2026-2027

5th Grade Handbook

"The Lord is King of Kings."



Meet the Fifth Grade Teachers



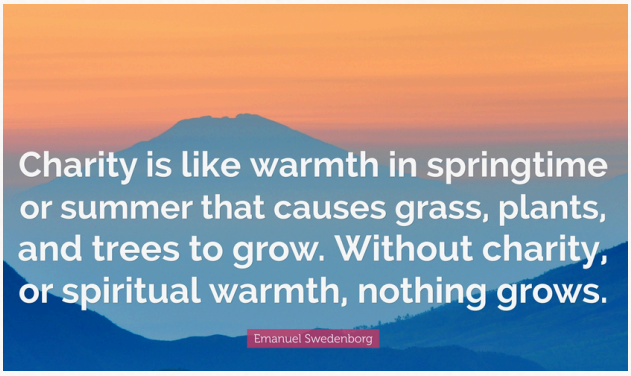
As educators, we believe strongly in creating a classroom space that is focused on safety, community, and charity. We are passionate about teaching and strive to help all students find their voice and feel a sense of belonging in fifth grade. As students are becoming more independent we seek ways to guide them towards getting to know their strengths and challenges while celebrating their individual uniqueness. Through our academic subjects we encourage perspective taking, critical thinking, and respectful expression of thoughts and ideas.

We are so excited to be a part of your child's fifth grade experience.

Beth Adams & Anna Blair



Classroom Expectations, Rules, and Discipline





Learning is a complicated process that is filled with trial and error, vulnerability, mistakes, growth, and success. It is important to create a classroom culture that allows for students to feel safe to challenge themselves and where they feel that they can focus on their own learning journey. In order to establish that type of environment is necessary to have clear boundaries and expectations.

In fifth grade our expectations consist of:

- Respect for ourselves, others, and our environment.
- Curiosity about the world around us as we ask questions.
- Collaboration with others to develop knowledge and understanding when working in a group.
- Communicating in a way that is respectful and clearly communicates learning and needs.
- Open-mindedness to ideas, perspectives, cultures and beliefs.

The card system that is used in fifth grade, as well in other intermediate grades, allows for a reminder and accountability in holding to these class expectations. Cards are flipped primarily for taking away classroom safety through words and actions, or a lack of respect for other people and property. If students have three card flips within a given day they will have earned a detention where they reflect on the choices that led them to that consequence.



General Homework Guidelines

- Homework teaches responsibility and organization.
- Students write homework in their planner each day.
- Math and reading homework are the core of homework.
- Reading is 15 minutes 5 days/ week. That includes once over the weekend.
- Every month students earn a homework pass.
- Homework not done is done over recess or for homework the next night.
- 3 oopsies equals a study hall in the fall and winter, but only 2 oopsies in the spring.
- Students can call or email if they are stuck.
- Homework folders should be cleaned out on a weekly basis with graded assignments given to parents and other pages being recycled.
- If homework takes over an hour of consistent work please write a note.

Homework in Fifth Grade

5th Grade Homework Outline and Expectations

Recitation

- 5 minutes a night (4 nights/week)

Reading

- 15 minutes (5 times/ week) it should not be a graphic novel.
- Each week students will answer one question about their reading. This will be answered at school.
- Book reports are assigned monthly. Students choose a book from the library. Each month will focus on a different genre and have a different book report assignment. Students are encouraged to read their book report book for fifteen minutes as their nightly reading.
- Science reading counts towards reading time.

Math

- Review of the day's lesson
- Spiral page (spiral corrections at the end of math units)

Grammar homework

- Monday/ Thursday review page

Spelling homework

- Wednesday night two-sided page
- Study throughout the week for tests on Thursdays

Literature

- Thursday night homework, if not completed during class.

Science

- Tuesday assigned but due Fridays

Writing

- Occasionally writing homework will be sent home. Some assignments may be completing a planning page, working on a draft, or a journal assignment with a prompt.

Tests

- Students will be given a study guide a week in advance for all history and geography tests. Some review will be done in class, but students should study at home in preparation for assessment. Grammar and math do not have study guides.

