

5th Grade Academics

The Academy provides a venue in which all students can be educated and assessed in both traditional and non-traditional ways, thereby helping children to thrive in all learning environments. The 5th grade curriculum is fully aligned with the state content expectation and standards, challenging, differentiated, project-driven and real-world connected both in and through the arts and technology. At WMAAA, your child will become a confident and excited learner.

Language Arts:

Our fifth grade English Language Arts program continues to develop strength in reading, writing, speaking, listening and responding skills. Your child will increase his/her ability to analyze and synthesize information and thoughts, and become a self-aware, confident reader, writer and speaker that uses various communicating skills and mediums to gain or share knowledge for learning. The fifth grade English Language Arts Student will:

- Use more sophisticated word decoding skills and strategies to increase reading fluency and comprehension
- Continue to analyze elements and style of an expanding list of narrative genres (historical fiction, tall tales, science fiction, fantasy, mystery) and study how authors use various tools and literary devices to develop themes, characters, and issues
- Increase knowledge of style, organizational patterns and elements of information genre and use this knowledge to improve and apply comprehension strategies and in production of their own informational writings
- Refine and strengthen strategies, knowledge, and organization tools to self monitor comprehension and to take initiative to recognize and correct comprehension challenges
- Continue to strengthen use and knowledge of literary devices, prewriting skills and writing strategies across an increasing number of writing genres
- Strengthen process writing skills while focusing on the development of personal style, voice, grammar usage and spelling skills applied to various narrative pieces (mystery, tall tales, historical fiction) a position piece and a research project
- Respond thoughtfully, both orally and in writing, to a speaker's point of view and bias, while separating fact from opinion

Science:

Fifth grade students combine open-ended project learning and informational learning skills to study specific units within the earth, and physical science fields. Science processes of inquiry, reflection, and constructing new knowledge that have been initiated in previous grades are strengthened and broadened. Students are provided opportunities to apply significant knowledge from what is read in grade level science texts. Specific units of study are:

- Elements of weather, climate and its impact on humans and human safety
- Solar systems and other objects in space
- Forces and motion
- Human Body

Mathematics:

Fifth grade mathematics studies starts a transition from arithmetic skills to algebra skills. Number operations are polished, particularly in division, and expanded to include work with fractions. Students work with fractions, decimals, ratios, and percentages increase in complexity. Work continues on data analysis skills. Geometric concepts expand to include work with angle sums in triangles and quadrilaterals, triangle properties and simple angle relationships and volume. Units of study include:

- Operations in multiplication and division include of power of 10's
- Operations with fractions and decimals percentages
- Beginning ratio and equivalent fractions
- Problem-solving with number operations
- Measurement conversion with a system
- Prime factorizations
- Perimeter, area and volume
- Angle and triangle properties
- Data analysis and graph interpretation

Social Studies:

Fifth grade social studies focuses on a more disciplined study of the early history of the United States. Building on the geography, civics and government and economics concepts of the United States studied in second grade through fourth, fifth graders study America's beginnings from American Indian peoples before the arrival of European explorers and conclude with the adoption of the bill of rights in 1791. Major units of study include:

- Early peoples and migration patterns of the Americas
- Early European explorations and its impact on American Indians
- Early colonization experiences
- Development of common characteristics of regional colonies
- Foundations of American independence
- Challenges of fighting for independence
- Challenges of designing a new experiment in government



Every Child Successful, Everyday !

5th Grade Arts

The Academy places an equal emphasis on the arts and academic subjects within our curriculum. To achieve this, our arts program has two distinctive goals. The first goal is achieved through the arts and academics integration process, where by academic concepts studied in the classroom are studied and reinforced through the arts. In fifth grade this is done through the learning and performing of a musical.

Each semester, students engage in learning the vocal score, choreography and script of a musical that is based on a fifth grade academic concept or objective. Students also create the set and props for this musical in their art class. Previous musicals have been based on the fifth grade units of weather, core democratic values and the westward movement. These curriculum-based musicals are performed at the end of each semester for parents and the younger grade levels.

The second aspect of our arts program is engaging in the study of a particular art form. This arts curriculum is aligned with the state and national standards for the arts. Students study an art form with the intent of developing basic competencies. Arts opportunities for fifth graders each semester include:

- Beginning Band
- Piano
- Choir
- Beginning Dance
- Multi-media art
- Creative Drama
- Physical Conditioning

