



CHRIST  
EPISCOPAL  
SCHOOL

## Grade Level 5 Overview

### Core Curriculum Subject Areas

#### **English:**

The fifth grade language arts curriculum integrates five key strands – vocabulary, grammar, spelling, reading, and writing – that build on foundational skills learned last year. Students are pushed to expand their knowledge and usage of new vocabulary, spelling, and grammar skills on a weekly basis through a variety of individual and group activities. Students will continue to develop their writing skills with practice in a variety of genres, including weekly prompted journaling to build writing stamina. Class novel selections form cross-curricular connections with Geography, with an emphasis on considering historical and cultural context as readers of fiction. Students will also continue to learn about the fundamental elements of literature including identifying themes, understanding and using literary devices, and analyzing plot and characterization. Above all, students are encouraged to develop a greater appreciation for literature through extensive reading opportunities on both an individual and group basis.

#### **Mathematics:**

Grade 5 Math starts with a review of previously learned skills using whole-number operations. Students then begin an in-depth study of decimals and fractions. Students spend the second half of the year applying these skills through ratio, proportion and percent, geometry and measurement, and probability and statistics. Across all units, there is an emphasis on real-word problem-solving and metacognition.

#### **Geography:**

Fifth graders explore cultural and physical world geography in order to better understand our world today. The course revolves around the five themes of geography, developed by the National Council for Geographic Education and the Association of American Geographers. Students will analyze characteristics of the land and look at climate, land use, population patterns, and the connections between them. An integral component will be the study of how geography has affected different civilizations and how they have interacted with their landscape. Students will learn to understand historical texts within a geographical context, to analyze and interpret information obtained from maps, and to develop research and analytical tools in producing comprehensive geographical reports.

#### **Science:**

The Full Option Science System (FOSS) is the foundation of our science curriculum. Every FOSS module provides opportunities for students to engage in and understand science and engineering practices which are aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Embedded in the investigations are hands-on activities that take advantage of the natural connection between science and language arts and use literary strategies where students use language to inquire, process information, and communicate their thinking. Fifth grade units of study include Mixtures and Solutions, Earth and Sun, and Living Systems. Fifth graders also participate in “BioEyes,” a weeklong biology unit sponsored by the Carnegie Institution of Science.

## **Co-Curricular Subject Areas**

### **Spanish:**

Middle School students dive into Spanish language by taking part in a lively series of activities that give them opportunities to develop speaking, listening, reading and writing skills in Spanish. Middle school students have a greater emphasis on reading and writing by including real world reading materials, graphic novel style stories, activity pages and unit projects. Middle school students also develop Spanish grammar reference sheets they can refer to throughout their language acquisition journey. The program reinforces previous topics and themes and introduces new ones at the same time. The topics include but are not limited to holidays and summer activities, daily routine, leisure and recreational activities.

### **Study Skills Class:**

In fifth grade, the students have Study Skills class twice a week. Through the SOAR Study Skills program, students learn skills that help them:

- manage time
- set goals
- organize papers
- write papers
- take tests
- communicate with parents and teachers
- plan for homework and projects
- organize their space
- improve reading comprehension
- take notes
- research effectively

This work is done in conjunction with the fifth grade teacher to help integrate these strategies in the curriculum so that these skills are not learned in isolation.

### **Art:**

Students in Middle School will learn fundamental art techniques and skills while experimenting with multiple mediums. They will build confidence in creating meaningful and complete art works through a systematic approach. They will explore different cultures and learn significant art history movements. Students will be participating in different art contests nationwide such as the 9<sup>th</sup> Space Foundation International Art Contest, the Christmas card internal art contest, the 2018 Crayola Art Expo, and they will participate in the Arts at the MAESA Academic fair.

### **Music:**

Students in Middle School music are learning to become proficient performers, increasing their skills, and seeking outlets to share their talents. Students will learn musical concepts and terms, directly applying this knowledge to choral, solo, and ensemble performances. Other topics covered will include music history and

listening to varying musical genres, as to further understand music's role in society and culture throughout history. Students will participate in seasonal concerts such as the Grandparents/Special Guest Day, the Christmas Concert, and the Spring Musical.

### **Physical Education:**

Fifth Grade PE is highlighted by the following units as well as twice weekly trips to Rockville Municipal Swim Center, Rockville Fencing Academy, Freestate Gymnastics, Title Boxing and various outdoor parks throughout the year:

Sportsmanship/Fair Play/Rules	Floor Hockey
Kickball	Dodge Games
Volleyball/Newcombe	Ball Skills
Soccer Skills	Softball
Basketball Skills	Lacrosse
Flag Football	Frisbee
Jump Rope	Agility Activities
Fitness/Strength Exercises	Long Walks
Cooperation Activities	Indoor Soccer

### **Health Education:**

In this short unit conducted by the CES Physical Education Department and the CES Science Department, students study the early stages of puberty, which many fifth graders are beginning to experience or will experience in the near future. Students will learn about the physical and emotional changes they experience during puberty and learn that these changes are a normal part of growth and development. They learn the physiology of their bodies and correct terminology for parts of the reproductive system. They also learn about the importance of good personal hygiene.

### **Field Trips and Curricular Highlights**

- BioEyes Program - science
- Washington D.C. - Georgetown exploration to complement *Pineapple Place* novel
- Calleva Outdoor Education field trip - team-building and science
- Brass Rubbings Workshop - English (Crispin unit)
- Lady Maryland Trip - science
- End of Year Field Trip - location to be determined
- Spanish restaurant field trip - cultural event
- White Tail Ski Trip (every two years)
- Health unit - science and physical education departments
- Begin participation in the after-school competitive sports program: soccer, basketball, swimming, track and field
- Assume responsibilities for serving in chapel
- School safety patrols