



MIDDLE SCHOOL

FIFTH GRADE STUDIES

Overview

Fifth grade teachers incorporate study skills into their core classes which focus on helping students to organize themselves and their belongings. Throughout the year, through projects and day-to-day assignments, students develop and practice the organizational skills introduced at the start of the year. In addition to the curriculum that follows, fifth grade students may participate in these special activities:

School Council
Study Skills
Biomes
Field Trips
Games Club

Class Representatives
Dress Down Days
Farm Trip
Community Service
Web/Internet Quests

Library Research
Advisory
After School Program
Study Lab Workshops

English

In fifth grade English students spend the year learning reading skills, improving their grammar, spelling, writing mechanics and broadening their understanding of literature. Fifth graders practice writing in its many forms: note taking, essays, poems, stories, journals, reviews, and memoirs. Students also write a research paper, relating to a question posed in ancient history. Students choose a book of their own choice to read each month; *Treasure Island* and *Pure Dead Magic* are required reading during the year.

Mathematics 5

The fifth grade math course is viewed as part of students' on-going progression toward mathematical competence and confidence. Students will be learning to employ problem solving strategies with increasing independence, securing a good "number sense" and effectively communicating mathematical concepts and procedures.

History

Ancient History

Students study historical and geographical concepts through ancient societies which include Sumer, Egypt, Israel, China, Greece, India, and Rome. Mythology and the study of the arts of these early cultures are interwoven throughout the curriculum. Topics in English, Art, and Music are incorporated within this class. Organizational strategies, reading, writing, geography, and critical thinking skills are emphasized.

Science

The curriculum incorporates biology, chemistry, ecology, and earth science. The class offers students a chance to investigate a variety of topics while learning about scientific methods and scientific thought. By structuring the activities to emphasize problem solving, we not only endeavor to appeal to the student's natural curiosity about the world and its workings, we also begin to approximate the way in which real scientists tackle their work.

Foreign Language

Foreign language is a part of the core curriculum in the fifth and sixth grades. All students take Spanish, as well as Latin, which is a cycle subject. The Spanish language course is designed to continue the study of the language begun in Lower School. Latin cycle provides an overview of the linguistic relationship of Latin to English. Aspects of culture and civilization are presented in both the modern and classical languages.

Physical Education

Class meets daily. The students work on skill and physical development, individual and team game strategies, and teamwork. Units include: touch football, soccer, basketball, volleyball, softball, ultimate frisbee, speedball, climbing wall, and non-traditional games. In the spring, fifth and sixth graders participate in an Introduction to Life Sports which includes tennis, horseshoes, bocce ball, croquet, and golf.

Music

Choir

Choir is designed to give students an experience performing within a musical ensemble in which the musical instrument is the human voice. Students learn solfeggio, sight reading, vocal technique and musical analysis through choral repertoire which includes: music of the masters, sacred and secular works. Choral students participate in two annual concerts.

Instrumental Music (Band or Orchestra)

Students learn to play ensemble music that entails phrasing, balance, intonation, different musical styles, and articulation. They learn major key signatures, scales, and more advanced rhythms. Both band and orchestra meet daily. Beginners are welcome in band. Students must have completed at least two years of lessons to be in orchestra. All Instrumental Music students participate in two annual concerts throughout the year. Private lessons are available after school with adjunct instructors.

Cycle Subjects

Multimedia and Information Literacy 5

Students explore a variety of software and technology in depth, demonstrating their knowledge and skills through various projects, often integrated with curriculum topics. Keyboarding, word processing, spreadsheets, a multimedia program, and a drawing program compose the core of the fifth grade computer curriculum.

Art

Students gain better awareness of both two and three-dimensional art through exposure and hands-on practice. Students learn the importance of proportion and the influence stylization can affect a final product. A strong emphasis is placed upon drawing and technique as well as the creative process. Weekly sketchbook assignments enable students to develop their drawing techniques and explore their own ideas. Art history is a component woven into all projects, whether working three dimensionally on wire and ceramic sculptures or two dimensionally with paint.

Latin

This course introduces students to basic language skills important to studying Romance languages. It is designed to coincide with students' modern language studies in Fifth Grade. Students learn vocabulary and grammar points, study etymology and Greco-Roman mythology, and learn about the historical importance of the Roman Empire.

Creative Expressions

Whether large or small, everyone can make a mark. We start by reading the story "The Dot" by Peter H. Reynolds. The students will use a variety of ways to communicate and express themselves through different mediums. The overall goal is to create an avatar or character and write a story about how he/she can make a difference in the world or leave a mark in some way. Students will construct masks, as well as a three-dimensional figure or puppet. They will plan and create a description, write from the point of view of their avatar, and practice speaking and presenting their story for an audience. Students will then record their story using *ipads* to make a video of their final presentation.

Middle School Offerings

Fifth Grade

Daily: English 5
Mathematics 5
Ancient History
Science 5
Spanish
Physical Education
Band, Choir or Orchestra

- Cycle:
- Computer
 - Art
 - Latin
 - Creative Expressions

Sixth Grade

Daily: English 6
Mathematics:
 Pre Algebra 6 Explorations
 Pre Algebra 6
History of the Middle Ages
Science 6
Spanish
Physical Education
Band, Choir or Orchestra

- Cycle:
- Art
 - Latin
 - Multimedia and Information Literacy 6
 - Creative Writing

Seventh Grade

Daily: English 7
Mathematics:
 Pre Algebra 7 Explorations
 Pre Algebra 7
 Algebra I
American History
Science 7
Foreign Language:
 Spanish
 Latin
Physical Education
Band, Choir or Orchestra

- Cycle:
- Values and Choices
 - Art
 - Drama
 - Multimedia and Information Literacy 7

Eighth Grade

Daily: English 8
Mathematics:
 Algebra Explorations
 Algebra I
 Honors Geometry
World Geography
Science 8
Foreign Language:
 Spanish
 Latin
Physical Education
Band, Choir or Orchestra

- Cycle:
- Art
 - Drama
 - Tomorrow's Leaders
 - Multimedia and Information Literacy 8

IN ADDITION:

School Council, Class Representatives, Drama, Dress Down Days, Partnerships with other grades, After School Program, Maroon & White Teams, Advisory, Field Day, Middle School Buddies partnered with students new to Middle School, Lockers, Dining Commons, Summer Reading List, Middle School Fun Nights.

7TH & 8TH INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS PROGRAM:

Fall: Boys & Girls Soccer, Girls Tennis, Coed Cross Country
Winter: Boys Wrestling, Boys & Girls Basketball, Girls Volleyball
Spring: Boys & Girls Lacrosse, Baseball, Boys Tennis, Girls Softball

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

Class Trips, Advisory Challenge

SUMMERS @ RPS:

“SummerBlast” Camp, Bridge Back to School and our Academic Summer School round out the year. For information about these and other summer opportunities visit www.rutgersprep.org and click on “Summer Programs.”