

While not representing ALL the concepts and skills we teach, these are the performance indicators we are committing to teach for MASTERY at each level. These skills build on those previously mastered and lay the foundation for learning in later schooling and throughout life. We expect that every student will demonstrate mastery of these skills. We will gather sufficient evidence to provide proof of their learning, and communicate their performance with students and families.



Parents'/Guardians' Guide to Fifth Grade

This guide provides an overview of what your student will learn by the end of fifth grade. It focuses on the key skills your child will learn in each of the different subject areas, which will build a strong foundation for success as your child progresses through school. The student outcomes outlined in this document reflect the Illinois Learning Standards as they are published at this time, which includes incorporating the Common Core Standards for English/Language Arts and Mathematics. As the Illinois Learning Standards undergo revision to reflect the development of new standards in additional subjects, our curriculum will also be revised to support additions or changes to the Illinois Learning Standards. If your child is meeting these end-of-the-year expectations, he or she should be well prepared for the next level of schooling.

Why Are Academic Standards Important?

Academic standards are important because they help set clear and consistent expectations for students, parents/guardians, and teachers; build a child's knowledge and skills; and help set high goals for all students. Having clearly defined goals helps families and teachers work together to ensure that students succeed.

How Can I Help My Child?

Use this guide to help build a relationship with your child's teacher. Talk regularly with his or her teacher about how your child is doing.

At home, you can play an important role in setting high expectations and supporting your child in meeting them. Work with your child's teacher to identify opportunities for additional learning or ways you can support your child in their schooling.

This Guide Includes:

- An overview of some of the key concepts and skills your child will learn in fifth grade
- Ideas for activities to help your child learn at home
- Topics of discussion for talking to your child's teacher about his or her progress

Preface and support material adapted from "Parents' Guide to Student Success" published by the National Parent-Teacher Association

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English/Language Arts: In fifth grade, your child will read widely and deeply from a range of high-quality, increasingly challenging fiction and nonfiction texts from diverse cultures and time periods. Building knowledge about subjects through research projects and responding analytically to literary and informational sources will be key to your child's continuing success. Your child will write stories or essays that are several paragraphs long. By devoting significant time and effort to producing numerous written pieces over short and extended timeframes throughout the year, he or she also will gain control over many conventions of grammar, usage, and punctuation as well as learn ways to make himself or herself understood.

A sample of what your child will be working on

Reading

- Summarizing the key details of stories, dramas, poems and nonfiction materials, including their themes or main ideas
- Identifying and judging evidence that supports particular ideas in an author's argument to change a reader's point of view
- Reading grade-level material with sufficient fluency and accuracy as to support understanding

Writing

- Writing opinions that offer reasoned arguments and provide facts and examples that are logically grouped to support the writer's point of view
- Writing informational or explanatory pieces that examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly, including a clear introduction to the topic, general focus, grouping related information logically, formatting to increase comprehension, and a related conclusion
- Writing stories, real or imaginary, that unfold naturally and developing the plot with dialogue, description, and effective pacing of the action
- Applying grade level editing and revising checklist
- Preparing a research project using multiple sources, and presenting findings in oral, written and/or available multimedia forms

Speaking and Listening

- Coming to classroom discussions prepared, then engaging fully and thoughtfully with others (e.g., contributing accurate, relevant information; elaborating on the remarks of others; synthesizing ideas)
- Reporting on a topic or presenting an opinion with his or her own words, a logical sequence of ideas, sufficient facts and details, and formal English when appropriate

Language Usage

- Adapting language, and listening/speaking behaviors to a given situation: standard use of parts of speech, subject-verb agreement, sentence structure
- Using grade-level grammar, mechanics, and conventions appropriately
- Spelling grade-appropriate words correctly, consulting references as needed
- Expanding, combining, and reducing sentences to improve meaning, interest, and style of writing
- Building knowledge of academic words with an emphasis on those that signal a contrast in ideas or logical relationships, such as on the other hand, similarly, and therefore

Mathematics: Fifth grade is a milestone and a pivot point for students. The classroom focus on arithmetic during the elementary grades will develop into a more formal study of algebra in middle school. To be ready for algebra, students must have an understanding of fractional arithmetic, in part because even simple equations cannot be solved without fractions. Because of this, whole-number arithmetic comes mostly to a close in 5th grade, while multiplying and dividing fractions becomes a major focus.

A sample of the skills your child will be working on

Critical Focus Areas: developing fluency with addition and subtraction of fractions, and developing understanding of the multiplication of fractions and of division of fractions in limited cases (unit fractions divided by whole numbers and whole numbers divided by unit fractions); extending division to 2-digit divisors, integrating decimal fractions into the place value system and developing understanding of operations with decimals to hundredths, and developing fluency with whole number and decimal operations; and developing understanding of volume

- Adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators (e.g., $21/4 - 11/3$), and solving word problems of this kind
- Multiplying fractions; dividing fractions in simple cases; and solving related word problems (e.g., finding the area of a rectangle with fractional side lengths; determining how many $1/3$ -cup servings are in 2 cups of raisins; determining the size of a share if 9 people share a 50-pound sack of rice equally or if 3 people share $1/2$ pound of chocolate equally)
- Generalizing the place-value system to include decimals, and calculating with decimals to the hundredths place (two places after the decimal)

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- Multiplying whole numbers quickly and accurately, for example $1,638 \times 753$, and dividing whole numbers in simple cases, such as dividing 6,971 by 63
- Understanding the concept of volume, and solving word problems that involve volume
- Converting like measurement units within a given measurement system, and using conversions to solve multi-step problems
- Graphing points in the coordinate plane (two dimensions) to solve problems
- Analyzing mathematical patterns and relationships

Science: Science instruction in fifth grade continues to build on your child's natural curiosity. The focus is on close observation, asking provocative questions, forming hypotheses, and data collection. Students are encouraged to think and act like scientists.

