the United States. In addition, they will study Canada as well as Central and South America. Your child will continue to learn research skills and ways to record and communicate the connections and interdependence among the sub-disciplines. This will be done in particular from the perspective of real-life application.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 5th Grade

- Recognize arguments on specific social studies topics and identify evidence to support the argument
- Employ skills to measure time not only in years and centuries but understand the difference between B.C.E. and C.E. as well as data presented in time lines
- Compare histories in different places in the Western Hemisphere, utilizing time lines
- Identify the regions in the Western Hemisphere by describing characteristics that places within it have in common
- Recognize and explain how characteristics (cultural, economic and physical-environmental) affect the history of societies in the Western Hemisphere
- Identify various types of political systems and ideologies used at various times and in various locations in the Western Hemisphere as well as the roles of individuals and key groups in these political and social systems
- Apply the sub-disciplines of geography, economics, culture, civics and history to the study of the regions of the Western Hemisphere from beginnings to current day

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Physical Education

Your fifth-grade child needs the security of being accepted by his or her peers. Dependence on peers for approval is increasing. Physical changes often sap energy, thus great bursts of energy are followed by periods of low energy. The physical education program includes development or motor skills, movement and space, and the physical activity/good health relationship. He or she will participate in activities and will show respect to himself or herself and others.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 5th Grade

- Combines traveling with manipulative skills for execution to a target (e.g., scoring in soccer, hockey land basketball)
- Throws with accuracy, both partners moving
- Dribbles with hands or feet with mature patterns in a variety of small-sided game forms
- Applies movement concepts to strategy in game situations
- Differentiates between skill-related and health-related fitness
- Engages in physical activity with responsible interpersonal behavior (e.g., peer to peer, student to teacher, student to referee)
- Exhibits respect for self and others with appropriate behavior while engaging in physical activity
- Applies safety principles with age-appropriate physical activities

Music

During fifth grade your, child will broaden his or her understanding of music and continue to improve their musical skills to perform music with appropriate interpretation and technical accuracy. Their experiences and knowledge will develop a deeper understanding of how music impacts other people, cultures and reflects other's intent.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 5th Grade

- Citing evidence and explaining how selected music connects and is influenced by specific interests and experiences
- Reading and performing music using standard notation
- Performing music alone or with others with appropriate interpretation, technical accuracy and expression
- Performing with performance decorum and etiquette

Art

In fifth grade art your child will have numerous opportunities to create original works of art, analyze other works of art using specific criteria and determine the message conveyed through art and the world around us. He or she will also become familiar with art career paths such as art curator.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 5th Grade

- Experimenting and developing skills in multiple art-making techniques and approaches through practice

- Demonstrating quality of craftsmanship through use and care of materials, tools, equipment
- Combining ideas to generate, innovative ideas for making and interpreting art by analyzing characteristics: form and structure, visual elements, use of media to identify ideas and mood of the artwork