

Commack Public Schools



Curriculum Guide *for* *Fifth Grade Families*

The Commack School District Mission Statement

*Within the context of a caring community of learners,
our primary mission is to provide an exemplary learning experience
that will allow each child to acquire the necessary knowledge, skills, attitudes,
and values to become a successful, contributing member within our school*

2019-2020

What your child will be taught in Fifth Grade

This guide provides parents and guardians with an overview of the curriculum for fifth grade and provides a snapshot of the concepts and skills children will be taught in English Language Arts, social studies, mathematics, science, technology, library, art, music, physical education, health, and character education. The curriculum of the Commack Public Schools follows the guidelines set forth by the New York State Department of Education (NYSED) and creates clear expectations for what your child should know and be able to do in these academic areas. Elementary teachers recognize that children develop at different rates socially, emotionally, and academically. Our program is designed to meet the needs of all learners. Knowing what your child is learning strengthens the partnership between you and your child's teachers.

English Language Arts

The program is based on the foundation that children learn through rich, meaningful and developmentally appropriate experiences with print. Our classrooms are rich with literature that provides children with the opportunity to expand reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

Reading

- Read 25 books or the equivalent in all content areas
- Engage in sustained silent reading
- Demonstrate independence as a reader and use reading to learn
- Use variety of reference materials
- Develop research strategies and study skills
- Read from a variety of genres
- Use a variety of strategies for word recognition
- Continue to develop vocabulary
- Continue to improve use of comprehension strategies: to infer, interpret, analyze, evaluate, sequence, predict, conclude, summarize, sequence, and determine cause and effect
- Demonstrate understanding of literary elements: character, setting, problem, solution, theme, conflict, point of view, and voice
- Interpret figurative language
- Read to enhance social interaction
- Read to respond orally and/or in writing



Writing

- Write in all subject areas
- Write in a variety of formats using details, establish purpose, point of view, and audience
- Use different genres of writing including news articles, book reviews, essays, reports, letters, poems, and stories
- Respond to different types of literature and documents
- Begin to use figurative language such as simile, metaphor, personification, and alliteration
- Use all phases of the writing process
- Present ideas and information with relevant details using logical sequence, theme, paragraphs, transitions, introductions and conclusions
- Use graphic organizers
- Edit for proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation
- Review parts of speech and use them appropriately
- Build research and study skills using note taking, outlining, and a beginning bibliography
- Incorporate the use of technology in the writing process



Listening/Speaking

- Listen attentively to comprehend, evaluate, and respond to directions, ideas, text, and data
- Listen respectfully and responsively to maintain social interactions
- Use strategies to organize, categorize, and record oral information
- Engage in oral discussion to share data and facts
- Engage in oral discussion to debate and express opinions
- Communicate using rich and expressive language
- Demonstrate the use of effective presentation skills



Social Studies

United States, Canada and Latin America

Geographic

- Use maps to compare, interpret and process information
- Explore how political boundaries change over time
- Compare and contrast geologic processes of the Western Hemisphere

Political

- Learn that the structure of government varies from place to place
- Explore the concept that citizenship includes an awareness of the patriotic celebrations of our nation
- Learn the importance of international organizations

Social

- Recognize that groups serve as transmitters of cultures.
- Understand that through migration and immigration; people of different cultures influence one another

Economic

- Begin to develop an understanding of economics in the Western Hemisphere
- Study different economic systems
- Learn about the interdependence among countries

- Begin to learn how technology and science have influenced global economics

Historical Events

- Study key turning points in the history of the Western hemisphere and about important historic figures and groups who contributed to the development of the Western Hemisphere
- Learn about industrial growth

Mathematics

The program is structured on the principle that children are able to apply and adapt acquired mathematical ideas to new situations when they develop conceptual understanding. Conceptual understanding is understanding the 'why' in mathematics. Allowing children time to progress with concrete materials, followed by visual representations, will develop a strong number sense and a conceptual understanding.

Operations and Mathematical Thinking

- Write and interpret numerical expressions
- Analyze patterns and relationships



Number and Operations in Base Ten

- Understand the place values system
- Perform operations with multi-digit whole numbers and with decimals to the hundredths place

Number and Operations—Fractions

- Use equivalent fractions as a strategy to add and subtract fractions
- Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division in order to multiply and divide fractions

Measurement and Data

- Convert like measurement units within a given measurement system
- Represent and interpret data
- Geometric measurement: understand concepts of volume and relate volume to multiplication and to addition

Science

Inquiry

- Demonstrate safety in science
- Understand the scientific method
- Identify the variable
- Communicate concepts through written, verbal, and constructed models using scientific vocabulary



Physical Science

- Investigate the relationship between minerals & rocks
- Learn about different rocks: igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic and how they are all related in the rock cycle
- Learn about rock classifications
- Learn about volcanoes and earthquakes
- Learn about chemical/physical weathering and erosion
- Learn the parts of the Earth and the Earth's interior
- Study the water cycle
- Investigate the composition and layering of the atmosphere
- Study the basic cloud types in relationship to weather patterns
- Investigate the science behind wind and local breezes

Technology

- Continue to become more proficient in skills previously taught
- Continue to use intermediate word processing software
- Learn to use laptop computers
- Begin to learn to create multimedia presentations
- Continue to interact with software that encourages higher level thinking



Library

- Become more proficient in skills previously taught
- Continue to use print and online resources
- Continue to appreciate literature
- Learn to create bibliographies
- Learn to take notes for research
- Continue to learn about the Dewey Decimal System

Art

Art provides children with opportunities to further creative expression and build language. Children will build self esteem through positive art experiences.