Worship and Religion



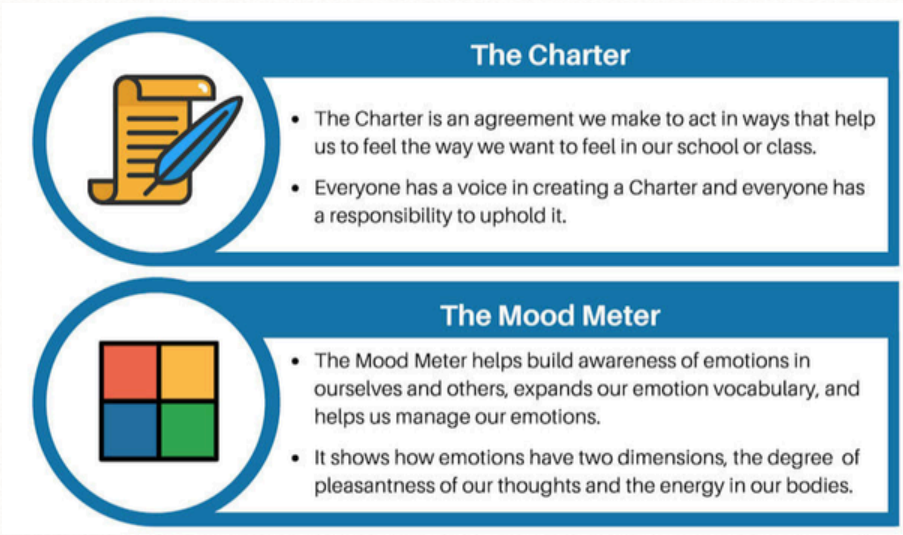
Fifth grade worships examine stories and parables from the Word that focus on how to apply religion to their own lives. Topics that are covered include: prayer, children in heaven, the parable of the house on a rock, belonging, responsibility, the Lord as our shepherd, worthiness, and variety. During worship students will participate in discussions and share thoughts and ideas about the worship topic and ask questions. Students create worship projects about once a month that demonstrates their understanding of that week's lesson.

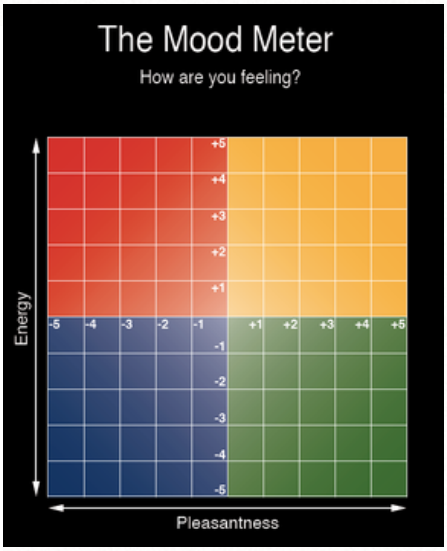
In fifth grade religion the books of 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel comprise the course of study. The fifth grade student is becoming more and more conscious of his or her interaction with the surrounding world. The kings, Saul, David and Solomon, each make their mark in different ways as they expand the lands of Israel and attempt to lead the Israelites. Jehovah works with His people by means of the kings' leadership. Learning about and discussing the struggles and blessings of these rulers in their efforts to be leaders while serving the Lord works well for fifth graders as they begin to form their own character, separate from the adults in their lives.

Class Meeting

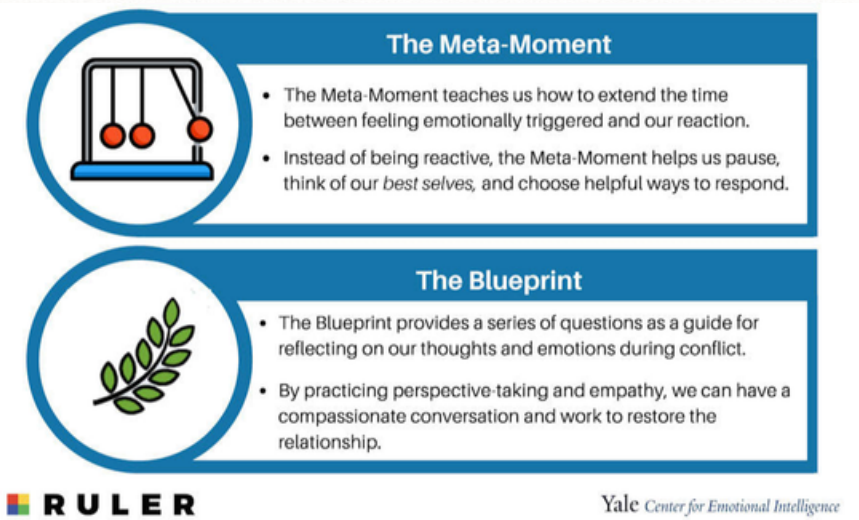
In fifth grade, class meetings continue to focus on the RULER program. This is a social-emotional learning program that is designed to help students understand and manage their emotions so that they can make more responsible decisions, have stronger relationships, and perform better in school and beyond. Lessons throughout the year often refer back to characters and situations in the book *Wonder* that is read aloud at the beginning of the year. This allows students to discuss characters' actions and decisions. They can then apply the lessons that they learned to their own lives.

