

Fifth Grade Facts

Volume 5 9/09

Fifth Grade

CVE

825 Providence Road
Baltimore, MD 21286
410.887.4888

Mrs. Darlene Morrison
Principal
Mr. Chris Gromek

Fifth Grade Teachers

Ms. Michelle Classon
mclasson@bcps.org
Mrs. Florence Falatko
ffalatko@bcps.org
Mrs. Carrie Keeney
ckeene@bcps.org

PTA

Jennifer Descoteau
President
Michael Beegan
VP Advocacy & Administration
Ashley Brown
VP of Finance
Michael Calderon
VP of Programming
Chris Descoteau
Treasurer
Margaret Cellucci
Recording Secretary
Stacey Parsons
Corresponding Secretary
Clarence Jones, Sara Cuomo, and
Trish Ryan Thiel
Faculty Representatives

Curriculum Expectations

Welcome

Welcome to fifth grade! We are very excited to begin the new school year. We look forward to having the opportunity to work with you and your child to create a positive, caring and enriching classroom atmosphere. Your children will be instructed by each of the fifth grade teachers in the three main content areas: reading, math and social studies/science. (Mrs. Keeney teaches reading, Ms. Classon teaches social studies and science and Mrs. Falatko teaches math.) Language arts and spelling will be taught in your child's homeroom class.

Language Arts

Throughout the year students will complete several grammar units using the Houghton Mifflin series entitled English. Students in the fifth grade complete 5 compositions, at least 1 in each of the three areas of writing (writing to inform, writing to persuade, and writing to express personal ideas). The following are examples of some of these compositions:

- A description
- A story
- A personal essay
- A research report
- A persuasive essay
- Poems: Quatrain, Limerick, or Narrative

Reading

Fifth grade students use the Houghton Mifflin anthology series entitled *A Legacy of Literacy* as well as exciting and enriching novels to provide continued phonics instruction, vocabulary development, and comprehension instruction needed for students to become life-long learners. Students will also be reading National Geographic Magazine throughout the year. We will use all of these materials to read for literary experience, for information, and in order to perform a task.

Social Studies

Fifth grade students will examine the growth and change of the American colonies from 1700-1765 and explore U.S. history from the beginnings of the American Revolution

(1774) through the formation of the Constitution. The content is presented in units that focus on history, geography, economics, political systems, and cultures.

Science

The fifth grade curriculum is divided into three main units of study: *Investigating Microscopic Organisms/Systems*; *Investigating Energy* (forces and motion, magnetism and electricity); and *Investigating Earth Changes* (rocks and minerals, constructive and destructive forces). Students will also participate in a two week Ecology unit, a STEM unit to prepare students for the Science Technology and Math fair, and a new two week Weather unit.

Math

This year's math content includes algebra, patterns, geometry, measurement, statistics, probability, number relationships, and computation. Students explore these concepts through problem solving and reasoning, communicating ideas about math, and making connections within math

Curriculum Expectations Continued

Enrichment Program

The *Concept-Based Language Arts* and *Literacy Favorites* modules enrich and extend reading and language arts for students identified for Gifted and Talented Education and will be used in conjunction with the *Houghton Mifflin Legacy for Literacy* anthology and challenge books. Required works include: "The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle", "The Tripod Trilogy" and "The Hobbit". In mathematics, students complete the Grade 6 mathematics content standards using the Scott Foresman/Addison Wesley textbook. In science, students independently apply the experimental research design in order to investigate a problem. In social studies, students use primary source materials to authenticate historical fiction. GT students will also complete a required on-line research module.



Technology

The Instructional Technology program helps students develop the skills they need to use the computer as a tool. Students use computers to find and use information, to solve problems, and to create products to communicate ideas. Students learn that technology is important at home, school, and at work. Ethical use of computers is also an important part of the program. Students in grade five should know and be able to:

- create and use folders to organize files.

