

Semester 2 Overview
Grade 5

Language Arts

Reading and Vocabulary

Reading work will be differentiated according to reading levels. Skill level novels will be shared in reading circles where content, meaning, personal responses and the connection of the material to real life experiences will be discussed. Reading for meaning will be emphasized with work dealing with drawing conclusions, summarizing and paraphrasing, the narrative elements of a story, the structure of the text, word relationships and deciding whether what is written is an example of fact or opinion.

Students will continue to scan, question and summarize research material using headings, pictures, the table of contents, the glossary and index as clues.

Vocabulary work will be a main feature of the program with strategies presented on how to decode the meaning of words. Special emphasis will be on prefixes, suffixes and root word to help student figure out new words they come across. Students will work weekly on vocabulary through the introduction of new words and various exercises to promote understanding and the usage.

Spelling

Spelling, this semester, will be differentiated according to English language skill. Most students are confident with basic spelling patterns and are now dealing with words that are commonly spelled wrong or whose spelling deviates from basic patterns. Spelling words are also taken from various topics they are working on. Weekly tests and written and oral activities will be included.

Writing

Paragraph writing and organizing details to support a main idea continues to be emphasized. Through research reports and essays, students will aim to produce work that is clearly organized into paragraphs. This term we are, also, looking at the writing process in the form of short stories. Students will write a story of their choice. We will take a specific approach to this process. Students will first fill out a story map naming characters, setting and plot. Once the stage is set the student's will write a rough draft followed by a peer conference in which suggestions will be offered. The students will then revise and edit their story, finally making it into a small book to share with others. Sentence construction work and punctuating dialogue will be a part of the revision process. This will be our main project this term but other writing activities will also be included. Some form of writing activity will take place daily.

Grammar

The parts of speech and their relationship to other words in the sentence will be emphasized along with more complex punctuation of sentences and phrases and clauses.

MATH

Most Grade 5 students are confident with their math facts and have speedy recall of the times tables to 12. They are also quite capable working calculations with multiple digit numbers. In grade 5, we are revisiting many of the concepts that were introduced last year and working with them at a more complex level. Topics to be covered this semester include: Exponents and Prime Numbers, Fractions (adding, subtracting, multiply and dividing) geometry, coordinate planes, measurement, area, perimeter and volume, ratio, probability and percentages.

SCIENCE

Our first term this semester will be devoted to Earth Science. In this unit we will cover processes that change the earth. This will include changes to the Earth's surface, renewable and non-renewable resources, weather and climate, oceans and the solar system. Our last term will be devoted to different forms of energy and a look at the composition of matter and chemical reactions.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

We will meet weekly to look at cycles in nature and the interaction of living things through specific ecosystems. Focus will be on ways we can protect and preserve these ecosystems.

GEOGRAPHY

Geography will tie in with our Earth Science Unit in terms of land formations. Students will become more familiar with countries and lifestyles through a round the world trip they are planning. They will create a scrapbook in which they include details of the places they would like to visit. They will research places of interest, language and culture, and general information of the places they have chosen to visit.

HISTORY

We will begin with an historical look at the rise of the major religions from both the East and West. We will look at the times and the basic messages and practices of each religion. We will study the stories of the founders of the major religions and be able to compare and contrast each religion with special emphasis on their commonalities.

PSHE

We will continue to explore living values such as respect, tolerance, kindness and compassion. We will also spend time on problems that arise with friendships and feelings of being left out. For our final term we will focus on health and hygiene and the things we can do to promote a healthy life style.