

FIFTH GRADE
HANDBOOK



FIFTH GRADE

The theme of 5th grade is friendship. It is a good age to emphasize friendship, as it is a time when peers take on a new importance. At the same time children find it easier to criticize each other. They want things to be fair, but have trouble seeing "fair" from another person's point of view. They begin to want to understand themselves in a social context.

In general, fifth graders are eager to learn and love to apply known skills and knowledge. They are fascinated with interesting facts. They are easily frustrated, but equally easily encouraged.

Fifth graders enjoy order, and like the unity and peace that rules and principles give them. They vacillate between an acceptance of these rules and a doubting of them - especially as the year progresses. However, they are still quite accepting of the authority of the Lord and usually that of the teacher and parent. The Golden Rule and the Ten Commandments are the basis for our classroom behavior.

In fifth grade we continue to use many teaching methods so that we may appeal to different styles of learning. We use drill, hands on learning, experimentation, questioning and peer teaching in groups and pairs.

Our hope is to work with parents in providing a good education for your child. We welcome your input regarding any questions or concerns. Please contact us by note, phone or email. If calling at home, please call before 9pm. It is better to catch a problem early, so please convey concerns whenever they arise.

RELIGION

Fifth grade religion is based on the two books of Samuel. These books cover from the anointing of Saul to the end of David's reign. The moral concepts being emphasized are friendship, fairness and benevolence. The civil concept is justice. The spiritual concepts are the Lord as King and the love of country.

Religion class meets for three half hour periods during which the children hear or read the story, have discussion and do projects. Children will be tested and receive grades. The teacher for this year is Rev. Phil Schnarr.

SUBJECT MATTER COVERED IN THE 5TH GRADE

<u>Reading Skills</u>	Vocabulary, Following Directions, Fact and Opinion, Main Ideas, Drawing Conclusions, Generalizing, Factual and Inferential Comprehension, Sequencing, Outlining, Use of the Library.
<u>Independent Reading</u>	Historical Fiction, Biography, Mystery, Animal Stories, Adventure, Fantasy.
<u>Grammar</u>	Sentences, Paragraphs, Subject/Predicate, Parts of Speech, Punctuation.
<u>Composition</u>	Poetry, Imaginative Stories, Descriptive Paragraphs, Letters, Plays, State Notebook, Journals, Speeches.
<u>Spelling</u>	Core Spelling Words, Basic 375 most commonly used words, Alphabetizing, Dictionary Work, Proofreading, Prefixes, Suffixes, Plurals, Contractions, Spelling rules.
<u>History</u>	What is History? Native Americans, Age of Discovery - Explorers, North American Colonization, Life in Colonial America.
<u>Geography</u>	Geographical Terms, South America, Central America, Mexico, Canada, Pennsylvania, United States.
<u>Mathematics</u>	Numeration, adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing whole numbers and decimals, geometry, fractions, measurement, equations, graphs, ratios and percent.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Reading

Reading skills are taught primarily through literature. Skills are used and reinforced in our basic reading program which consists of novels and short stories. We work on finding main ideas and making inferences. We also introduce the idea of character development. Our vocabulary work centers on using context to discover meanings of new words found in the readings. We emphasize giving complete answers to reading questions. At the 5th grade level the focus changes from learning to read to reading to learn. We use many non-fiction materials to gather information.

We will be reading the following literature books in our program.

1. Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes, Eleanor Coerr
2. The House Without A Christmas Tree, Gail Rock
3. Snow Treasure, Marie McSwigan
4. My Side of the Mountain, Jean George
5. American Tall Tales, Adrien Stoutenburg

Independent Reading

Reading at home is an important part of your child's overall education. Children will be given an effort grade reflecting both effort and number of pages read as recorded from their daily reading. Students should read at least 15 minutes a day outside of school. This includes daily reading from the Word, as this is an important daily habit to establish. Daily recording of these pages is part of the nightly homework assignment.

Each month a particular genre of book will be required along with a book report. We will try to help children choose books at their reading level, and the library has a large selection on display each month. These choices have been selected to help children read different genres of books, and to expose students to the types of books a fifth grader might find enjoyable.

Genre for each month

September – Native American stories	February - Adventure
October – Mystery	March - Biography
November – Animal	April - Fantasy
December - Open Choice	May – Historical Fiction
January - Disabilities	

Grammar

Grammar skills are drawn from teacher resources and a grammar book, Write Source Skills Book. Grammar in fifth grade is use oriented rather than analytical. Parts of speech studied are nouns, adjectives, pronouns, verbs, adverbs, prepositions and conjunctions.

Spelling

Spelling is based on the workbook Everyday Spelling. They will complete a unit a week with a test on Thursday. Proper spelling in everyday work is encouraged. If Monday is a holiday, there may not be a test that Thursday. They are expected to use the core 375 words correctly in everyday work.

Composition

During composition we work on both narrative and expository writing. Some skills we work on are rich ideas, orderly organization, descriptive word choice, interesting sentences, accurate use of proper grammar and paragraph formation. Assignments will include fictional stories, essays, poetry, and journal writing. Composition is an integral part of the children's other subjects, particularly social studies.

Speech and Drama

Speech and drama gives the students confidence in speaking in front of others. There are many opportunities for them to practice. They will create and perform an explorer puppet play, and will be giving oral presentations throughout the year.

