

Welcome to Fifth Grade!

This guide was created to provide an overview of the topics covered in Fifth Grade in the Milford Public School system. By no means does this guide include every topic; rather, it highlights the larger categories of instruction conducted throughout the course of the 5th Grade year. A complete description of the Fifth Grade curriculum is available on our website at www.milforded.org. We hope you find these resources helpful.

Word Identification

- Read with accuracy, appropriate speed, fluency and expression.
- Use context clues to identify and self correct meaning of a word.

Vocabulary

- Use context clues to determine meaning of unknown or multiple meaning words.
- Develop an interest in words through a variety of books.
- Predict meaning of unfamiliar words.
- Use knowledge of prefixes, suffixes and known words to figure out the spelling of other words.

Comprehension

Students learn comprehension strategies to be able to:

- Form a general understanding of the meaning of a text.
- Develop an interpretation of the text and be able to draw and/or support conclusions.
- Make connections between text and the student's knowledge.
- Understand how authors convey their message to the reader.

Comprehension strategies include summarizing, connecting to prior knowledge, synthesizing, inferring, questioning, visualizing, and predicting.

The comprehension strategies are consistent across grade levels. However, each year the complexity of text increases.

Fluency

Fluency is the ability to read smoothly, easily and readily with freedom from word recognition problems. Students learn to:

- read at a rapid rate
- automatically recognize words
- phrase correctly.

Reading

In Milford, students in each grade level read a series of Core Books, that later are complemented by a series of Companion Books. In Fifth Grade, all students will read the following Core Books:

Sign of the Beaver
Dollhouse Murders
The United States: Making a New Nation

Then, based on reading ability, fifth grade students will read three of the following Companion Books:

Fighting Ground *Mixed Up Files*
These Lands are Ours *Toliver's Secret*
Light on Hogback Hill *Lewis and Clark*
Secret Soldier
Life on the Oregon Trail
Who Stole the Wizard of Oz

Students also read at least 3 additional leveled texts from the social studies program. Teachers will also assign additional titles throughout the year, based on the student's reading level, interest, and need. Students are also expected to read independently appropriate titles,

selected from school, classroom and public libraries.

Writing

- Refine the writing process.
- Write in response to an expository prompt.
- Revise to combine short sentences into more complex ones.
- Correct on-and-on sentences, run-on sentences, awkward construction and sentence fragments.
- Develop grammar and usage skills.
- Use correct punctuation, capital letters, agreement between subject and verb, and good sentence construction.

Spelling

- Spell commonly used words correctly in daily work.
- Spell weekly word list correctly.
- Apply spelling rules and knowledge of spelling patterns to written work.
- Spell homophones, contractions, calendar words, plurals, possessives, and compound words correctly.

Mathematics

- Understand place value of whole numbers and decimals.
- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide whole numbers.
- Measure length, mass, and capacity.
- Add and subtract fractions and decimals.
- Find perimeter, area, and circumference of geometric figures.
- Solve problems by organizing data with a variety of formats.
- Check reasonableness of answers using estimates.
- Explore properties of numbers: identify prime and composite numbers, factor pairs, common factors, multiples and greatest common divisor and least common multiple.



- Construct and interpret graphs, line plots, and tables from a set of data.

Social Studies:

The major units in Social Studies are:

- The Birth of America
- The Constitution
- Westward Movement
- The Nation Divided – The Civil War
- Current events
- Geography – Maps and Globes

Science:

The major units in Science are:

- Micro Worlds
- Floating and Sinking
- Ecosystems
- The Human Body – A Research Project

Health:

Topics Include:

- Healthy and Active Lifestyle
- Injury and Disease Prevention
- Human Growth and Development
- Substance Abuse Prevention

Visual Arts

Students attend Visual Art classes once a week for enrichment in the arts.

Music

Students attend Music classes once a week. Fifth Graders may participate in chorus. In addition students may elect enrichment opportunities in instrumental music and/or strings.

Library/Media

Students attend Library/Media classes once a week for an extension of the literacy program.

Physical Education/Fitness.

Students attend Physical Education/Fitness twice a week.



How You Can Help Your Child



How you can help with Language Arts:

- Ensure that your child is exposed to a variety of reading materials.
- Encourage your child to read at least 30 min./day
- Encourage your child to proofread written work
- Encourage your child to work crossword puzzles.
- Play spelling games or word games (Scrabble, Scattergories, Boggle, etc.)

How you can help with Mathematics:

- When shopping, allow your child to determine the correct change when making purchases.
- Review multiplication and division facts through flashcards or games.
- Have your child estimate when shopping, cooking, etc.

How you can help your child reach his/her own potential in Fifth Grade:

- Encourage your child to read for pleasure in any area that matches your child's interest.
- Visit the Milford Public Library to obtain information for written reports.
- Read the newspaper and watch The History Channel, PBS, and The Discovery Channel.
- Encourage your child's involvement in community art contests and exhibits.
- Limit computer, video game and television time and encourage physical activity.
- Encourage activities that improve fitness, including activities that raise the heart rate significantly.
- Contribute to your child's success in homework by providing a consistent place, by having a regular schedule, and by monitoring your child's homework.

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Questions, concerns or complaints regarding possible discrimination under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should be made in person or in writing to the following:

Regarding Facilities: Philip G. Russell, Deputy Superintendent of Operations
 Regarding Programs: Susan Kelleher, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
 Regarding Employment: Wendy Kopazna, Director of Human Resources



A Parent's Guide to Fifth Grade

