



Mt. Lebanon School District

Elementary Curriculum

Grade 5 Curriculum

English Language Arts

Students in fifth grade apply knowledge and foundational skills to read for understanding. They develop close reading skills by analyzing a variety of texts across the curriculum. They draw inferences from text, compare themes, text structures, identify similarities and differences among characters, and identify narrator's point of view. Students' written response to literature includes evidence from the text and reflects their ability to cite sources. They integrate information from multiple texts, both fiction and informational, including digital and print sources. They utilize research skills to paraphrase and summarize informational texts and continue to expand note taking skills. Word analysis continues with word origin study and vocabulary expansion. Materials include the anthology, informational texts, guided reading books to revisit vocabulary and comprehension skills, novel study, and a science/social studies library with cross curricular connections.

During English Language Arts, students participate in Writer's Workshop as well. Writing pieces include informative/explanatory text, narratives, and argumentative/opinion pieces. Teachers model effective writing strategies from authentic literature and incorporate lessons on grammar skills to strengthen sentence structure. They guide students through the process of drafting, revising, editing, and publishing their written work. This culminates when sharing their works to receive feedback from peers. Students incorporate a variety of technologies to publish their work.

Mathematics

Grade 5 students develop ideas about generalizations of numbers and operations, including the development of whole numbers, computational fluency, the structure of place value and the base-ten number system. Students understand the relationship and connections between fractions, decimals, and percentages. They will develop strategies for adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions and decimals.

Through a study of geometry, fifth grade students develop concepts and classifications about 2-D and 3-D shapes and solids. Students understand linear measurement including area, perimeter, the measure of angles, and volume. Through the study of data and measurement, students collect, represent, describe, and interpret data. They also analyze patterns, sequences, and functions and realize that they are building an early algebraic foundation.

Science

Our science program enhances students' attitudes toward science and encourages their natural curiosity. It provides students with a substantial knowledge base of facts, concepts, and principles. We also teach students to use and apply science-related thinking and process skills (e.g. observation, questioning, data gathering, note taking, analysis, and hypothesizing). During each curriculum unit in science, students learn to work cooperatively in small groups with an emphasis on learning essential content and developing science process skills. Our science curriculum provides lessons and curriculum units in physical science.

In the first Physical Science unit the students identify physical properties of matter and make and separate mixtures, measure solids and liquids to compare the mass of a mixture to the mass of its parts, plan and conduct saturation investigations, and identify an unknown substance based on the properties of solubility and crystal form.

In the second Physical Science unit the students investigate energy and the different forms it can take, how forces do work to change energy from one form to another, how machines reduce the effort force needed to do work, and how forces change the motion of objects.

Social Studies

In grade 5, students learn about America's past with history from the first migrations into the Constitution and Bill of Rights. The course focuses on the creation of America through European exploration and English colonization of North America. Citizenship and application of map skills are integrated throughout the year.

Art

In fifth grade, students will explore the works of many famous artists including Faith Ringgold and Georgia O'Keefe. Students will use a variety of materials to create art that explores the ideas and imagery of the masters. Fifth grade students will have the opportunity to create drawings, paintings, ceramic pieces, sculptures, and printmaking, while incorporating the elements of design and studying the conceptual side of art.

Vocal Music

Fifth grade students continue to develop the concepts and skills learned in fourth grade. Through singing, moving, and playing classroom instruments, students will reinforce rhythms and develop the ability to create and improvise melodic and rhythmic patterns within a song. Students' ability to understand, listen and identify, as well as perform music in multiple meters is reinforced. They also explore aspects of syncopation through singing and playing classroom instruments. Students develop a greater awareness of the music from different parts of the world. Students also explore the relationship between half steps, whole steps, and key signatures in major scale patterns.

Fifth grade students participate in Building Chorus where they learn the elements of choral singing. The students prepare and perform two concerts; one in December and another concert in

the spring. Students have an additional opportunity to expand on their choral skills by participating in the Mt. Lebanon Elementary District Chorus, which is comprised of students from all seven elementary schools.