MATH

In fifth grade we use the textbook, enVision Math. This program is a sequentially based math program which focuses on visualizing math concepts, problem solving, group instruction and individual practice of new concepts that are presented each day. Most nights they will have math homework.

SCIENCE

Subjects covered are introduction to the scientific method, classification, the skeletal system, weather, simple machines, and space exploration and rocketry. We have two 45 minute periods a week in science. Our science classes are on Tuesday and Friday. Gail Neukum is the science teacher.

SOCIAL STUDIES

History

Exploration is the theme for this grade. We look at how in the Lord's providence man has discovered new lands enabling the Lord's Word to be spread. We look at the idea of the neighbor in its broadest sense and our responsibility to our neighbor. We study how the explorers and settlers handled their responsibility in the new lands. It is a wonderful way to point out the use and abuse of power.

We begin by studying Native Americans, the early occupants of North America. We then learn about the most important explorers of the world, beginning with the Vikings and ending with the Australian explorers. Next we progress to the colonization and settlement of the thirteen colonies, finishing the year with colonial life and the production of "Colonial Day".

Geography

In geography we emphasize the world and country as our neighbor. Map skills are learned as we study South, Central and North America. We study the life and culture of the people living in these regions.

Fall term focuses on South and Central America. Winter term focuses on Canada, and spring term focuses on the United States. A major project of spring term is the state notebook. This project lasts many weeks, during which each child chooses a state, researches and produces a complete state notebook. Most of the work will be done in class. Other assignments during the year include a PowerPoint on a Canadian province, and the learning of all the 50 states and capitals of the United States.

HEALTH

In fifth grade, the health curriculum will be shared among the phys. ed., religion, science and classroom teachers. Content strands include moral and spiritual health, personal health and hygiene, personal safety, mental and emotional health, nutrition and fitness and social relationships. The health program includes our school wide bullying program. Many of these above health topics are covered in our weekly class meetings.

HOMEWORK

Homework has an important use. It reinforces skills and knowledge learned in class and instills personal responsibility. Parent support is an integral part of achieving success. Occasionally your child may not be able to complete their homework. If so, we ask that the assignment be brought back to school with a note from the parent explaining the reason.

School policy is that 5th grade has approximately 50 minutes of homework per night. Fifteen minutes of silent reading should be included in their homework time. If more than an hour is needed, parents can send in a note informing the teacher. Please remember that it should be an hour of uninterrupted homework time. Late or missing homework may result in the child spending recess in the classroom completing the assignment or study hall in the afternoon after school. You will be notified if your child receives a study hall.

Homework should be the practice of skills learned at school. We encourage children to call us before 9pm, if they are confused or need help. Our hope is that parents will be a resource and a support.

TESTS

Our major tests in fifth grade will be primarily in history and geography. They will be given a study guide that will be similar to their test. One of our goals in fifth grade is to teach fifth graders how to study for a test. Studying for tests will be part of the assigned homework for several days prior to the test. You can help your child by asking them questions based on the study guide.

In the event your child achieves below a 70%, they will be asked to study again and retake the test. The final test grade will be the average of the two tests. A child who needs to retake a test will be doing the extra studying in addition to the assigned homework.

BEHAVIOR

Bullying

BACS has adopted a school wide program against bullying. There are four simple rules:

1. We will not bully
2. We will help bullied students
3. We will include students easily left out
4. We will tell an adult at school and at home

We will implement this in our classroom with class meetings and personal contact with the student. If a child bullies another student it will be investigated and recorded. Our goal is to have an environment where the students feel safe.

Detention

Students may receive detention for behavioral infractions which occur during the day. We use a card system for tracking these infractions. Parents will be notified when a child receives detention. They will serve it the next day after school. Detention is generally for 30 minutes. Frequent detentions may require further consequences.

Arrival Time

Children should arrive between 7:45 and 8:00 in the morning. Arrangements are made for children who take buses if they arrive earlier than this. Arriving on the earlier side allows students time to hand in homework, work on math spirals, or catch up on missing work. Your child will be considered late if they arrive after 8:00am. There will be consequences for chronic lateness.

Dismissal Times

School is over at 2:30pm. Children should not hang around school after school dismissal without permission from their teacher. All social arrangements should be made before school.

Absences

If your child will not be in school you must phone the school office (215-947-4086 ext. 213). This is for your child's safety. You must also send a written note or an email when your child returns to school explaining his/her absence.

School Cancellation –

BACS will use the automated calling system to notify you in case of emergency dismissals, late openings and school closings.

Class Mothers

There is a class mother for each class who helps us out coordinating activities and soliciting volunteers. During the year, class mothers will contact you about help on projects and class trips.

Email and Telephone Contact

Email and the telephone are both appropriate ways to contact us regarding your children. However, please be aware that we are not always able, during teaching time, to check our emails or answer our phones. Therefore, if you have an immediate message or need regarding your child, it is best to please contact the secretary, Natalie Lambertus, who will relay the message to us. She can be reached at the following number: 215-947-4086 ext. 213.

In conclusion, we look forward to a happy, productive year with your children. We see ourselves as partners with you in the important use of New Church education. Please feel free to call with questions, comments, and concerns. The best time to reach us is from 2:45 pm. to 9:00 pm.

Debbie Cook – 215-947-4086 ext 244 (school)
215- 435-0241 (cell)
Email dcook@bacs.org

Cara Dibb –215-947-4086 ext 230 (school)
215-659-6288 (home)
Email cdibb@bacs.org