

# FIFTH GRADE

**F**ifth Grade is part of the Upper School at East Woods, and students take classes in the Upper School building for the first time. In order to support the students as they make this transition, Fifth Graders have an advisory teacher with whom they meet weekly. This advisory teacher, who monitors their academic progress closely, is either their math/science teacher or their language arts/social studies teacher. The students move back and forth between the classrooms of these two teachers, and the two teachers work closely with each other to ensure a smooth transition to the Upper School. The Fifth Grade program allows students to become increasingly independent, and it supports them in continuing to develop strong organizational skills, time management skills, and the capacity to effectively self-advocate.

## Social Studies

The Fifth Grade course is a study of Ancient History. During the first portion of the year, the students complete an in-depth overview of world geography, including continents and oceans, map scale, latitude and longitude, and world climate. Building off of this foundational knowledge, the students spend the remainder of the year exploring various ancient civilizations.

### DURING THE YEAR, STUDENTS WILL:

- Use analytical skills to compare and contrast the geography, climate, style of government, and elements of daily life in ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, Arabia, India, Greece, Rome, Mesoamerica, and early African kingdoms
- Conduct research on a variety of topics using a wide array of materials and use the information in different ways including writing a formal research paper with a bibliography, creating a travel brochure, and giving an oral presentation
- Use close reading skills to read and analyze both primary and secondary historical sources



## Language Arts

The Fifth Grade Language Arts curriculum includes instruction in reading comprehension skills, writing skills, spelling, vocabulary, and grammar. Over the course of the year, the students read a wide variety of literature, short stories, poetry, and articles. Novels read in the class may include *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi, *The Egypt Game* by Zilpha Keatley Snyder, *Heroes, Gods and Monsters of the Greek Myths* by Bernard Evslin, *Seven Daughters and Seven Sons* by Barbara



Cohen and Bahija Lovejoy, and *Castle Diary* by Richard Platt. These novels coordinate with various topics in social studies. Writing is also a significant focus in Fifth Grade, as students learn to write longer pieces such as research papers as well as writing persuasive, descriptive, and narrative pieces. Students work through the writing process and receive feedback through peer conferencing, through one on one writing conferences with the teacher, and through written comments from the teacher.

### DURING THE YEAR, STUDENTS WILL:

- Make connections and use inferential thinking to begin to grasp underlying themes and meanings in a text
- Write on a daily basis and focus on producing written work that is well-organized, includes main ideas and supporting details, and includes proper writing mechanics
- Begin to understand literary terms and identify figurative language in a text

## Science

The science curriculum is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), and the students continue to develop their skills by asking questions and defining problems, making careful observations, recording data, making inferences, and drawing conclusions based on evidence. Whether the students are conducting a lab investigation, working in small groups to examine and analyze data, or participating in an interactive SMART Board activity, the program fosters critical thinking and science process skills. Throughout the year, the students deepen their learning by participating in field trips such as visiting the Vanderbilt Planetarium and studying ecosystems at The WaterFront Center in Oyster Bay. The following units of study in life science, physical science, and earth science are included in the Fifth Grade curriculum: Matter and Energy in Ecosystems, Simple Organisms:



A Study of Protists, the Structure and Properties of Matter, and Earth and Space Systems.

**DURING THE YEAR, STUDENTS WILL:**

- Design and complete a scientific investigation by engaging in the following process: determine a question or problem to investigate, conduct the experiment, collect data, analyze the data, draw conclusions based on the data, and present the information at the Science Symposium
- Learn skills and concepts through hands-on laboratory activities and experiments, classroom discussions, reading scientific texts, group projects, and teacher modeling

**Math**

The Fifth Grade uses the Scott-Foresman Addison Wesley mathematics curriculum, as well as a variety of manipulatives, web-based activities, and interactive SMART Board activities to enrich the curriculum and meet the varying needs of students. The teacher assesses student progress through daily,

informal observations, quizzes, and tests. Through modeling and discussions, the students gain strong conceptual knowledge and an understanding of the real-life application of mathematical concepts.

**DURING THE YEAR, STUDENTS WILL LEARN SKILLS SUCH AS:**

- Understanding the meaning of multiplication and division, and dividing and multiplying multi-digit numbers
- Comparing, ordering, and multiplying fractions and decimals, and understanding the relationship between fractions, decimals, and percents
- Investigating measurement and graphing
- Using a variety of strategies to solve word problems

**World Languages (Spanish and French)**

Students in Fifth Grade choose to take either Spanish or French, and classes meet daily. Both the French and Spanish programs are designed to provide the students a strong foundation in the language, and emphasis is divided evenly between reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

**DURING THE YEAR, STUDENTS WILL:**

- Learn conversation skills and the basic rules that govern the grammatical structure of the language
- Demonstrate strong pronunciation and listening skills
- Develop cultural awareness
- Use technology to enhance learning through programs such as Linguascope, Fun Spanish, Kahoot, and Duolingo