- use software to write, edit, save, format, and print documents.
- find a photo or graphic online and follow copyright law when using it in a document for an assignment in a curriculum area.
- create a multimedia presentation (text, graphics, and sound).
- organize information in a database.
- perform simple calculations and graph data in a spreadsheet.
- use keywords to search in Internet browser software for information to solve a problem .
- evaluate information in websites.
- use telecommunications to share information or participate in collaborative projects

Report Cards

Report cards are sent home on a quarterly basis. The following dates mark the end of marking periods and distribution of report cards:

1st Quarter: November 5, 2009

Distribution: November 19, 2009

2nd Quarter: January 28, 2010

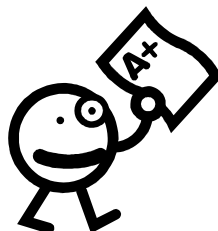
Distribution: February 11, 2010

3rd Quarter: April 16, 2010

Distribution: May 3, 2010

4th Quarter: TBD

Distribution TBD



Study Skills

Study Guides will be distributed to students prior to any tests. Content to be studied can be found in the content area's textbook and binder.

Some key study skill strategies that may help your child better prepare for projects, tests, and quizzes are the following:

- Write due dates for schoolwork on the calendar.
- Use a kitchen timer to set amount of time your child should stay on task.
- Have a regular time for schoolwork every day.
- Provide a comfortable and quiet setting.
- Let your child teach you the facts!

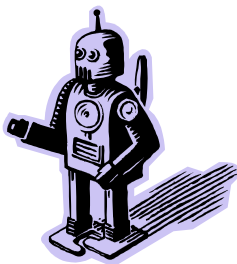
www.how-to-study.com is a great website you can learn more study skills to implement in your household.

Student Expectations



Organization

Students are required to have one section in their binder for each of their core subjects: reading, math, and social studies/science. A homework agenda book has been given to all fifth grade students so that all assignments can be recorded daily.



Toys

Electronic toys and games, as well as other valuable toys and cards, are not to be brought to school.

Rewards and Consequences

Fifth graders are rewarded for appropriate behavior and participation with tickets. Once a classroom has their container filled, the teacher will have a reward for the class..



Inappropriate behavior will be handled on individual basis based on the Baltimore County Public School Handbook.

Homework

Homework is given on a daily basis in math and reading, and periodically in social studies/science. Homework is expected to be completed each night.



Grade Level Specifics

The fifth grade participates in many exciting activities and programs.

The Wax Museum is a wonderful in-school activity where students get to be living models of the biographies they read.

Camp Wo-Me-To, the most anticipated activity, is a 3 day "camping" experience where students get to experience outdoor lessons, including a stream study, the building of a Native American sweat lodge, and orienteering.

Other activities include a trip to Philadelphia, and an Eco-Trekkers trip to Marshy Point.



Supplies**

2009-2010

It is important that your child has each of the items on this list. Please write your child's name on each item before returning back to school.

Quantity Item

- _____ 1 3" binder
- _____ 1 five-pack of subject dividers with pockets
- _____ 1 marble composition notebook
- _____ 1 spiral notebook (1 subject hole punched)
- _____ 3 different colored pocket folders with brads
- _____ 1 colored pocket folder without brads
- _____ 1 pair of scissors
- _____ 1 large glue stick*
- _____ 1 dual ruler (centimeters and inches)
- _____ 1 protractor
- _____ 1 set of colored pencils
- _____ 1 box of tissues
- _____ 1 package of #2 pencils* (**no mechanical pencils**)
- _____ 1 packs of 200 sheets of 3 hole punched wide-ruled notebook paper*
- _____ 1 durable pencil pouch to hold pens, pencils, etc.
- _____ 1 package of red pens
- _____ 1 old shirt/art smock

Optional:

Highlighter

Dry Erase
Marker

If last name begins with the letters A-L please contribute anti-bacterial gel / M-Z contribute baby wipes

*Marked items need to be replenished on a regular basis.

** Please note if you have supplies from fourth grade that meet these requirements, you may reuse them in fifth grade