



Mrs. Jennifer Kuhn

5th Grade Language Arts Rm 404

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Times Available: 8:00-8:30

11:00-11:40

3:30-4:00

Fifth Grade Language Arts Syllabus

Reading: The fifth grade program is designed to foster student reading independence. We use a comprehensive, balanced approach including whole and small group reading instruction. The whole group component allows teachers to introduce important strategies and skills. The small group component gives us the opportunity to provide more customized reading instruction, targeting students' individual needs. Throughout these units, students will be exposed to various types of literature such as a fiction, non-fiction, biographies, fantasy, folktales/fables/myths, and poetry. The curriculum will be supplemented with various trade books to reinforce certain topics of study throughout the year. This program helps prepare the children to be independent, self-motivated, critical thinkers.

Monthly Independent Book Projects: All fifth grade students will be responsible for monthly independent projects throughout the year. Projects are graded with a rubric. Students need to be reading an on-level-book of their choice and choose one of the activities on the choice sheet to complete for their project. The projects will be shared and presented with the class. *More information will follow in a letter and a rubric in September.*

Reading Expectations: students are expected to read a minimum of 20 minutes at home each weekday. They are also allotted independent reading time during class.

Comprehension/ Fluency: Comprehension strategies include summarizing, connection to prior knowledge, synthesizing, analyzing, inferring, questioning, and visualization. The comprehension strategies are consistent across grade levels. However, each year the complexity of text and application of reading strategies increases.

Fluency is the ability to read smoothly, easily and readily with freedom from word recognition problems. Students learn to:

- Read at a rapid rate
- Automatically recognize words
- Phrase correctly





Writing: The students will use a process approach to writing. Preparation strategies such as graphic organizers/webs will aid students in developing and selecting ideas. Students will be taught to revise and edit to that he/she can produce a published piece of writing. The three main types of writing will be: **Narrative, Informational/Research, and Persuasive.**

Areas of focus for writing include:

- Produce well organized, elaborated narrative and fiction writing and begin expository writing.
- Develop the writing craft with emphasis on pacing and style.
- Write in response to a narrative prompt.
- Revise to combine short sentences into more complex ones.
- Correct run-on sentences, awkward construction, and sentence fragments.
- Develop grammar and usage skills.
- Use correct punctuation, capital letters, agreement between subject and verb, and proper sentence construction.



Journal Writing: Students will use his/her developing written communication skills across the curriculum. Each student will keep a journal for daily jots and literature responses. Journals will contain writing for different purposes, (to inform, to persuade, to explain, to describe, and to entertain). Stop & Jot Journal will be a part of their *nightly reading log homework assignment*.



Penmanship / Cursive: Neat writing is required at all times whether students print or write in cursive.

Spelling: students have a *weekly spelling list* in which they will complete a weekly spelling packet. In fifth grade, spelling is incorporated into the Language Arts grade and is not a separate subject on the report card. The list consists of words that have a common spelling pattern.

Vocabulary: students will also have a *weekly vocab list* to study.

- Develop context area vocabulary
- Use context clues to determine meaning of unknown or multiple meaning words.
- Develop an interest in words through a variety of books
- Predict meaning of unfamiliar words.

**NOTE: Test Day is Thursdays for Spelling/Vocabulary and Reading Comprehension.
At times, comprehension tests may be on Fridays.**

Social Studies: The focus of the Fifth Grade program is a study of The United States: Making A Nation. We will be using USA Studies Weekly as a part of our social studies learning. Students study the early history of the U.S. through the War of 1812. In the spring, students will complete a "State Project" as part of their Language Arts and Social Studies grade. *More information will follow in the spring.*

Grades for Social Studies will be a Pass or Fail, not a percentage grade.



Special Classes: 10:55-11:40 Specials follow a monthly schedule that will be sent home from the office. A letter code will be given for each day and that will be the special that we have on that day. *The 2nd & 3rd nine weeks,* all 5th grade students will be participating in the **Robotics Program** in collaboration with Art, Science, and Computers/Tech.

Homework Policy and Fifth Grade Expectations:

- All fifth grade students are required to complete **all** homework assignments on time and neatly.
- Students will be given a homework assignment notebook to record all homework assignments. *Review, initial, and return this notebook to school daily.*
- Any incomplete homework will be completed during recess.
- All children are expected to put forth their best effort.
- Everyone should be kind and respectful to each other.
- Be prepared and responsible with class materials and assignments.



Attendance: Daily attendance and arriving to school on time are very important. When your child is absent, please send an excuse to school within three days of his/her return to school. Also, please make arrangements to have your child's homework picked up at the end of the day. *Please send in a note or email me with homework requests.*



Grading Policy: All grades will be determined through tests, quizzes, participation, group work, classwork, homework, and individual projects. All items will be graded using a point system which will be converted to percentages on the report card.

If you have any questions or concerns throughout the year, please contact me. At school, I can be reached at the contact times listed at the top of the syllabus.

By working together we will help your child have a successful and memorable year.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Kuhn

