

FIFTH GRADE CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

LANGUAGE ARTS

*READING

Independent School District 196 has adopted a balanced approach to teaching language arts. Reading, writing, listening, speaking, spelling, and handwriting are all important components of this area of learning. Skills and strategies in each area are modeled, taught, and practiced, taking into account the unique needs of each learner. Knowledge and skills are acquired through connected experiences between home, school, and community. Students read from a variety of texts, including fiction (short stories and whole books) poetry, and nonfiction (textbooks, newspapers and magazines).

*LANGUAGE ARTS RESOURCES

Houghton Mifflin's Invitations to Literacy
Rigby's Literacy 2000
Zaner-Bloser's Handwriting

*Independent School District has adopted a balanced literacy program. The components of this literacy program are listed below:

Read Aloud
Shared Reading/Guided Reading
Literature Circles
Independent Reading
Shared Writing
Guided Writing/Writer's Workshop
Independent Writing

*To support the balanced literacy program, novels are also used to enrich your child's language arts experience. Some of the novels your child may read this year are listed below.

*FIFTH GRADE NOVELS

Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson
Dear Mr. Henshaw by Beverly Cleary
From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by Konigsburg
In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson by Bette Boa Lord
Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O' Dell
Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli
Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh by Robert O'Brien
Number the Stars by Lois Lowry
Sign of The Beaver by Elizabeth George Speare
Sounder by William Armstrong
There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom by Louis Sachar

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*SPELLING

Spelling lists for the upcoming week will be placed in students' Friday Folders. Students will work on assignments relating to the spelling lesson during the week. Listed below is the weekly schedule that will be used in your child's classroom:

Monday - pretest

Tuesday - individual work on assignment

Wednesday - assignment due

Thursday - final test

Friday - new word lists are given out/new assignment is given

A technique we suggest for studying a word list is:

1. Look at the word
2. Say the word
3. Spell the word out loud
4. Write down the word
5. Picture the word in your mind
6. Cover the word and write it

*WRITING

The curriculum used in fifth grade, introduces and models a variety of productive strategies that students will use to become more effective writers. The writing instruction guides students in all phases of the writing process: prewriting, responding, revising, editing, and publishing.

*DAILY ORAL LANGUAGE

This year your child will participate in a Daily Oral Language program. The curriculum reinforces basic skills in the areas of spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage. In addition, the program gives students repeated opportunities to develop and practice oral language and proofreading skills.

*HANDWRITING

By fifth grade most students have mastered correct formation of cursive letters. Our focus will be on consistency of formation and legibility.

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MATHEMATICS

Scott Foresman's new math curriculum is the text used to support the mathematics curriculum in District 196. The curriculum integrates problem solving, reasoning, estimation, and technology with mathematical topics. The program helps students further develop their skills in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division using larger numbers. It also reinforces mathematical concepts using fractions and decimals. Additional math topics will include geometry, graphing, ratio, percent, probability, measurement, perimeter, volume, and area.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The fifth grade social studies program introduces world history and geography within a regional approach, including a detailed geographic study of Europe. The content is international in scope, with the history of nations studied in order to illustrate changes through time. Learning will focus on the universal components of civilization and the factors that led to the rise and fall of each of the major civilizations.

SCIENCE

Elementary science in our district is designed to help students learn science as a process. Along the way, students will learn content and begin to value the role that science plays in our lives. The program is a hands-on kit-based approach. The students will be working on their skills of careful observation, data collection, and proving or disproving their hypothesis through self-designed experiments. This is done with a variety of topics. The kits we will be using this year are listed below:

Landforms, Environments, Variables, Mixtures and Solutions

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HEALTH

Your Health, published by Harcourt Brace, is the text used to support the health curriculum. The curriculum covers the following areas: mental and emotional health, social health, safety, first aid, human growth and development, diseases and disorders, environmental health, and consumer health. Some of the units are integrated with other curriculum areas.

COMPUTER

Early in the year, students will be working on the computer to improve their keyboarding skills. As the year progresses students will be participating in lessons from our District Technology Curriculum. The curriculum provides outcomes, performance indicators, and model lessons for integrating word processing, database, telecommunications, and desktop publishing skills into the existing fifth grade curriculum.

QUEST

Every fifth grade student will have the opportunity to participate in the QUEST Program. The program is designed to provide students with opportunities to choose courses that interest them. The program will help students gain a feeling of responsibility for their own learning and will teach them to explore their own interests and abilities.

[Click Here To Learn More About: Quest](#)

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HUMAN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

District 196 teaches a human growth and development curriculum to fourth and fifth grade students. The curriculum covers basic information about reproductive anatomy, physical and emotional changes during puberty, and proper hygiene. Parents are invited to attend an informational meeting offered to gain a better understanding of the program. Parental notification with specific dates and times of this meeting will be sent out later in the school year. Parents who are uncomfortable with the curriculum after attending the meeting may withhold their child from the specific sessions in which the curriculum is taught.

D.A.R.E.

"D.A.R.E." stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education. Officer Joe Marshall will teach D.A.R.E. to each fifth grade class once a week. As these students grow, they will be faced with making choices, some more difficult than others. One of the most important choices they will make will be about the use of drugs and alcohol. Their decisions about drugs and alcohol can have either positive or negative effects on them and their families. The D.A.R.E. program will help students learn to make better choices. It began in September, and will run for sixteen weeks. The program will end with a D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony.

[Click here to learn more about the D.A.R.E. Program](#)

BAND

Mark Santori and Cindy Larson will conduct band lessons on Mondays through Friday mornings. Each lesson will be thirty minutes in length. Full band rehearsals will begin Wednesday, October 2nd, and will be held before school in the Red Pine gymnasium from 8:00-9:00 a.m.