

FIFTH GRADE CURRICULUM GUIDE

RELIGION – The Spirit of Truth Program

Students will explore in-depth the gift of God’s grace in the Sacraments. Sacraments: what they are and why Jesus instituted them; form, matter, history, celebration, and effects of each Sacrament.

- The meaning of God as the source of life
- The Holy Mass and Holy Days of Obligation.
- Biographies of the saints, especially young saints.

READING

- Read fluently with expression.
- Apply phonetic and decoding skills in sounding out words.
- Learn and effectively apply a variety of reading strategies for comprehension.
- Visualize details of a passage.
- Categorize information.
- Clarify by asking questions.
- Recall critical details.
- Identify the purpose.
- Sequence the main idea.
- Retell source text in your own words.
- Make inferences.
- Make predictions.
- Draw conclusions.
- Identify points of view.
- State the author’s purpose.
- Focus on the development and mastery of story elements: characters, setting, plot, climax, resolution, cause and effect, compare and contrast, fact or opinion.
- Interpret a variety of literary genres. These may include fairy tales, short stories, fables, legends, tall tales, adventure stories, humorous stories, myths, mythology, fantasy, mystery, epics, historical fiction, realistic fiction, chapter books, novels, biographies, auto-biographies, expository text, and poetry.
- Determine virtue/vice learned in reading, and how to apply this to daily life.
- Memorize poetry and passages of famous speeches, and scripture

CRITICAL THINKING

- Ask questions.
- Support ideas with reference to texts or sources of information.
- Understand that some questions have more than one possible answer.



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- Revise and improve on initial answers.

GRAMMAR/ WRITING

- Mastery of all Fourth Grade grammar/writing benchmarks.
- Write a complete sentence using appropriate subject and predicate, grade level spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc.
- Identify the eight parts of speech: nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections.
- Diagram sentences.
- Write neatly in complete sentences and answer questions fully by restating the question.
- Recognize and use various types of sentences.
- Develop well-written three paragraph essays with a topic sentence and details to support that main idea.
- Implement the writing process: outlining, prewriting, revision, proofreading, and publishing.
- Types of writing developed and mastered may include personal narratives, descriptive and expository writing, comparison and contrast papers, and cause and effect papers.

MATH

- Know all math facts up to twelve with speed and accuracy.
- Determine place value to the billions.
- Decimals: tenths/hundredths/thousandths, convert decimals to mixed numbers, round, and compare.
- Fractions: reduce fractions, add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators, multiply and divide with fractions.
- Measurement (linear, mass, volume, temperature, metric, perimeter, area).
- Prime and composite numbers.
- Multiply by two digits with regrouping.
- Solve using long division.
- Solve multi-step word problems.
- Solve four step “mental math problems” using all 4 operations.
- Data Analysis, Probability, Statistics.
- Geometry (circle, angles)

HISTORY

Note-taking (creating/outlining) discussing, learning, sharing, and responding to the units regarding the communities and legends of the Ancient World (Rome, Greece, Egypt, Israel, and the Indigenous Peoples).



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SCIENCE – Nancy Larson Science Program

- Scientific reasoning and inquiry
- Earth and Space Science
 - Earth's structure
 - Weather systems and atmosphere
 - Air movements
 - oceans
- Life Science
 - Classification
 - Heredity
 - Cell structure and function
 - ecosystems
- Human Body
 - Body systems (focus on endocrine and nervous systems)
 - Diet and health
- Physical Science
 - Forces and motion
 - Energy
 - Properties of matter
 - chemistry

EVALUATIONS

- Daily Informal Assessments (teacher observation, class participation, oral quizzes, and group work).
- Biweekly quizzes in Math, weekly tests in Spelling.
- No more than two tests per day, quizzes may be unannounced at any time.
- Study guides are given for tests as needed.
- Math, Science, Social Studies, Grammar, Literature tests given approximately every two weeks for each subject.
- Tests can include multiple choice, true/false, matching, short answer and "essay" (paragraph).
- Projects are given on a regular schedule and are assigned in advance.
- Directions for projects are given in advance.
- Semester exams are given in the core areas of Religion, Math, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies.

STUDY SKILLS AND HOMEWORK

A successful fifth grader will become a self motivated learner by praising him for showing initiative towards his studies and homework. The goal is for the student to become reliable, responsible, and independent. Excellent organizational skills provide a strong foundation for success.

- Stay on task for a period of 40-45 minutes.



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- Learn to transition quickly between classes or subjects.
- Have all materials ready for each class.
- Follow all directions and instructions given by teachers.
- Ask questions, and take initiative; answer thoroughly in complete sentences.
- Write assignments in the assignment book correctly. Gather and organize necessary homework materials to take home.
- Students are expected to complete their homework independently.
- Turn in homework on the day it is due.
- Establish when and where homework is to be done. Keep supplies at hand to minimize distractions.
- Remember the SQ3R approach for comprehending material (Survey the main headings, turn the headings into a Question, then Read, Recite the answers to the question, and Review).
- Keep a home calendar with important dates and events that apply to school work: due dates, tests, specials, projects, etc.
- Keep a folder at home where important material is kept for future review in preparing for tests.
- Monitor the progress of long term assignments.
- The amount of time spent on homework is heavily dependent upon the individual student, but expect a minimum of 1 ½ hours, not including reading and reviewing.
- Classes include Religion, Math, Writing, Grammar, Spelling, Reading, Science, and Social Studies.

SPECIALS

- Latin and the Roots of English – 2 time per week
- PE – 2 times per week
- Art – 2 times per week for 1 semester
- Music – 2 times per week for 1 semester
- Library – 1 time per week
- Media Arts - 1 time per week

TIPS FOR PARENTS

Parents should be available to assist their child when questions arise. However, it is very important children develop strong, independent work and study skills as the year progresses. Parents are reminded that when students make a mistake, this is an opportunity to learn. School work is the child's responsibility and a vehicle for growth and maturity. These are gradual processes, and patience and support will prove to be invaluable tools.

Allow your child to take on personal responsibilities with a set structure at home, and accept the rewards and consequences for their actions (packing backpack and placing it in the same location, packing lunches and snacks, putting assignments into the correct school folders, returning library books on the assigned days, laying out the uniform for school before bedtime, and setting their own alarm).





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- Class begins promptly at 8:05 a.m. Arrive at least fifteen minutes early to provide adequate time for your child to prepare for their day (unpack backpack and lunch, turn in homework, organize books, copy assignments, complete morning seatwork, etc.).
- Avoid walking your child to their classroom after the first week of school, unless they need assistance carrying something heavy or awkward.
- In terms of discipline, please support the efforts of the teacher. If you disagree with the teacher's discipline measure, please discuss this with the teacher. Disagreeing with the teacher in front of your child may undermine the teacher's authority.
- Above and beyond homework, it is extremely important to drill math facts with your child until answers are accurate and automatic.
- When reading to or with your child, stop and ask questions about what they read, and ask them to predict what they think will happen next. Ask about lessons learned from the stories you read which helps to promote active thinkers not passive listeners.
- Selectively minimize television and the use of electronics, especially on school days. Always be mindful of what your child is viewing. Promote active outdoor play, sports, and arts and crafts for a creative outlet.
- Communicate with your child's teacher any questions or concerns you may have. You are your child's first educator and his/her teacher will support you in that role.

