

Grade 5 Curriculum Summary

These curriculum summaries have been developed by teachers and administrators to serve as another way of communicating with parents. They highlight the core curriculum and expectations for student learning at each grade level.

The curriculum summaries describe what most students at a grade level are expected to know and be able to do by the end of the school year. They also reflect the goals of the various [Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks](#). It is important to note that although children may learn and grow at different rates and through varied styles, all should make regular progress.

While we have high expectations for all students and encourage each student to work to their capacity, parents and teachers recognize that some students have more difficulty in school. Others will progress more rapidly and move well beyond these core expectations. It is the joint responsibility of school and home to provide support, challenge, and encouragement for all students.

English/Reading/Language Arts

The fifth grade reading/language arts program stresses a continuum of skills and strategies to further develop the literacy skills and strategies introduced in fourth grade. Core instruction is delivered through the 2017 Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Journeys Reading Program, key components of which include instruction in phonics and decoding, comprehension, fluency, vocabulary, study skills, and writing (including grammar, usage, mechanics, and spelling.) Continued attention is given to skills in listening, speaking, viewing and representing. The core anthology is supplemented by numerous print and digital resources that assist students in the development of close reading and analysis skills. Teachers also integrate reading with content areas such as science, math, and social studies. Key concepts are presented to students in whole-class format while individual needs are met in small skill-based groups. Teachers also employ a variety of instructional models and activities to promote the development of fluency and comprehension. The writing process is taught through direct instruction in the Empowering Writers program in order to meet state and local standards for writing in the expository, opinion, and narrative modes. District-wide common assessments monitor student progress in skills indicated by both the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and the core reading program. Most students in grade 5 will become more comfortable and proficient in the use of cursive for written expression.

Social Studies

The grade 5 social studies curriculum is aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks for History/Social Science, as well as the English Language Arts and Literacy. As per the state framework, it is the students' first sequential and in-depth study of the United States. The growth of the United States from pre-colonial times through the formation of the United States and the adoption of the Constitution is

emphasized. Local history is also incorporated. Current events are woven in by the use of newspapers, periodicals, or other news reports. Students are expected to demonstrate further development of skills and comprehension in: map and globe use; graphing and charting; content area reading; critical thinking; written discussion; and a foundational understanding of their national heritage. Class time may be used for teacher presentations, but there is an emphasis on student-centered learning. Field trips are taken to view local historical sites. Homework is assigned on a regular basis and is part of student assessment along with grades based on projects, formal testing, and classroom participation. Teachers will utilize historical fiction and nonfiction trade books to connect literacy to social studies.

Science

The grade 5 science program emphasizes scientific inquiry and science literacy, and stresses the interconnectedness of science disciplines. In grade 5, students provide evidence to support arguments and use models and data to describe relationships among systems in the natural world. They use a particle model of matter to explain common phenomena and make observations and measurements to describe properties of pure substances and mixtures. They conduct experiments to explore new properties arising from chemical reactions. Students study the relationships between Earth and other nearby objects in the solar system and use models to communicate their understanding of patterns such as cycles of day and night and apparent position of objects in the sky. They explore the cycling of water through Earth's systems and identify human practices that impact the use of natural resources. Students learn about the relationships among plants and animals in ecosystems and how matter and energy are cycled through them. Class time is typically devoted to hands-on activities followed by reading and discussions to help students gain an understanding of important concepts. Engineering design challenges are integrated to provide opportunities for students to apply science content. In addition to daily science lessons with the classroom teacher, grade 5 students also meet once per six-day cycle with our district elementary science specialist for hands-on investigations, nature walks, and field studies that reinforce concepts in the 5th grade curriculum.

Mathematics

The curriculum of the Hingham Public Schools is aligned with and based on the 2011 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics. Hingham uses the Everyday Mathematics Program (Wright Group) as its primary tool to teach the mathematics curriculum. Fifth grade Everyday Mathematics content emphasizes the following: Numeration – reading, writing and comparing negative numbers, fractions, whole numbers; powers of 10; prime, composite and square numbers. Operations and Computation – using algorithms to add, subtract, multiply and divide multi-digit whole numbers, fractions, and decimals; prime factoring; converting between fractions, decimals and percents; least common multiples and greatest common factors. Patterns, Functions and Algebra – simple algebraic expressions; rules for patterns; direct proportions; rate problems. Geometry – angle relationships and construction; defining triangles; coordinate geometry; translations; perimeter, area and volume problems.

Measurement – measuring and estimating length, area, volume, weight and capacity; converting common units of measurement. Data and Chance – drawing and interpreting data. Hingham believes that concept mastery comes over a period of time, first through informal exposure and then through more formal and directed instruction. Teachers utilize a combination of whole group instruction, small group activities and individual learning experiences. Student progress is assessed using ongoing and formal unit assessments, as well as monthly basic facts tests. Students have the opportunity to participate in Continental Math League (CML) contest exams. Selected students are invited to participate in a pull-out Math Plus option.