Throughout the year the students develop a deeper understanding of the four anchor tools, and add twelve emotion words to their vocabulary. This is the last year that they will learn new emotion words. The goal is that through learning and understanding emotions students can have a deeper understanding of how they are feeling, and also to read the emotions of the people around them. The fifth grade words are: elated, inspired, committed, exasperated, passionate, self-conscious, pessimistic, offended, despair, valued, considerate, and understood.











Reading & Literature

In fifth grade we are passionate about reading. Throughout the year students will read a variety of novels from different genres. Two of our class novels are linked to our history and geography curriculums which adds a deeper understanding and connection to the texts. Our reading focus includes character development, vocubulary acquisition, complete and in-depth responses to literature questions, and participation in class discussions. Students continue to develop their ability to "read to learn" versus "learning to read."

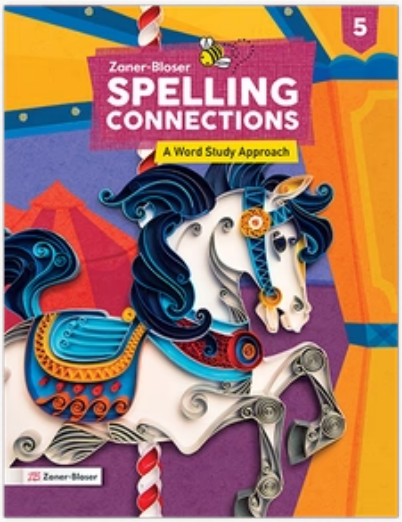
Class novels include: Pie, Esperanza Rising, Eagle Drums, Animal Literature Circle Books

<u>Monthly Book Reports:</u>

- September - Fantasy
- October - Biography
- November - Disability
- December - Christmas Picture Book
- January - No Book Report
- February & March - Adventure
- April - Mystery
- May - Historical Fiction



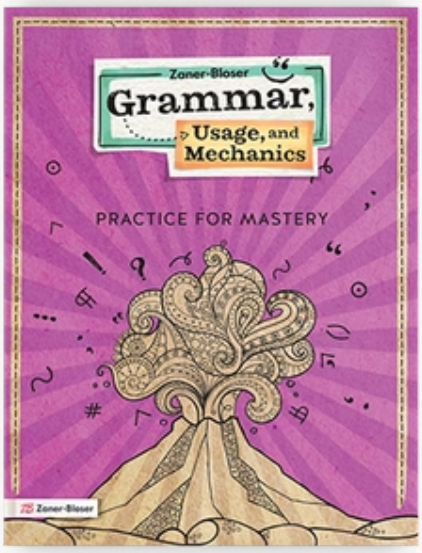
Spelling



Spelling lists each week are based off of the Zaner-Bloser spelling program. Throughout the year students will examine different spelling patterns to support accurate spelling in daily written work.

Words are introduced on Mondays and tests are on Thursdays. Wednesday night's homework focuses on practicing spelling each of the 20 words twice. Once by writing them in cursive, and then completing a worksheet that demonstrates an understanding of word use.

Grammar



Students have grammar on Mondays and Thursdays. Often homework is sent home on those nights. This is an opportunity for them to demonstrate their understanding of that day's lesson.

