



St. James Day School

Fifth Grade Curriculum



Reading/English

- Persuasive Writing
- Writing paragraphs
- Topic sentences
- Writing & revising drafts
- Proofreading
- Writing final drafts
- Expository Writing; Prewriting
- Creative writing
- Timelines
- Prepositions & prepositional phrases
- Nouns & pronouns
- Using commas in direct address; comma blunders
- Titles: Capitalizing & italicizing; bylines
- Comprehension: character traits, analyzing, inferences, asking questions, making connections
- Sequencing, predicting, summarizing, clarifying
- Fiction: plot & problem solving
- Organizing information with charts
- Literary terms: author, title, illustrator, ISBN, pub.
- Poetry: Haiku, Cinquin
- Fact & opinion



Spanish

Fifth grade students travel to the Spanish room twice weekly for a 25 minute Spanish class with the Spanish teacher.



- Read, write, & speak using subject pronouns with “jugar” as well as verbs learned in 4th grade
- Use of *tomar* & *beber* to mean **to drink**
- Food vocabulary extended
- Write, read, & speak about content material
- Use of adjectives according to number & gender
- Ask & answer questions without using pronouns
- Write with proficiency; Read aloud without error

Physical Education

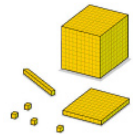
All students travel to the gym for P.E. activities daily.

- Daily fitness activities
- Push-ups, sit-ups, and shuttle-run drills
- SOCCER: rules, positions, dribbling, passing, kicking, defense, trapping, goal tending
- FOOTBALL: rules, positions, throwing, catching, punting, hiking
- VOLLEYBALL: rules, positions, passing, serving
- DANCE: square dance, line dance, swing dancing
- GYMNASTICS: balances appropriate to individual skill level; inverted positions, rolling skills, weight transferring skills
- Presidential Physical Fitness Test
- Field Day Activities

Math

The math program systematically distributes instruction, practice, and assessment throughout the academic year. Specific concepts taught in grade 5 include, but are not limited to:

- Whole number concepts and computation
- Estimation
- Patterns and sequences
- Fractions, decimals, and mixed numbers
- Percent
- Word-problems
- Properties of Operations
- Integers
- Divisibility concepts
- Prime and composite numbers
- Ratios
- Square roots
- Measurement and unit conversion
- Statistics
- Probability
- Data display and analysis
- Perimeter and area
- Volume
- Symmetry
- Tessellations
- Transformations
- Real world connections



Computer

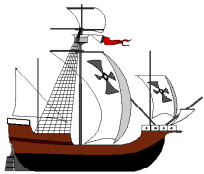
Fifth grade students go to the Middle School computer lab once weekly for one hour of instruction in specific skills. Teachers are encouraged to enrich the computer curriculum with technology-based projects which use skills learned in the lab. Extra lab time can be scheduled by classroom teachers at their discretion. Skills to be taught include, but are not limited to:



- Advanced keyboarding
- Knowledge of standard software applications and ability to make appropriate decisions concerning their use
- Understanding of computer hardware and platforms
- Year 5 Logo programming
- Advanced word processing and knowledge of accepted standard conventions used in both publishing and business
- Mail merge
- Ongoing practice with spreadsheets
- Ongoing practice with databases
- Desktop Publishing with at least one of the following:
Office, Appleworks, and/or InDesign
- Digital Editing and Presentation Applications
- Copyright and plagiarism rules
- Appropriate and knowledgeable Internet research
- Use of multimedia for class projects

Social Studies (U.S. History)

- Geography: landforms of the U.S.; Natural resources
- Regional differences; Cultures & diversity
- Origins of our continent: Hunters & gatherers
- Ice Age & migration of early people to the Americas
- Vikings and their travels to Greenland, Iceland, & Canada
- Cultivation of corn and its importance to civilization
- Mayan & Aztec cultures: Pueblos
- Mesoamerican & Anasazi cultures
- Eastern Woodlands Native Americans
- Pacific Northwestern Native Americans
- 2004 Presidential Election:
 - Election process
 - Contribution laws
 - Yellow journalism
 - Voting process
- Early explorers to the Americas: Columbus, Vasco de Gama, Marco Polo, las Casas, Magellan, Drake, Lief Erickson,
- Geography of the early trade routes
- Influence of Islam
- Trade with China; relationship with the Kublai Khan
- The Renaissance in Europe, China, & Asia
- How navigational instruments worked
- Competition between England, France, & Spain for the New World
- The Spanish Armada



- Northwest Passage
- Founding of Jamestown & Plymouth
- Puritans, Separatists, & Pilgrims
- Massachusetts Bay Colony
- French & Dutch Colonies
- Maps of the colonies
- Colonial life; role of religion
- Salem witch trials

