

Family Guide: Learning in Fifth Grade



About Fifth Grade:

Fifth grade students are engaged in new academic understandings and exciting opportunities that ignite a passion for learning. This is an important time for students to gain a sense of independence along with their growing responsibility in and outside of school. Students will engage in reflection as an important part of the learning process. They will consider their own learning needs and communicate their strengths along with their areas for growth. Fifth graders ask questions to learn more, listen closely to understand and contribute as team players.

THIS GUIDE INCLUDES:

- **What Your Child Should Know & Be Able to Do**
- **Activities to Support Learning**
- **Education Words**
- **Questions to Ask your Child's Teacher**

LITERACY

Fifth grade students engage in interactive learning experiences to deepen their reading, writing and communication skills. Students use previous knowledge to enhance and share new learning with peers and a wider audience. They read high-interest non-fiction texts and develop questions and ideas to engage in rich conversations. Students write focused research reports and use evidence to inform and persuade readers on topics of their choosing.

Reading

Students in 5th grade should be able to read and understand grade level text by:

- Applying a variety of reading strategies (ask questions, infer, summarize, visualize) to monitor comprehension
- Quoting accurately from a text
- Determining 2 or more main ideas or themes of a story
- Summarizing the text, including the main plot points and main characters
- Determining character traits and motivations with evidence to support ideas
- Comparing and contrasting characters, themes, and plot points from different books

Writing

Students in 5th grade should know and be able to:

- Write for a range of authentic tasks, purposes and audiences
- Develop and strengthen the writing process (planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach)
- Structure writing into paragraphs using thoughtful transitions
- Write in a variety of modes including narrative, opinion, informative/explanatory
- Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, description, and pacing, to develop experiences and events
- Write informational pieces to examine a topic and convey ideas clearly
- Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasoning and evidence



MATHEMATICS

Fifth grade students will focus on perseverance, both independently and with their peers, in solving problems. They will develop fluency with addition and subtraction of fractions, and will continue to build upon their previous fluency work to understand multiplication and division of fractions. Students will engage in representing and interpreting data to understand volume using appropriate tools. Students make arguments for mathematical solutions and respectfully question the reasoning of others.

Students in 5th grade should know and be able to:

- Solve with fluency multi-digit multiplication problems
- Divide multi-digit numbers
- Add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators
- Multiply fractions and mixed numbers
- Add, subtract, multiply and divide with decimals to the hundredths place
- Solve word problems with fractions and decimals
- Understand the concept of volume
- Solve word problems that involve volume
- Graph points in the coordinate plane to represent real world application



ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT LEARNING

Literacy

- Encourage your child to read a book of their choice each day
- Ask about the books your child is reading
- Share your reading life with your child
- Talk with your child to expand their vocabulary (don't be afraid to use words they don't know, you can explain them)
- Model writing in the real world (such as grocery list, thank you notes, emails, journaling, activities on a calendar)
- Learn about an interesting topic with your child by reading books, looking online and exploring places together

Mathematics

- Encourage a growth mindset about mathematics
- Encourage students to use math in their everyday activities
- Talk with your child about all the ways you use math in your daily life
- Play board, card or dice games with your child (such as Uno, Monopoly, Yahtzee and Checkers)
- Create and solve your own story problems
- Measure and count as you cook and bake together



EDUCATION WORDS

Denominator: The denominator is the bottom number in a fraction. It shows how many parts the number is divided into.

Digit: Any of the symbols 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9.

Four Operations: Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division

Inquiry-based Learning: Inquiry promotes engagement, curiosity, and experimentation. Students are empowered to explore topics through questioning, investigation, and research.

Mathematical Fluency: Fluency includes accuracy, efficiency, and flexible use of strategies in solving math problems.

Numerator: The numerator is the top number in a fraction. It shows how many parts we have.

Performance Task: A real world task that requires students to apply their knowledge and skills that have been learned to show understanding.

Place Value: Every digit in a number has a place value based on its position in the number. (In the number 548, the digit 5 is in the hundreds place and its place value is 500. The digit 4 is in the tens place, and its place value is 40. The digit 8 is in the ones place, and its place value is 8.

Reading Fluency: Fluency includes accuracy, rate and expression when reading out loud.

Social and Emotional Learning: Learning to effectively manage emotions, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships and make responsible decisions.

Workshop Model: The workshop framework is designed to offer a simple and predictable environment. The workshop typically includes a mini-lesson (teacher led instruction), independent work time, small group instruction, individual conferring (teacher meets with student), and sharing.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER

- What can I do to help my child succeed in school?
- How does my child work with others during group activities?
- What classroom activities seem to keep my child best engaged in learning?
- What kind of books is my child reading during independent reading time?
- What should my child be able to understand and talk about as a result of what they have learned?
- What topics is my child writing about?
- How does my child approach complex math tasks? What are some suggestions for me to encourage them in learning challenging content?
- How can I support a positive approach to learning?
- Is my child able to demonstrate to you that they understand what they are learning about? If not, what challenges are they facing?
- What are my child's overall strengths at this time?
- What are my child's overall challenges at this time?
- What specifically can I do at home to support my child's overall learning and growth?