



September 17, 2018

Dear Fifth Grade Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Welcome to grade five! Students in fifth grade participate in a variety of classroom experiences to expand their love of learning while developing their academic, social and physical skills. The following descriptions present a brief overview of the comprehensive program for the fifth grade.

**Language Arts:** Students in fifth grade continue to develop and expand their literacy skills in word knowledge, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, writing, speaking, and listening by engaging in a variety of lessons and activities based on the Maryland College and Career Readiness Standards and the Anne Arundel County Literacy Curriculum. Fifth graders independently demonstrate and apply a variety of reading strategies as they engage in fluent reading and comprehension of more complex materials with literary and informational texts. They strive to construct meaning, monitor and check their own understanding, and engage in collaborative discussions of what they have read. Students are required to respond to text-dependent questions and write to source in all areas. Technology skills continue to develop during the fifth-grade year. Students become more independent in using online resources and computer applications to support their learning in all curricular areas. As writers, they focus on opinion, informative and narrative writing. Students learn to organize and develop complex ideas to compose pieces that include a variety of sentence structures, word choices, and language conventions to enhance their writing. Students continue to practice handwriting skills through writing.

**Mathematics:** Students develop mathematical thinking through the integration of the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards and the Standards for Mathematical Practice. These standards and practices require students to demonstrate skills and persevere when solving problems, explain their reasoning to others, choose appropriate mathematical tools, and be accurate with representations and explanations. The Standards for Mathematical Practices are incorporated into daily lessons and promoted through student discourse during lessons. The MCCR standards are a set of high-quality academic goals which provide rigor, focus, and coherence to prepare our students to be college and career ready by the time they graduate from high school. The mathematical concepts taught in Grade 5 include:

- Number and Operations – Finalize fluency and integration of decimals fractions
- Number and Operations – Fraction operations
- Operations and Algebraic Thinking
- Geometry
- Measurement and Data

A variety of resources are employed to teach the mathematical skills that include, but are not limited to, Ready Common Core, Teaching Student Centered Mathematics, Mastering the Basic Facts, Number Talks, Hands-On Standards, web based resources such as Learn Zillion, and computer programs such as First In Math. The computer program, First in Math, is designed to assist students with basic fact fluency and retention in an engaging manner. Students are provided logins to use at school and at home.

Students will acquire mathematical concepts and be able to apply them to various real-life situations. District assessments are given in conjunction with frequent checks for understanding and teacher observation, to determine the mastery of these skills and practices. Parents may assist in their child's success in mathematics by checking homework and communicating regularly with the classroom teacher.

Social Studies: Students explore the answer to the question “What does it mean to be an American?” by studying the history, government and geography of the United States. They investigate the historical events leading to the founding of our country and learn about exploration, colonization and the American Revolution. They study the principles of democracy and our form of government. Students have the opportunity in the U.S. Government unit to participate in a class campaign or a simulated congressional hearing for which they will receive 5 hours of service learning. Students continue to practice the skills of social studies by sequencing events, analyzing cause and effect, and analyzing perspective. They read primary sources and complete writing assignments and research projects. They are expected to read and write independently. Students will utilize the textbook, *America's Past* both in traditional and digital format. They also interpret and construct maps, charts, tables and graphs. The units studied are:

- Colonization
- Road to Revolution
- American Revolution
- We the People

Science: Through exploration of the Next Generation Science Standards curriculum, students engage in the process of scientific inquiry. They generate questions around real-world science phenomena, and develop investigations to find the answers to these questions. Students make measurements, collect data, and analyze information to find solutions to scientific problems. Patterns and relationships among the domains of science will be studied, and students learn to construct arguments in response to claims using evidence.

The topics are:

- Phases & Interactions of Matter
- Stars and Constellations
- Interactions of the Four Spheres of Earth
- Food Webs in Ecosystems
- Engineering Design

Environmental Literacy: Maryland Environmental Literacy Standards are integrated into curriculum through engaging units that connect students with their local natural world.

Students answer the question, how do we make our school greener? Students will help their school become a MAEOE Maryland Green School by analyzing the schools environmental impact on resources in their school. They conduct audits on energy, water, waste or transportation and develop and conduct actions to reduce their impact. This is imbedded in Unit 3 of the 5th grade science curriculum. Students will conduct a second audit in the 3rd quarter to assess the progress of their actions to become a green school.

English Language Acquisition Program (ESOL): English Language Acquisition (ELA) classes comply with the requirements of Title III of ESSA. The goal of English Language Acquisition instruction is to enable English Learners to construct meaning from oral and written language, express complex ideas and information, as well as access instruction. In order to accomplish this goal, the ELA curriculum is based on WIDA English Language Development (ELD) standards:

- Social and Instructional Language
- The Language of Language Arts
- The Language of Math
- The Language of Science
- The Language of Social Studies

While the ELA teacher is responsible for English Language Development according to the WIDA ELD standards, the Maryland State Standards for College and Career Readiness, as well as National and State Content Standards,

are the context used for teaching the language. All students who have been identified as eligible to receive English Language Acquisition services will take WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0, the annual assessment to measure English Language Proficiency.

**Media Arts:** Students experience a heightened level of art access through a unique medium of artistic expression that can amplify and integrate the four traditional art forms by incorporating the technological advances of the contemporary world with emerging skill sets available to students and teachers. In the Media Arts, students cultivate both artistic abilities and a technological aptitude. The media artist utilizes a fundamental understanding of the mediums of analog and digital media to integrate digital technologies with traditional forms of artistic expression. Artistic processes are the cognitive and physical actions by which arts learning and making are realized. National Core Arts Standards are based on the artistic processes of Creating; Performing/Producing/Presenting; Responding; and Connecting.

**Technology:** Students increase their creativity, communicate and collaborate with others and gather, evaluate and analyze information and data using computers. They solve problems and make decisions in a manner that demonstrates their understanding of the social, ethical, and human issues related to technology.

We are looking forward to a year of learning for your fifth grader. If you desire additional information, please contact your child's teacher.

Sincerely,

Tracey L. Ahern  
Principal

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