- Map reading: older maps vs new maps
- Life in the Middle Colonies: Pennsylvania
- Famous colonists: Penn, de Crevecoeur, Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Adams,
- Quakers, Presbyterians, Lutherans, Anglicans
- Cultural differences & religious influence on communities
- Southern Colonies: Virginia, N. Carolina, S. Carolina, Georgia
- Tobacco plantations
- House of Burgesses; Nathaniel Bacon, Lord Baltimore
- James Oglethorpe
- Representative, Trustee
- Slavery
- Read and understand battle maps
- American Revolution
- Causes of the revolution
- Major battles: Lexington & Concord, Bunker Hill
- Minutemen; Patrick Henry
- Second Continental Congress
- Boston Tea Party
- Declaration of Independence (partial memory work)
- Cornwallis' surrender
- Impact of the Revolution
- Northwest Ordinance; James Madison
- Constitutional Convention
- Articles of Confederation
- Shay's Rebellion

- Madison's Plan
- The Constitution: Federal government & its branches
- **Recitation of portions of an historical document:**
 - Preamble to the Constitution
 - Introduction to the Declaration of Independence any three amendments
 - Verses 2 & 3 of The Star Spangled Banner,
 - I Have A Dream speech by Martin Luther King,
 - Midnight Ride of Paul Revere
 - or name all the Presidents of the United States in order
- George Washington takes Oath of Office
- Explain the system of government used in the United States: Federal System, Legislative Branch, Executive Branch, Judicial Branch, System of Courts, Checks & Balances
- The Industrial period in the U.S.
- World Wars I & II
- Korean Conflict
- Viet Nam War
- Gulf War
- Current situation & terrorists

Science

The science program is a hands-on approach. Fifth grade units include, but are not limited to, the following investigations and explorations:

•Environments (6 Investigations)

- Environmental factors in terrestrial & aquatic systems
- Experiment with plants to determine ranges of tolerance
- Determine an organism's optimum conditions & environmental preferences
- Observe & describe changes in complex systems over time
- Relate laboratory studies to natural systems
- Scientific thinking processes to conduct investigations
- Investigations with living & non-living organisms: isopods, darkling beetles, plant matter
- Record scientific findings of plant/environment experiment



•Variables(Investigations)

- Understand the concept of variables
- Relationships between objects & events
- Design controlled experiments with pendulums
- Experience buoyancy and use data to make predictions
- Use scientific process to conduct investigations
- Support findings and explanations with evidence and data
- Graph results

•Landforms (5 Investigations)

- Make a grid representation and compare models
- Observe & measure effects of flowing water in a stream table and relate to erosion & deposition
- Observe & measure results of stream-table experiments & relate to natural processes
- Create foam model of a mountain and a topographic map
- Interpret aerial photographs

Art

Students travel to the Morriss Building twice weekly for a 40 minute class with the art teacher. Art history and theory is presented in context with students' original art work.

- Murals
- Self-portraits
- Learn to assess the characteristics & merits of personal art and the art of others
- Discuss relationships between art and everyday life
- Understanding visual arts
- Balance, pattern, & symbols in artwork
- Symmetry, color, and imagination in design
- Art in advertising
- Art of the Aztecs; Golden Plaque
- Masks
- Art & technique of artists: Grant Wood, Albrecht Durer, French Impressionists, Gilbert Stuart, & O'Keeffe
- Hands-on art: Masks; Cornucopias
- Patriotic American flag design
- Writer Silhouette Diorama (three-dimension)
- Paper Christmas ornaments
- Things artists design
- DaVinci: Mona Lisa; The Last Supper
- Duchamp and the Dadeists
- One point perspectives
- Pueblos in chalk pastel
- Mothers' Day pastel portraits
- Realism, Impressionism, Cubism, & Surrealism
- Abstract art; Pop Art - Warhol
- Mosaic

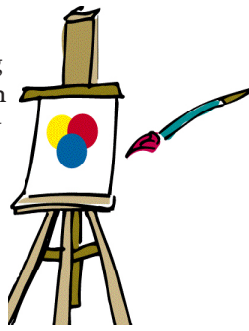
Religion

Christianity and its moral precepts are incorporated into the daily life of both students and teachers each day at St.



James. Chapel is held daily in each classroom or the Commons. Big Chapel meets each Thurs day in the gym and is required for all students. Morning Prayer is conducted by the rector or curate of St. James Episcopal Church. Parents

are welcome.



Music

Students travel to the Morriss Building twice weekly for a 25 minute music class with the music teacher.

Music concepts and activities consist of:

- Correct breathing
- Distinguish between major and minor chords
- Know the names of the composers whose music we sing in class
- Characteristics of major musical periods
- Sing simple 2-part harmony
- Identify program music and absolute music
- Clap a simple rhythmic pattern
- Recall major events from the lives of composers studied in class
- Echo melodic patterns after hearing
- Recognize solo instruments in recordings
- Music from other cultures: Southern folk tunes
- Knowledge of musical terms:
 - fugue, toccata
 - aria, chorus, recitative
 - polyphonic, homophonic
- Rhythmic dictation
- Melodic dictation
 - Play recorder with skill
 - Candlelight Performance
 - Recognize letter names of notes on the staff
 - Orff instruments-play simple harmonic accompaniments
 - Musical performance
 - Follow verses in the hymnal
- Recognize letter names of treble & bass staff
- Play harmonic accompaniments with chimes
- Sing a melodic phrase by sight
- Be able to recognize visually melodic & harmonic intervals
- Be able to write patterns in 3/4, 4/4, and 2/4 time