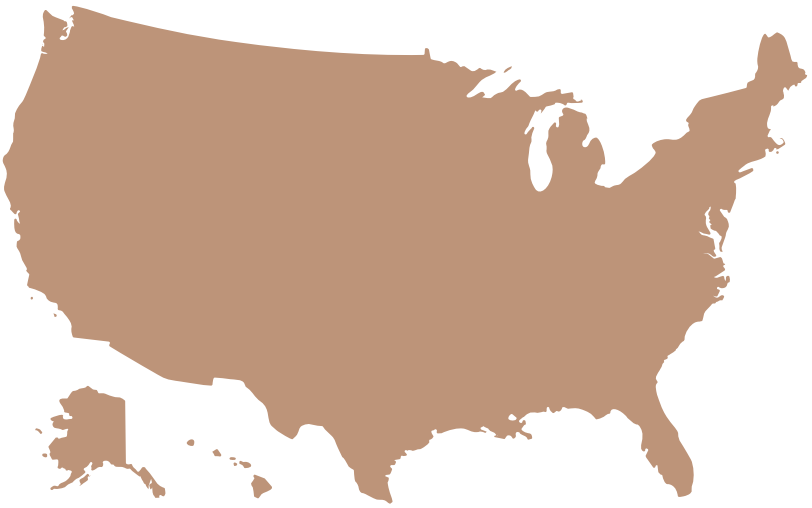
While students have had grammar lessons previously, this is first time that grammar is an individual class with assessments included. Throughout the year students will study nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, capitalization,and punctuation. Fifth grade uses the Zaner Bloser grammar program.

Writing



In fifth grade, students complete a variety of written works. Some of the major assignments including writing a story about a child waking up in heaven, creating a logbook of an explorer heading into an unknown land, and the state notebook. Smaller assignments include the best part of me, Christmas poetry, and a letter to a veteran. Throughout the year students will practice working through all of the steps in the writing process. A particular emphasis is put on the planning process and incorporating descriptive words into their written work.

The largest of all of the projects is the state notebook. This major research project takes place during the spring term. It requires students to use a variety of resources to research information about their state. They also further develop their ability to write solid paragraphs with a topic sentence and supporting sentences.



Math

Reveal Math Program



Major topics include:

- Volume and composite volume
- Place value to the thousandths place
- Division with two-digit divisors
- Multiplication of three-digit factors
- Addition and subtraction of decimals
- Multiplication and division of decimals
- Multiplication and division of fractions
- Measurement and data
- Classifying geometric shapes





Social Studies: History & Geography

Exploration and the "Three World Interaction" is the history theme for fifth grade. Students examine the interactions between the Indigenous Peoples, Europeans, and West Africans before and up through the founding of the Thirteen Colonies. The year begins with a study of the Indigenous Peoples in the Americas prior to colonization. Students then learn about what drove Europeans to search for new lands. Further studies examine how explorers and settlers handled their responsibility in the new lands. It is a wonderful way to point out the use and abuse of power. The students finish the year with colonial life and our "Colonial Day," where students dress in period costumes, and share what they have learned about life in colonial times.

In geography the emphasis is on both the world and individual countries as our neighbors. Map skills are learned as students study South, Central and North America. Students learn about the life and culture of the people living in these regions. In the spring term, along with the study of the United States, each student researches and develops an extensive notebook on one particular state.









Specialists

Music - Nathan Odhner - Nathan.Odhner@bacs.org

Art - Linda Kees - Linda.Kees@bacs.org

Library - Kelly Austin - Kelly.Austin@bacs.org
Shannon Goode - Shannon.Goode@bacs.org

Gym - Alex Rogers - Alex.Rogers@bacs.org
Serena Sutton - Serena.Sutton@bacs.org

Science - Kirsten Alden - Kirsten.Alden@bacs.org

Religion - Jeffrey Smith - Jeffrey.Smith@brynathynchurch.org





5th Grade Highlights and Dates



Field Trips

- Peter Wentz Farmstead - TBD
- Glencairn Museum - TBD

Projects

- Pinatas - November and December

Performances

- Christmas Program - December 18th
- Variety Show - February 3rd
- Colonial Day - May 26th
- Spring Concert - June 9th

Other Activities

- Mexican fiesta - December 17th
- Read to Preschoolers - TBD