Physical Education

The curriculum for physical education provides equal opportunity for students to create, learn, enjoy and participate in skill development through a variety of physical activities that have life-long value. These activities are designed to contribute to good physical, mental, social and emotional health. The activities are divided into six areas, team games, self testing, rhythmic, low organization, lifetime sports and fitness. In team games, students demonstrate the fundamental skills and apply learned knowledge. Self-testing activities help students analyze and evaluate their own performance and set realistic goals. Rhythmic activities use a variety of patterns and directions while low organization activities use fundamental movements and skills. Lifetime sports demonstrate the value of recreational activity and the fundamental skills of the game. Finally, fitness develops strength and endurance in the major muscle groups. Students also participate in fitness testing.

Health

The Elementary Health Program in the Mt. Lebanon Schools will enable every student to know wellness involves the growth, development, and maintenance of a person's physical, intellectual, social, and emotional health. They understand that individuals can prevent health problems and diseases by following positive health practices. Students know that individuals need accurate information for attitudes and behaviors that lead to wellness. Ways to acquire health information, decision-making skills, and coping strategies that are necessary for physical, intellectual, social, and emotional well-being are learned. Finally, students appreciate that total health is a right and a responsibility of every individual, family and community.

Library

Fifth grade students continue to develop as readers and thinkers as they visit the library weekly for a book exchange and a lesson. Lessons focus on literature appreciation, library search skills and research foundations using the Big 6 model. Students are guided on how to identify reliable resources, take notes and the importance of writing bibliographic citations. The online library catalog (Destiny) is utilized and effective search strategies are revisited (keyword, title, boolean logic). By the end of fifth grade, students should have an understanding of effective search methods, library organization and be able to locate any book in the library using the Destiny catalog and a fiction or non-fiction call number. In addition, students continue to learn about internet safety, security, fair use and etiquette through Common Sense Media's digital citizenship curriculum. Students will learn how to monitor and protect their own digital footprint.

Spanish

The fifth grade Spanish year looks a bit different in comparison to other years. During the first semester, students will only have Spanish class once per week, since they also participate in the Foreign Language Exploratory Program (FLEX). This program includes one day of French for nine weeks and one day of German for nine weeks. The FLEX program gives the fifth graders a small taste of the other foreign language courses that they will be able to choose from once they reach middle school. However, after the first semester, fifth grade students will resume having Spanish class twice per week.

This year, the Spanish thematic units include a review of Spanish from previous years, numbers in the hundreds and thousands, preferred and non-preferred activities, physical descriptions, and primary and intermediate directions. In addition to these vocabulary units, students continue their Hispanic cultural studies with a focus on the Spanish-speaking countries of South America including Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay. Students will have the opportunity to conduct research on one of these countries. Throughout the year they also focus on the geographic location, capitals, and holiday traditions of this region.

Technology Assured Experiences

In fifth grade, students' computer and online skills continue to grow more complex. They learn more about the operating system and how it is impacted by viruses. They learn to use music notation software to compose original pieces. They continue to develop their research skills and learn to discriminate sources. Cyberbullying, online safety and academic integrity are additional topics.

Counseling

Fifth grade students continue to participate in the school counseling program. The classroom curriculum consists of structured lessons, presented by the school counselor in the classroom, designed to help students attain the academic, career and social/emotional competencies and to provide all students with the knowledge, attitudes and skills appropriate for their developmental level. The fifth grade classroom lessons review bullying prevention, communication skills, leadership, self-management skills, decision making skills, diversity and inclusion, career awareness and middle school transition. Units are flexible and may vary in order based on student needs and schedules.

Orchestra

Fifth grade students refine skills and concepts learned in third and fourth grade in a lesson and ensemble experience. This develops musicianship and leadership skills needed in our secondary music program.

Through ensemble experiences at the building and district level, students are provided the opportunity to play repertoire which advances techniques taught in lessons. In addition, ensemble

techniques such as following a conductor, playing with precision, using good dynamics, and musical interpretation are taught through the ensemble experience. Children perform in a concert featuring students from combined Mt. Lebanon Elementary buildings.

Band

Fifth grade students refine skills and concepts learned in fourth grade in a lesson and ensemble experience. This develops musicianship and leadership skills needed in our secondary music program.

Through ensemble experiences at the building and district level, students are provided the opportunity to play repertoire which advances techniques taught in lessons. In addition, ensemble techniques such as following a conductor, playing with precision, using good dynamics, and musical interpretation are taught in a large group rehearsal setting. Children perform in a concert featuring students from combined Mt. Lebanon Elementary buildings.