



FIFTH GRADE HIGHLIGHTS

OVERALL

Fifth grade serves as the bridge between elementary and middle school. This is the students' first opportunity to switch classes as they rotate between all three fifth grade teachers for math, literacy, social studies, and science. Our goals are for each student to grow spiritually, academically, and socially as we prepare them for middle school and beyond.

BIBLE

In 5th grade, students are given the opportunity to explore who God is, what he does, what he is like, and his desire to share a relationship with us. 5th graders study how God interacted with his people in biblical times and it gives them a good picture of the character and nature of God. 5th graders explore this ongoing story as they navigate their role in God's story as well. We encourage students to journey with God: to learn of him, to be in conversation with him, to accept his offer of salvation, and to commit their lives to him.

WRITING

Students carry on with strengthening their writing skills. We study power paragraphs, narrative writing, persuasive writing, and writing a memoir. We also tackle grammar. Writing is an opportunity to be a risk taker; trying out hard-to-spell words, organizing complex thoughts and feelings, and a willingness to share their heart.

SOCIAL STUDIES

In social studies, we learn about how history is really God's timeline, and how we can see him at work all through the pages of history. We will take a look at how the United States came to be, starting with the first people to migrate to North America and ending around the time of the American Revolution. We also study geography throughout the year, and students learn the location of the 50 states. Our goal is for students to begin to develop an understanding of the different places, cultures, and people that have shaped the world in which we live. Along with that, students will learn what it means to actively engage in our world as characters in God's Story.

READING

Throughout the year we read a variety of novels and articles as mentor texts as we dive deeper into reading skills. Each novel is followed up with an engaging project that lets the students use their imagination and talents to communicate what they have learned.



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MATH

Students continue to build on the mathematical skills and ideas they have learned in previous years. As they learn new math concepts, we encourage them to think about the importance of mathematics in their life now and how it will be useful to them in the future. Students will extend their understanding of place values and decimals, compute with fractions, explore the concept of volume, learn about coordinate grids, and deepen their understanding of 2-dimensional figures. Our hope is that students will be able to embrace their mistakes, learn from their struggles, and strive to grow a little more each and every day.

SCIENCE

Students build on the scientific knowledge they have learned in previous years, deepening their understanding of each concept. Our goal is for students to not only learn to think like scientists, but also to learn more about how God has creatively and intricately designed our world. Along the way, they will learn how to use their scientific knowledge to care for the world God has created. Our units focus on earth and space systems, the structure and properties of matter, and matter and energy in an ecosystem.

CO-CURRICULAR

Students participate in music, technology, art, Spanish, and physical education, and they also have the opportunity to begin band and orchestra in fifth grade.

ENRICHMENT

Fifth grade students have the opportunity to participate in Small Groups, growing in their faith alongside a few other classmates and a teacher or parent leader. All fifth grade students come together one morning a week for Fusion devotions. This is a time for us to grow in our faith together as a whole grade community. Students travel to Camp Roger to participate in a variety of survival skill activities. Another part of this day involves a walk to water, which helps students to understand the clean water crisis in our world in a very powerful way. After learning about what it means to be a servant worker, students participate in a field trip to Dégagé Ministries. We ride the Rapid bus to get to downtown Grand Rapids, and then we tour Dégagé to learn about the work they are doing to serve our local homeless population. Students raise the money for their own bus ticket through acts of service, and they are encouraged to donate hygiene items to Dégagé as well.