

Curriculum Overview

Language Arts:

This area includes Reading, Spelling, English, and Handwriting skills. In Reading we will use basal readers and novels (trade books). Besides building on vocabulary skills, I will also incorporate summary writing and journaling activities. Some of the comprehension skills to be worked on include problem/solution, inference, cause/effect, story elements and forming generalizations. We do whole group, individual, and cooperative group work in reading also. I include in my reading program monthly book reports. Each month we will explore a different genre of literature. Students will read a book and do a written report as well as a creative activity that depicts the book they read. SRA reading labs are also incorporated into the reading program.

English includes proper sentence structure, parts of speech, mechanics and usage, dictionary skills, poetry, and writing. We will explore descriptive, persuasive, narrative, personal, and creative writing, as well as reports and proper letter writing.

Spelling is phonics based, and each list follows a specific phonetic pattern. The spelling lists correlate to stories from our reading books. Also, from time to time, I will add extra activities to their assignments, such as dictionary skills (ABC order, syllabication, etc.) and using various vocabulary enrichment activities. Workbook assignments are due every Wednesday.

Handwriting is practiced at various times during the week. Once the workbook is completed I have extra activities to continue practicing proper cursive. Final spelling tests are always done in cursive. The students will be writing in cursive on most homework assignments.

Math:

In fifth grade we will practice multiplication of 2 and 3 digit numbers, long division, fractions and decimals (this includes place value, ordering, comparing, changing from one form to another, as well as +, -, x, and division of each). We will also learn about exponents, prime/composite numbers, factorization, simplest form, and the LCM and LCD. Focusing on various problem solving strategies is also explored. We will be doing accelerated math every Friday. Most days we will begin class with either problem solving activities or timed tests in multiplication and/or division.

Religion:

We start each year off with "Family Life". Topics include family relationships, parenthood, decision making, self-esteem, friendships, and changes during adolescence. This last topic includes human reproduction and the changes that occur in boys and girls. From the religion book, we will study

prayer, the Holy Trinity, the Liturgy, the Beatitudes, selected scripture stories, and the seasons of our Catholic year. We will also practice reading and other activities from the Holy Bible, as well as various feasts and saints. Most of our work from the Bible will be from the New Testament, although some activities (search and find, puzzles, etc.) will be from the Old Testament.

Science:

The science book is separated into six units: Living Systems, Systems and Interactions in Nature, Processes that Change the Earth, The Solar System and Beyond, Building Blocks of Matter, and Energy and Motion. The scientific process of investigating is included in this program. Students will learn to outline important information from the text chapters.

Social Studies:

Early American History is the theme in 5th grade. Topics include early Native Americans, early explorers, the Revolution, the 13 Colonies, the expansion of our country westward, the Civil War, the Industrial Revolution, early immigrants, on up to the 1940's. Not all topics are covered in great detail. Many are introductions to when and why events occurred. Our class uses the periodical Scholastic News. This is a magazine that focuses on current events. There is usually an assignment given each week with the Scholastic News.

Fifth grade also participates in the Junior Achievement program "Biztown". This program covers the concepts of government, laws, and economics.

Special projects and/or research reports are assigned throughout the year in either Science or Social Studies.