A sample of the skills your child will be working on

- Safely using equipment and materials to engage in the inquiry process to answer a testable question, conduct experiments; collect, record, analyze and interpret data; draw conclusions and communicate results
- Describing examples of the impact of humans on their environment, including space exploration
- Knowing that the cell is the basic unit of life, and identify cell structures and functions
- Observing and explaining the properties of energy: heat, light, and sound

Social Sciences: Social Sciences: Your child will expand their understanding about the world and their place in it. Students will continue to practice critical thinking skills as they research, read and evaluate primary sources of information related to Government, U. S. History, and Geography of the Modern World.

A sample of the skills your child will be working on

- Explaining the structure and operation of the US government and reasons for change
- Describing how major national events affect the US economy
- Describing how major historical events shape and modify our form of government
- Identifying and locating key geographic places
- Explaining how geographic features can shape political boundaries
- Describing ways that individuals contribute positively to the larger community, including their roles as responsible citizens

Physical Development/Health: The goal of physical development and health programming is physical fitness for all students. Fifth grade students explore the topics of fitness, wellness, teamwork, and cooperation in build a foundation of skills that will enable them to lead healthy and physically active lifestyles.

A sample of the skills your child will be working on

- Identifying the components of a variety of physical skills and manipulating objects with accuracy to change in direction or distance
- Explaining the correlation between behavioral choices and wellness levels
- Identifying individual behaviors that enable one to work successfully within a group
- Evaluating options for accessing health- and safety-related services within the school and community
- Recognizing personal health behaviors and/or choices that reduce risks of health problems
- Identifying the components and functions of the integumentary, musculoskeletal and nervous systems

Fine Arts: Your child will explore the four art forms (dance, drama, music, and visual art) as a means of promoting creativity and self-expression. Students will build knowledge of the arts, arts skills, and an appreciation of the arts a means of communicating ideas and feelings related to the time in which they are created.

A sample of the skills your child will be working on

- Discussing the use of arts elements and principles in a variety of works representing different styles, genre, and time periods
- Combining elements and principles in each arts discipline to communicate an idea, express a feeling, or solve a creative problem
- Observing and responding to the arts (dance, drama, music, visual art) in a respectful manner.

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Social/Emotional Learning: Your child will acquire the knowledge and skills needed to recognize and manage his or her emotions, demonstrate caring and concern for others, develop positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

A sample of the skills your child will be working on

- Monitoring and managing his or her own behavior and emotions in a socially acceptable manner
- Setting personal goals and monitoring progress towards personal goals and adjusting their plan for meeting those goals accordingly
- Communicating effectively and working productively with others
- Applying constructive approaches in resolving conflict
- Identifying multiple solutions and evaluating their consequences to make informed decisions

Technology: Students will apply the use of technology to solve problems, create projects, collaborate, and extend their learning in all subjects.

A sample of the skills your child will be working on

- Describing and illustrating content-related concepts or process using a model, simulation or concept-mapping software
- Selecting and using appropriate digital tools to investigate a content-related topic, issue, or problem, generate possible solutions, and report results (including collecting, organizing, and analyzing data, examining patterns)
- Performing research-related tasks
- Recognizing age-appropriate issues related to the use of technology and setting personally challenging goals in the area of technology
- Using the computer to produce writing



Helping your Child Learn at Home

- Try to carve out a quiet place to study, and carve out time every day when your child can concentrate on his or her studies without distractions from friends or family
- Sit down with your child at least once a week for 15 – 30 minutes while he or she does homework. This will keep you informed about what your child is working on and help you be the first to know if he or she needs help with a specific topic.
- Invite your child to read his or her writing out loud to other family members. Ask questions about your child's word choices and ideas.
- Discuss your family stories and history. Encourage your child to ask relatives questions about their lives. Put the information together in an album or brainstorm different ways to tell family tales, such as poems or short stories.
- Go to a play or musical with your child. Discuss the way the actors bring the words to life.
- Look for "word problems" in real life.
- Doing arithmetic with decimals --for example, when balancing a checkbook.
- Multiplying with fractions — for example, if you used about $\frac{2}{3}$ of a $\frac{3}{4}$ -cup measure of vegetable stock, then how much stock did you use? About how much is left?
- Using the length, width, and depth of a garden plot to determine how many bags of garden soil to buy.

Tips for Talking with Your Child's Teacher

- Keep the conversation focused on a few critical areas, like:
 - Comprehending a range of grade-level stories, poems, and informational texts such as biographies, articles, or guidebooks about history, science, or the arts
 - Building understanding of relationships between words and nuances in word meanings — synonyms, antonyms, idioms — and using this knowledge to convey ideas precisely.
 - Doing arithmetic and solving word problems with multi-digit numbers
 - Doing arithmetic and solving word problems with fractions
- Ask to see a sample of your child's work. Ask the teacher questions such as:
 - Is this piece of work meeting the expectations?
 - Is my child on track?
 - How can I support my child in this area?
 - Are there resources outside the classroom to help his or her learning in a particular area?

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