

Parent Guide to Fifth Grade



English Language Arts

In fifth grade, your child will read widely and deeply from a range of increasingly challenging fiction and nonfiction material chosen from diverse cultures and time periods. They will also analyze literary and informational sources in order to build knowledge about a subject.

Important goals for the year include:

Reading:

- Summarize the key details of stories, dramas, poems, and nonfiction materials, including their themes or main ideas.
- Identify and judge evidence that supports particular ideas in an author's argument.
- Use details from the text to compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events.
- Integrate information from several print and digital sources to answer questions and solve problems.
- Quote accurately from a text when explaining what a text says and when implying what the text says.
- Compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts (cause/effect, comparison, sequential, etc.).
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases (including similes and metaphors) as they are used in a text.
- Use roots and affixes to read multisyllabic words.

Writing:

- Write opinion, informational, and narrative pieces for different purposes and audiences.
- Use technology (including the internet) to produce and publish writing.
- Conduct short research projects independently.
- Use grade-appropriate grammar and spelling including capitals, commas, and quotation marks.
- Create readable documents through legible handwriting (cursive) and word processing.

Speaking/Listening:

- Come to classroom discussions prepared to engage fully and thoughtfully with others (e.g., contribute accurate, relevant information; elaborate on the remarks of others; synthesize ideas).
- Report orally on a topic or present an opinion in his/her own words, that follows a logical sequence of ideas, uses sufficient facts and details, and expresses ideas.

Mathematics

In fifth grade, your child will continue to strengthen math habits such as problem solving, persistence, precision, accuracy, modeling, constructing arguments, and checking to see if the answer makes sense.

Important goals for the year include:

- Write and interpret equations.
- Analyze numerical patterns and relationships.
- Read, write, compare, and round decimals to the thousandths place.
- Maintain the memorization of multiplication and division facts.
- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide multi-digit whole numbers and decimals.
- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions and solve related word problems.
- Convert measurement units and use these conversions to solve multi-step, real world problems.
- Understand the concept of volume and solve mathematical problems involving volume.
- Graph points on the coordinate plane.
- Classify two-dimensional figures into categories based on their properties.

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Science

As fifth grade students learn about the life, physical, and earth sciences, they will develop skills of observation, actively conduct investigations, have opportunities to use their senses and other tools to gather data, and time to talk about their observations with peers. Important goals for the year include:

- Explain how gravity, friction, and change in mass affect the motion of objects.
- Compare the properties and weight of an object before and after an interaction occurs.
- Explain how the sun's energy affects the water cycle.
- Explain the effects of the transfer of heat (conduction, convection, or radiation) that occurs between objects and how heating and cooling can change the properties of some materials.
- Compare daily and seasonal weather conditions and patterns. Collect weather data and make predictions about upcoming weather events based on data and knowledge of global weather patterns.
- Compare the functions of the major systems of the human body (digestive, respiratory, circulatory, muscular, skeletal, and cardiovascular).
- Understand the interdependence of plants and animals with their ecosystem. Compare common ecosystems, classify organisms as consumers, producers, or decomposers, and explain the relationship of plants and animals to their ecosystem.
- List characteristics of organisms that may be inherited or non-inherited from their parents.

Social Studies

Fifth grade students focus on United States history, starting with American Indian groups prior to the arrival of European settlers and conclude with the Civil War and Reconstruction period. Teachers help students draw parallels between contemporary issues and their historical origins.

Important goals for the year include:

- Analyze key historical events and people (e.g., "Founding Fathers") in the United States.
- Understand the push/pull factors of migration and immigration and their influence on culture in the United States.
- Analyze human-environment interactions and their effects on the physical environment of the United States.
- Understand economic growth in the United States and the concepts of production, specialization, and division of labor.
- Learn how to make responsible financial choices in spending and saving.
- Analyze historical documents and speeches that helped shape the foundation of the United States.
- Understand the development, structure, and function of government in the United States.
- Understand what it is to be a citizen of a democratic nation.

Resources for Parents

Randolph County School System

www.randolph.k12.nc.us

Parent Resources

www.ed.gov

NBC Education Nation Parent Toolkit

www.parenttoolkit.com/

K-12 Standards in Science and Other Subjects

www.ncpublicschools.org/acre/standards/

National PTA Parent Guides

www.pta.org