

FIFTH GRADE AT ST. PAUL

Curriculum Summary

Welcome to St. Paul's Fifth Grade

Welcome to St. Paul Elementary School! Our elementary students are offered an exciting, engaging curriculum that lays a solid foundation in all subject areas. Student explore and discover as they develop a love and passion for learning. Elementary students also engage in a variety of additional classes including technology, art, music, gym and library. The following sheets describe the curriculum for fifth grade. Please contact us if you have any questions or would like more information.

Religion

Fifth grade uses the One in Christ curriculum which emphasizes biblical themes that explore the elements of the six chief parts of the catechism. These include the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Confession, and Holy Communion. Each lesson also uses a Bible story to help the students grow in discipleship as they explore key doctrinal themes and apply them to their lives. Students memorize scripture and parts of Luther's Small Catechism.

Math

Students will use Envision Math through a Mimio application to study math. They will learn multiplying and dividing whole numbers and decimals, adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing decimals and fractions, place value, and number theory. They will also study volume, units of measure, data, plane figures, and coordinate geometry. Numerous problem solving strategies are also taught.



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Language Arts

Students will use the Harcourt School publishers' Storytown curriculum to develop a robust vocabulary and increase fluency. They will learn to recognize narrative elements and understand how the events of a story are organized into a plot. They will learn to make inferences, draw conclusions, compare and contrast, make predictions, and make judgments. Summarizing information within and across texts and identifying the main ideas that unite texts will be emphasized. Students will also read 3 or 4 classroom novels throughout the year. The fifth graders participate in the Accelerated Reader program.

The parts of speech, sentence structure, punctuation, and capitalization will be taught using the students' grammar books and writing assignments. They will utilize the writing process of prewriting, drafting, revising, proofreading, and publishing. The writing traits, ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions, and presentation will be used as a model of good writing. Students will write in a variety of fiction, nonfiction, and poetic forms.

Spelling is taught using the Harcourt School Publishers Curriculum. Word lists are based on various spelling patterns such as Greek roots, Latin roots, suffixes, prefixes, and compound words. They complete workbook pages to connect the words to vocabulary, reading, and writing. Students may visit spellingcity.com for reinforcement.

Social Studies

Students will use *Social Studies Alive! America's Past*, published by TCI. The curriculum uses a variety of instructional practices that allow students of all abilities to experience key social studies concepts in American history. Students will study American Indian cultural regions, European explorers, English colonies, the American Revolution, and the Constitution. They will also study U.S. geography.

Science

The fifth graders will study the three basic branches of Science: Life, earth, and physical science, as found in the Macmillan/McGraw-Hill curriculum. They will gain an understanding of Creation Science and understand the difference between the Scientific Method and theory. Students will use a variety of inquiry-based activities to explore the concepts in each chapter

Choir

The students participate in a choir that performs a fall and spring concert, sing in a few Sunday worship services, and sing in a Christmas service. Students will study proper breathing, posture, tone production, diction, and fluency. Student will also music theory such as key signatures, time signatures, note values, and reading music.

Beginning Band

Students in the fifth grade will have the opportunity to learn how to play a band instrument. They will have different occasions to perform, including the spring concert.

Art

The fifth graders will apply skills and knowledge to evaluate and create art. They will learn about the elements of art, different art techniques, and various media.

Computers

Students will develop their keyboarding skills. They will use different software applications such as Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, through various projects throughout the year.

Physical Education

Students will develop skills which will lead them toward a competence in and enjoyment of a lifetime of fitness activities.

Spanish

The fifth graders will continue to increase their Spanish vocabulary. They will gain an understanding of the Spanish cultures.



The Fifth Grade Teacher, Mr. Andrew Contreras

Andy Contreras holds a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education from Concordia University, Nebraska, and a master's degree from Marygrove College, Detroit. He has been teaching in Lutheran schools for twenty-five years. He taught 4th grade for 5 years in New Mexico, grade 4 or 5 for sixteen years in Richmond, Michigan, and has been teaching fifth grade at St. Paul since 2012. Mr. Contreras sings in the adult choir and is a substitute organist at St. Paul. He enjoys playing the piano and organ, reading books, watching sports, and listening to music. He loves sharing the good news of Jesus with his students and developing strong relationships with them.

Fun Things Happening in Fifth Grade

Science Camp—This field trip is a three-day, two-night trip to the Howell Nature Center. The fifth graders learn about birds of prey, skins and skulls, and what lives in the mud of a pond. They also do team-building activities, complete a high ropes course, and sing songs around the camp fire.

Other Field Trips—The fifth graders attend an interactive concert with the Ann Arbor Symphony. They sometimes go to the Henry Ford Museum, go bowling, and explore the organ at the Concordia University Chapel.

Singing—Besides singing in the choir, the fifth graders sing almost every day in the fifth grade classroom.

Opera Friday—two or three times a year we listen to opera music throughout the day. It may sound strange, but students actually ask, “When is the next opera Friday.”

A Typical Day in Fifth Grade

Daily classes include: Bible Study, Math, Language Arts, Science and Social Studies.

Specials throughout the week include: Choir, Technology, Art, Spanish, band, and Physical Education.