

Fifth Grade Curriculum 2020 - 2021

Our Day:

Each day at The Gregory School allows students opportunities to grow, challenges to meet and problems to solve. On any given day, fifth grade students may be engaged in: conducting a science experiment, taking part in a living history lesson, designing and building something of their own innovation, writing a masterpiece, debating over literature, programming robots, playing games that sharpen math skills, enjoying instructional time with content experts in the visual and performing arts, studying new languages and staying healthy and fit through physical education. They may even do all of these things in one day!

We strive to make learning come alive for our students by creating a classroom culture that promotes a sense of community, academic risk-taking, and perseverance. Students will have the opportunity to learn, create and explore through engaging instruction that encourages each student to take an active role in a learning environment tailored to meet each student's needs and interests.

Our Curriculum:

At The Gregory School, we believe in educating the whole child. Building character, developing leadership skills and the pursuit of academic scholarship, are all important aspects of student development and are cultivated throughout the year.

Students are encouraged to develop personal and social responsibility while achieving their academic goals through the 6 C's: Community, Collaboration, Compassion, Critical and Creative Thinking and Communication. These skills are developed throughout each discipline during a student's time at The Gregory School.

Our personalized program is designed to allow each student to pursue their interests, follow their passions and build upon their unique talents. Project Based Learning is integrated across the curriculum to foster student engagement and inspire students to take an active role in their educational endeavors.

English in fifth grade emphasizes a strong foundation in reading, writing and personal communications skills. Students will read and write across a wide range of genres. By reading high-quality and increasingly challenging literature as well as informational texts, students will gain literary and content knowledge as well as familiarity with various text structures and elements. Through extensive reading which utilizes a rich variety of texts, students will build a solid foundation that will strengthen their reading comprehension in all content areas.

Fifth graders will learn to use writing as a tool for creative expression, communicating ideas and sharing information. Students will learn: the eight parts of speech, basic usage and mechanics of grammar, proper sentence structure, parts to a strong paragraph and key elements in developing a well-written essay.

Fifth grade writers will learn to adapt the style and format of their writing to address a particular task, purpose and audience. Organizational skills in writing, as they apply to note-taking, research projects and accessing multiple sources of information will be integrated throughout.

Mathematics curriculum for fifth grade focuses on developing a solid mathematical foundation for students. Fifth grade math instruction builds upon prior student knowledge, extending multiplication and division to multi-digit numbers and developing understanding of decimals in the place value system and operations. Adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions are covered in depth, and student knowledge of geometry is extended to develop an understanding of volume.

Problem solving with real-world scenarios is woven throughout the curriculum. Students will be immersed in the following mathematical practices: making sense of problems and persevere in solving them, modeling with mathematics, reasoning abstractly and quantitatively, constructing viable arguments, critiquing the reasoning of others, using appropriate tools strategically, looking for and making use of structure, and attending to precision.

History curriculum will focus on: US geography, Native American Indian cultural regions, a brief overview of European Exploration, colonization of America, an introduction to slavery in America, the American Revolutionary War, the Civil War and Reconstruction Era.

5th grade history students will learn and apply note-taking and research skills. Students will understand the difference between primary and secondary sources of information. 5th graders will write expository essays related to pivotal events and significant historical figures that shaped Early American history. They will apply their knowledge of US geography to accurately identify geographical locations related to key events in early American history.

Students will interpret charts, maps and graphics.. They will determine the differences between facts and opinions and answer essential questions using research to support their findings. Fifth grade historians will communicate their ideas through both formal and informal presentations.

Science curriculum in fifth grade is a foundation for the middle school science program, and focuses on the scientific inquiry process and skills across all units. Students will use systems thinking, technology and tools, critical and creative thinking, and collaboration throughout the year. These concepts will be integrated into various units of study. Applications of scientific thinking will enable our students to strengthen skills for life-long success: solving problems creatively, making decisions, working cooperatively in teams, using technology effectively, and valuing lifelong learning. Students will develop their science literacy skills. Students will be actively connected to the scientific community in Tucson via classroom visit, and field trips.

Units of study in fifth grade science include Human Body Systems, Simple Machines, Matter and Properties, Earth and Space, LEGO Robotics, required participation in a class Science Fair Project, and additional topics students may identify.

Foreign Language Opportunities:

Spanish 5 curriculum is designed to actively involve students in learning Spanish language and culture through projects, dialogues, field trips and literature. Spanish vocabulary and conversation include: introducing themselves and others, describing themselves and others, giving the date, the day, and the weather, expressing likes and dislikes, talking about pastimes and sports, saying what they have and what they need. Spanish grammar will focus on adjectives, feminine/masculine nouns, articles, and present tense regular verb conjugation.

French 5 curriculum is designed to actively involve students in learning French. Emphasis will be on communication about everyday things such as describing people, expressing likes and dislikes, food, talking about sports and leisure activities, and so on. There will be projects, games, and activities. Emphasis will be on pronunciation and on building vocabulary. We will also study the culture of French-speaking countries.