Foreign Language

The objective of the elementary Spanish program is to create a foundation from which students can develop basic communicative competence in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, as well as an appreciation for the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. Students will acquire vocabulary that is useful in their everyday world, learn conversational phrases and expressions in context, develop an understanding of the Spanish alphabet and phonetic system, and be well-prepared to study Spanish or French at the middle school.

In 5th grade, our students will learn to:

- count from 0-100
- describe people by matching the gender and number of nouns and adjectives
- talk about what they like and what they want
- identify fruits in Spanish
- describe what they eat in a typical meal and when they eat it

If you would like to support your child in practicing Spanish, please check out our website at hpselementaryspanish.weebly.com for videos, games, reading suggestions, and information about the countries we focus on as part of our elementary curriculum.

Art

Grade 5 students are scheduled for art at least once in each six-day cycle. Students begin to create unified compositions that demonstrate their understanding of the elements and principles of art and design. They expand their repertoire of 2D and 3D art processes, techniques, and materials with a focus on the range of art effects possible within each medium. Students use observation, abstraction, expression, and symbolic imagery which demonstrates personal invention and/or conveys ideas and emotions. Students assess and reflect upon their work while continuing to explore artistry and personal aesthetics. Students learn to interpret the meanings of artistic works by evaluating how the subject matter reflects the culture and belief system of a society.

Evaluation in fifth grade is based on students' effort, participation, craftsmanship, and completing lesson objectives.

Music

Fifth graders elect to study and perform in band, strings, or chorus. Students in all ensembles will develop proper basic playing/singing technique, musical expression, note reading, and the ability to perform alone and with others. Repertoire will be age and skill appropriate, designed to foster skill development while engaging students in meaningful artistic expression.

Physical Education

The physical education curriculum is designed to promote the skills and attitudes that are associated with sports, recreation, and good health. The curriculum is presented through individual, partner, group, and team experiences. Major themes for study include: movement, games, sports, physical fitness, and sportsmanship. Intermediate grade instruction (4-5) moves more towards team sport orientation. Greater emphasis is placed on skill development, concepts, and the rules and procedures of official sports. Classes meet at least once in each six-day cycle. Activities are presented in formal three to four week units. Evaluation and grading reflect student motivation, participation, sportsmanship, and observation about skill development.

Computer Science

Students are taught Internet use, research skills, multimedia and productivity tools that will enable them to support the grade 5 project-based curriculum. Computer programming and coding skills are expanded and will extend the student's knowledge of fundamental programming concepts such as variables, loops and conditional statements. Cybersafety and online bullying prevention are reinforced with web-based lessons and discussion. Use of Chromebooks and Google products are heavily used to prepare students for middle school.

Library/Media

Students in grade 5 visit the library for both formal instruction and book selection which includes read-aloud, discussion sessions, and peer sharing opportunities. Students may also use the library for research for class assignments and projects. The library media objectives include: review and reinforcement of skills learned K-4; using a variety of electronic, online, and print resources; develop information processing, location, interpretation, outlining, and note taking skills; develop presentation skills; and introduction to media literacy in order to improve critical viewing and listening skills.

Health

The health curriculum is designed to promote an understanding and an awareness of sound health and safety practices. The major themes are: health habits; disease

prevention; safety and injury prevention; physical, social and emotional health; and drug, alcohol and violence prevention. Grade 4 and 5 instruction takes on a more formal approach. Units on alcohol, smoking and other drug prevention, nutrition and an introductory study of viruses and the immune system are taught. Attention is given to an increased awareness of students' own developmental changes. Grade 4 and 5 students participate in the Steps to Respect Bullying Prevention program. Class time is used for teacher presentation, class discussions, student projects, and specialist presentations by the nurse, DARE officer, or physical education instructors.

Suggestions For Parent Assistance

- Develop good nutrition, rest, exercise, and safety habits.
- Work with the school to develop good study skills and self-discipline.
- Show an active interest in your child's daily school activities.
- Help your child to select materials and ideas from home which contribute to class activities and discussions.
- Plan family experiences which support topics studied at school.
- Encourage your child to pursue individual interests such as hobbies, arts, and athletics.
- Volunteer in your child's school and attend individual conferences and school events.
- Consult with the classroom teacher about specific ways to help your child.
- Provide a place and time for your child to complete homework assignments comfortably and on time.
- Assist your child with the completion and review of homework, but ensure the final product is reflective of the child's understanding of the assignment.
- Foster an interest in reading by reading regularly to and with your child.

Assessment

Students in grades 3-5 will participate in the next-generation Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS 2.0). Test batteries in reading and mathematics (grade 3), reading, writing, and mathematics (grade 4), and reading, writing, mathematics, and science (grade 5) will be administered. Report cards document progress, and literacy portfolios and math folders contain samples of student work at all grades.

For more information

Questions about grade level curriculum should be directed first to your child's teacher. The principal or assistant principal may provide additional information.

[East Elementary](#)

[Foster Elementary](#)

Plymouth River Elementary

South Elementary

Superintendent's Office

Comments about this information may be directed to your child's building principal or the Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Dr. James M. LaBillois at jlabillois@hinghamschools.org or 781-741-1500.