- Develop new concepts, interpretations, and applications of color, shape, line, texture, and space
- Utilize mixed media
- Learn to make decisions about art work
- Understand perspective, balance, tints, and values of color
- Learn that art development is a continuous process starting with early man
- Broaden knowledge of artists
- Enjoy art as it is integrated into subject areas



Music

Music also provides children with opportunities for creative expression and movement.

- Learn that melodies are organized according to the voice or instrument range and may be characteristic of culture
- Learn that rhythm can be organized in regular or uncommon meters
- Learn that harmony has chord patterns
- Learn that forms of music can vary
- Learn how music reflects different cultures
- Learn that styles of music reflect their origins, historical time, and purpose



Physical Education

Physical Education provides children with the opportunity to learn the importance of exercise and good sportsmanship.

- Demonstrate knowledge of safety and following rules
- Learn to work cooperatively and develop the concept of fair play
- Participate in folk and square dancing
- Participate in more advanced skills in tumbling and apparatus activities
- Develop more precise sports related skills



Health and Character Education

Children will learn to make decisions regarding healthy behaviors.

- Continue to learn about nutrition, healthy life choices, and the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse
- Continue to learn about safety, first aid, and cleanliness
- Recognize environmental factors that influence the quality of life
- Appreciate the role of family in society
- Continue to learn to demonstrate the importance of character: courtesy, honesty, pride, responsibility, accountability, compassion, tolerance, endurance, and respect



Movement in the Arts

Movement in the Arts provides extra time for children during their school day to positively harness their energy, creates a healthy space to tap into their mindfulness, and aides in the success of their progress both in and out of their learning environment.

- Develop healthy strategies to promote overall success using physical, musical, and artistic outlets
- Demonstrates cooperative learning while promoting good sportsmanship and positive social behavior
- Establishes confidence while learning the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle
- Develops lifelong tools utilizing mindfulness to combat anxiety and stress
- Introduces basic movements, cooperative games, fitness, dance, drumming and yoga
- Develops the student's ability to control their body movements and minds

Guidelines for Homework Best Practice: Commack UFSD

Fifth Grade -Specific Guidelines

The following Guidelines for Homework Best Practices have been designed by Commack educators. Classroom teachers make important instructional decisions every day. These decisions are based on the specific needs of each child and can result in individualized differentiated homework assignments that may vary from, but continue to reflect, the guidelines as necessary and appropriate.

Homework Defined

Any assignment, written or otherwise, to be completed outside of the classroom.

Purpose and Benefits of Homework

The purpose of homework is the reinforcement, extension, and/or application of content and skills previously taught in school.

The Commack School District recognizes that homework may provide further benefits to students and their families. These may include the following:

- Providing families with insight regarding each child's learning;
- Developing responsibility and accountability;
- Fostering independent learning;
- Offering opportunities for confidence building; and
- Strengthening executive functioning skills (time management)

Important Notes About Fifth Grade Homework

- As the year progresses, the children grow and mature. They develop more skills and gain stamina. Therefore, it is appropriate that homework may look different in June than it does in September. Homework may change in frequency and complexity.
- Other than specifically-designed, long-term assignments, homework is intended to be completed on a daily basis and reviewed in a timely manner.
- Although children all work at different paces, fifth grade homework is generally intended to add approximately fifty minutes of academic reinforcement outside the classroom. This means that on nights when homework is assigned, fifth graders may spend approximately fifty minutes on daily homework assignments. This is inclusive of written assignments, activities, and/or reading. Homework may or may not be assigned every night.
- Parents are encouraged to contact the teacher directly if their child is consistently struggling or consistently exceeding fifty minutes.

What Does Homework Look Like for a Fifth Grade Student In Commack?

Homework for fifth grade reinforces the classroom learning. Homework is a developmentally-appropriate application and extension of the concepts and skills taught in the classroom. Clear directions and well-defined expectations are provided so students have the ability to complete assignments independently or with minimal assistance. Homework will be reviewed in a timely manner.

Homework takes a variety of forms and structures. Typical daily assignments for a fifth grade student in Commack may include, but are not limited to, the following:

English Language Arts (ELA)

- Independent reading with or without extension;
- Reading comprehension/skill practice activities;
- Vocabulary building (worksheets, etc.);
- Spelling activities/workbook;
- Grammar activities (worksheets, etc.); and
- Writer's Workshop process (brainstorming, drafting, revising, editing).

Math

- Worksheets/workbook (published or teacher-created);
- Journals;
- Games;
- Online activities;
- Review sheets; and
- Studying for tests and quizzes.

Social Studies/Science

- Content-area reading;
- Content-area writing;
- Content-area worksheets;
- Data collection;
- Review sheets; and
- Studying for tests and quizzes.

Long-term projects are defined as an activity assigned and due back at a certain date in the future rather than the next day. Such assignments will likely require additional adult supervision and support. Such assignments should include a clearly-stated purpose and expectations for completion.

COMMACK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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