

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The physical education program engages students in carefully planned and sequenced movement experiences, activities, and sports that enable them to learn about themselves and their world.

HEALTH

The health education program provide students with opportunities to acquire the attitudes, knowledge and skills necessary for making health-promoting decisions. Students review that personal wellness has six dimensions; physical, emotional, social, mental, spiritual and environmental. Human growth and development lessons related to puberty are included and parent information presentations are scheduled prior to instruction.

HOMEWORK

Ellington Public Schools defines “homework” as independent practice and learning that happens outside the classroom. Reading and developing literacy skills is a priority in the elementary curriculum. Ideally, students should read outside of school on a daily basis, in addition to any other homework assigned. In fifth grade the expected length of time for independent reading is 30 minutes each day, or 150 minutes or more across a week. To help establish the reading habit, families are encouraged to support this goal by setting aside time for reading each day.

Students in grade 5 may also be expected to complete other independent practice assignments and long-term projects in addition to daily reading. Other independent practice assignments and work on long-term projects should not exceed an average of 15-20 minutes daily. Some students may require less or more time than that which is indicated for a grade level. Teachers are not expected to assign homework every day.

TESTING

In 5th grade students participate in standardized testing as required by state and federal guidelines, including Smarter Balanced Assessments for Literacy & Mathematics and the Connecticut Mastery Test in Science.

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Curriculum Guide for Grade 5

The Ellington Public Schools elementary curriculum is designed to enhance children’s intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development, while supporting students in acquiring the skills needed to become collaborative and independent learners.

This document provides you with an overview of the skills, topics, and concepts that form the core curriculum at this grade level. The curriculum is aligned with the Common Core State Standards and other state and national standards in each content area.

Each child is viewed as a unique person with an individual pattern and pace of growth. Different approaches to learning and skill levels are expected, accepted, and used to design curriculum and instruction.

MATHEMATICS

The mathematics program maintains a balance in the development of math concepts, basic skills and problem solving strategies. Students apply their knowledge of basic skills and concepts while working on meaningful and challenging tasks. In fifth grade, students will improve and develop their understanding and ability to add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions, especially when solving word problems. The *Bridges in Mathematics* program is used as a resource for instruction.

KEY FIFTH GRADE MATH SKILLS

- Add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators, multiply and divide fractions in simple cases, and solve related word-problems;
- Generalize the place-value system to include decimals and calculate with decimals to the hundredths place;
- Understand the concept of volume and solve related word problems;
- Graph points in the coordinate plane to solve problems.

For more information about our curriculum, please visit our website:

www.ellingtonpublicschools.org

LANGUAGE ARTS

Our language arts curriculum is aligned with the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and continues to spiral the skills students need in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. We approach the teaching of literacy through a balanced approach that supports students through reading workshop, writing workshop, word study, and small-group instruction.

READING

In fifth grade students will read from a wide range of texts with increasing fluency and understanding as they move up the levels of text complexity. Students will practice reading closely from grade-level mentor texts, especially nonfiction texts, as they are supported through explicit reading instruction and then taught to transfer these close reading practices to their independent reading. As readers, they will be expected to quote accurately from the texts they have read when answering questions.

WRITING

Our fifth grade writing curriculum builds upon the writing skills students developed in fourth grade and continues to provide students multiple opportunities to work on and improve their writing skills in narrative, argumentative, and informational writing. Fifth graders will learn to write stories and essays that are several paragraphs long and to use the conventions of grammar, usage, and punctuation within their writing.

KEY 5TH GRADE LITERACY SKILLS

- Identify and judge evidence that supports the ideas in an author's argument;
- Integrate information from several text sources to answer questions;
- Write an argument with reasonable opinions and provide logically facts to support;
- Participate in class discussions elaborating on the ideas of others;
- Revise sentences to improve meaning and style of writing.

SOCIAL STUDIES

With a focus on developing content-area literacy and inquiry skills, our fifth grade students learn about early American history from Exploration through the Revolutionary War. Units of study include Explorers, Colonial America, the Causes of the Revolutionary War, and the American Revolution. Lessons support students researching, analyzing and evaluating primary and secondary sources, writing and presenting, and using geography skills as part of the inquiry cycle in social studies.

SCIENCE

Science instruction in fifth grade promotes inquiry-based learning through a combination of experiments, projects, and non-fiction readings. Fifth grade students study sound and light, earth in the solar system, senses/perception, and the use of tools to enhance the quality of life. Students have opportunities to practice scientific reasoning skills as they observe, test hypotheses, analyze data, and draw conclusions.

ART

The art program develops an appreciation of art, introduces design elements, and gives opportunities to create art in a variety of media. Content is based on art appreciation, art history, art criticism, and art creation.

MUSIC

The general music program promotes an appreciation of various musical styles, develops the student's musical literacy, and supports critical listening skills.

CHORUS

This program encourages proper vocal techniques and involves students in singing in a larger group. Chorus meets once a week and performs at least two concerts each year.

BEGINNING BAND

This program introduces students to learning how to play a band instrument. It teaches proper instrumental care and technique. Weekly lessons and home practice are essential to the student's success in this program.

GUIDANCE

The school counseling curriculum provides developmental and sequential lessons and activities in classroom and/or group settings, which address student development in academic, career, and personal/social domains. In fifth grade, students learn conflict resolution skills including identifying behaviors that escalate and de-escalate conflict, anger management, empathy, assertive statements, and handling teasing and bullying/cyber bullying. They also participate in a career awareness unit where they explore career clusters and engage in career research and a career interview.