

# Fifth Grade Curriculum Overview



**Reading:** We will be using reading strategies and developing skills through a combination of shared reading, guided reading, and teacher read alouds.

In addition, students read chapter books of their choice and **at their independent reading level**. Time is set aside most school days for silent reading, discussing their books with classmates or conferencing with the teacher. Students keep a weekly "Reading Log." Students will be reflecting on their reading through response journal entries.

**Word Study:** We will be using the Zaner-Bloser Spell-It-Write to focus on words patterns such as prefixes, suffixes, and root words. Students will also be assessed throughout the year and will be responsible to spell our Fifth Grade High Frequency words as well as some of the Zaner-Bloser words.

**Writers Workshop:** We will continue using the writing series called *Being a Writer*. A daily lesson is usually taught in 3 sections; Getting Ready to Write, Silent Writing Time and Sharing and Reflecting. In the *Getting Ready to Write* portion the students will be listening to read alouds, brainstorming, and doing quick writes. During *Silent Reading Time* the students will be writing, teacher might be writing and the teacher will be conferencing. Finally during *Sharing and Reflecting* students share their writing and get ideas on how to improve. The year will begin with forming a writing community, then moving on to learning the writing process, writing personal narratives, expository nonfiction, and argumentative writing. This program not only includes all portions of writer's workshop, it also builds on students' social and emotional needs through partner and group interactions.

**Math:** Students will be having math everyday. The units emphasize the following areas of focus: Numbers and Operations in Base Ten, Operations in Algebraic Thinking, Numbers and Operations with Fractions, Measurement and Data, and Geometry. Additionally, students will work on online websites such as Khan, Moby Max, or TenMarks as supplemental resources.

**Social Studies:** The students will be learning about Westward Expansion, The Industrial Revolution, Mesopotamia, Ancient Greece, and Ancient Egypt. We will be using a lot of guided reading as well as whole group discussion to learn about these interesting topics. We will use simulation activities to better engage the students' in social studies. We will add in key ideas from power standards to emphasize curriculum.

**Science:** We are also currently combining a unit on Illinois Biodiversity with our preparation for Outdoor Ed. (which, by the way, is officially a part of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade science curriculum). We will continue our Discovery Works Health Unit which is also part of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum. The new program provides a balance of exciting hands-on activities, engaging content resources and a variety of leveled text to support the students. The units covered in our program for 5<sup>th</sup> grade will include Life Science, Physical Science and Earth Science.