

Fifth Grade: Growing toward Responsibility



The fifth grade is a year when students have reached new levels of physical strength and agility, have developed longer attention spans, and are developing intellectually with greater abilities to see relationships, organize thought and material, and form conclusions. At the same time, they may be beginning to experience the pre-adolescent growth spurt, which brings with it more emotional turbulence. More than ever before, the student of this age is capable of reasoning about right and wrong, grasping some of the deeper aspects of the Christian faith, and moving toward greater personal responsibility in all aspects of life.

The program of instruction in fifth-grade classes at Brentwood Christian School includes a wide variety of developmentally appropriate activities and studies. Teachers write curriculum for each area of study based on the school's philosophy and goals. In areas where texts are used, the teachers review publications from both Christian and secular publishers, select the best material, and write curriculum which employs that material. Studies and activities in each class are based upon the following guidelines:

BIBLE - Features a thorough survey of the Bible with a focus on one story with six acts: Beginnings, Revolt, People, Savior, Church, Forever. We see traces of Jesus at every turn.

CHAPEL - Held weekly with all elementary classes in attendance; about once a month an All Community Chapel assembly is held. Chapel services have lessons that focus on character traits growing out of scriptural lessons and include singing and prayer. Elementary students are given a secondary student as a chapel buddy. They attend All Community chapels with their buddy where they will interact and get to know one another.

LANGUAGE ARTS - Includes reading, spelling, English, and handwriting. Applies vocabulary, comprehension, and reading study skills in all content areas. Applies spelling patterns, basic grammar, usage, and punctuation skills in writing processes such as proofreading and editing. Integrates literature themes and content with history, Bible studies, and other content areas. Uses listening, speaking, and writing skills to produce reports, short stories, and essays. Requires reading from informational texts as well as complete novels; encourages daily independent reading at home.

Texts currently in use: Reading Workshop, Writing Workshop, Evan Moor Daily Language Review; selected trade books.

MATHEMATICS - Reviews the four basic operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) using whole numbers, including multiplication with several-digit multipliers and division with multiple-digit divisors and quotients; teaches computation using all four operations with decimals, fractions, and mixed numbers; explores concepts of number relationships, measurement, estimation, and geometry; introduces algebraic reasoning. Applies concepts and skills in problem-solving activities.

Text currently in use: *Big Ideas Math: Modeling Real Life*, Cengage.

SCIENCE - Explores the wonders of our God-designed world through a study of natural, physical, earth, and life sciences. Reinforces understandings of scientific investigations and reasoning; the engineering process; force, motion, and energy; light and sound; earth and space; and organisms and environments. Develops critical thinking skills through questioning, projects, and hands-on activities. Integrates science studies with other academic disciplines and guides students to understand how science relates to everyday life.

Texts currently in use: *Science Fusion*, Texas edition, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

SOCIAL STUDIES - Examines physical environment, government, religion, technology, and economics in studying the historical development of the United States of America. Applies skills in reading, reference use, geography, and study strategies in interdisciplinary activities; includes activity-based projects and projects requiring group and individual research. Uses field trips, including an overnight trip to Corpus Christi to stay on board the World War II vessel U.S.S. Lexington and a visit to the Dr. Pepper Museum in

Waco, to enrich studies of our free enterprise system.

Text currently in use: *Building Our Nation*, Savvas myWorld.

SPANISH - Taught by a Spanish teacher once a week. Spanish class incorporates singing, movement, and games to provide an opportunity to learn basic vocabulary and develop a positive attitude toward language learning. Students will sing children's worship music in Spanish and participate in activities in Spanish based on Bible stories that many of the students are already familiar with in English. Students will also participate in scripture memorization activities and have the opportunity to read and write in the language. At this level, students will have occasional, optional homework. The teacher uses repetition and visuals to maximize learning potential. Through this class, students will appreciate that God loves all people and can be worshiped in different languages while learning basic vocabulary and songs!

FINE ARTS - Provides a choice of two among three possible options: band, art, and choir; students attend classes in their two choices on alternating days, with these features:

Band - Provides beginning instruction in all aspects of instrumental performance, including theory and technique (fingering, scales, tonality, breathing); prepares students for performance in concerts during the fall and spring, as well as some outside performances at retirement homes, malls, and other settings.

Choir - Provides continued instruction in sight-reading as well as in other aspects of vocal performance, including breathing, vocal tone, blend, and harmony; prepares students for performance in concerts during the fall and spring, as well as some outside performances at retirement homes, malls, and other settings.

Art - Provides instruction in the use of a wide variety of media with a wide variety of techniques, including drawing (pencil, charcoal, pen and ink, colored pencil), painting (watercolor, tempera, acrylic), sculpture, papier-mâché, carving, three-dimensional constructions, and paper construction.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - Taught daily by physical education teachers; students participate in physical education classes for thirty-five minutes taking place in the gym and on outdoor fields; including conditioning exercises, physical games and activities, and development of athletic skills. Provides an opportunity for students to participate on teams in voluntary interscholastic competition with other area schools; including soccer, basketball, track, football for boys, and volleyball for girls.

COMPUTER LAB - Taught weekly in an extended class by a trained computer teacher. Students will focus on mastering the skills introduced earlier and increasing their level of expertise. They will learn to apply more complex calculations to spreadsheets and work more with databases. They will learn to use more advanced communication tools. Advanced students may also begin using basic HTML code to create web pages. During the fourth quarter, students will continue learning basic coding/programming, beginning with Hour of Code and then moving to a programming website called Scratch. This curriculum is used to enhance language arts, math, science, and social studies skills.

Text currently in use: *Easy Tech*, Learning.com. Students will learn to communicate, construct, evaluate, collaborate, and create using technology.

LIBRARY - Features a forty-minute class once a week where students are exposed to quality children's literature and have the opportunity to check out books.

FIELD TRIPS - Taken in connection with and to enhance subject area studies; destinations include the Dr. Pepper Museum, U.S.S. Lexington, National Museum of the Pacific War, and the Village Christian Apartments. We also do service projects at the Village Christian Apartments when the opportunity arises.

RECESS - A thirty-minute daily playtime in an outdoor play area provides an opportunity for unstructured recreation.

HOMEWORK - Assigned daily; includes independent reading, spelling mastery, math computation, studying for chapter and unit tests in social studies and science, Bible reading and memory work, and work on independent study projects. See Handbook for time guidelines.