

# Fifth Grade Curriculum Overview



## **Literacy**

Literacy provides the foundation for learning. Children learn to read in the primary grades, moving forward into the intermediate grades. The mission of the District 30 English Language Arts program is to challenge our students through effective instruction in the skills required to live and work in a 21st century global community.

The primary grades lay the foundation for learning and skill development. Each succeeding grade builds upon the achievement of students, as they become fluent readers, writers, speakers, listeners, and viewers. With texts and tasks that become increasingly sophisticated through the grades, students develop confidence and proficiency in oral and written language, comprehension, and critical thinking skills. District 30 recognizes the importance of differentiating instruction to maximize achievement for all students. Language skills are essential to furthering learning, communication, career development, and the human spirit.

The fifth grade balanced literacy curriculum includes:

- Explicit reading comprehension strategy instruction (integrating all reading strategies with an emphasis on “images”, “questioning”, “inferring”, “synthesis”)
- Reading and writing in narrative, information, and opinion genres; including personal narrative, historical research reports, essay, memoir, research-based argumentative essays
- Word work (vocabulary, spelling, and phonics)
- Grammar
- Independent reading and writing
- Small group work
- Conferences



## **Social Studies**

Social Studies is the integrated study of the social sciences to promote informed citizenship. Our curriculum is designed to tell the story of who we are as citizens of the United States and of a larger global society. As educators of 21<sup>st</sup> century learners, our job is to prepare students to be able to critically participate as active citizens with the ability to intelligently and compassionately participate in our democracy in this millennium (NCSS, Media Literacy, 2009).

Our curriculum thoughtfully integrates the disciplines of history, geography, economics, and civics to encourage young people to use inquiry to develop the ability to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good as citizens of a culturally diverse, democratic society in an increasingly interdependent world.

The theme of the 5th grade curriculum is “Our Nation, Our World”.

Units Include:

- The Age of Exploration
- A Changing Continent
- The Road to War/America Revolution
- Forming a New Government
- Human Rights

During the 2019-2020 school year, District 30 will be reviewing and revising our social studies curriculum to incorporate more inquiry and to insure alignment to the most recent research and current Illinois standards.

The District 30 curriculum is being developed in alignment with Common Core State Standards, Next Generation Science Standards and C3 Standards and has been informed by current research and best practice in the field.



### **Mathematics**

The District 30 mathematics curriculum emphasizes deep mathematical understanding and reasoning with problem solving at the center of math learning. Concepts are taught utilizing a concrete, pictorial, abstract learning progression through daily lessons, hands on activities, real-world problems, and differentiated math workshop experiences.

Mathematical thinking and fluency is embedded throughout the curriculum. Students become mathematicians engaging in a mathematical practices such as making sense of problems, persevering in solving problems, modeling mathematics, and utilizing appropriate math tools. These mathematical practices are distinct from specific content students learn because the practices are characteristics of broader behavior, rather than mastery of a single concept or idea.

The mathematical practices, skills and concepts connect and build across the grade levels. In grades K-5 students utilize Math in Focus by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt as the primary resource.

The fifth grade mathematics curriculum includes:

- Building problem-solving skills and strategies
- Multiplying and dividing with fractions, mixed numbers, and decimals
- Solving equations and evaluating inequalities
- Finding area of a triangle, and surface area and volume of three-dimensional solids
- Using ratios and percents, and finding the probability of an event
- Applying properties of angles, triangles, and quadrilaterals



### **Science**

The District 30 elementary science curriculum engages students as scientists. Students investigate questions relevant to their lives by conducting investigations; collecting and analyzing data; developing and using models to explain phenomena, and engaging in argument from evidence. Students build understanding of core ideas in science as well as understanding and use of scientific practices in earth science, life science, physical science, and engineering design.

The fifth grade science curriculum includes the following units:

- **Earth, Sun, and Stars:** In this unit students will seek evidence to support that the earth is round and the gravitational force exerted by Earth on objects is directed down. Students will also explore the brightness of the sun and stars due to their relative distances from the Earth. Lastly, students will observe patterns of daily changes in length and direction of shadows, day and night and the seasonal appearance of some stars in the night sky.
- **Structure and Properties of Matter:** This unit develops an understanding of the particle nature of matter through experiencing and explaining a variety of phenomena. Students complete a number of investigations to build understanding that all matter is made of particles. Students develop models to describe that matter is made of particles too small to be seen. Students construct and frequently revise their own model of matter. Finally, they apply their understanding of particles to explain states of matter.
- **Earth's Systems:** In this unit the students explore earth's major systems including the geosphere (solid and molten rock, soil, and sediments), the hydrosphere (water and ice), the atmosphere (air), and the biosphere (living things, including humans.) Students investigate and develop models of the interactions of the spheres.

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