

Fifth Grade

- **Language Arts –**

English: We study the parts of speech, sentence structure, types and tenses of verbs along with types of sentences. We utilize Daily Oral Language to reinforce these skills. We make use of the dictionary and thesaurus skills and study figurative language. We use the writing process to write paragraphs. We review main ideas and supporting details. The paragraphs include: narrative, how-to, descriptive, persuasive, and compare/contrast paragraphs. We also write a news story.

Reading: Strategies are used to develop/reinforce the following skills: Comprehension, sequencing, making judgments, comparing/contrasting, predicting outcomes, cause/effect relationships, visualization, story mapping, use of context clues, drawing conclusions, and determining the author's purpose.

To present practice in these skills, the textbook and trade books are utilized. The text is Literature Works.

The trade books are:

The Indian in the Cupboard, by Lynn Reid Banks

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, by Barbara Robinson

Hatchet, by Gary Paulsen

Freedom Crossing, by Margaret Goff Clark

Number the Stars, by Lois Lowry

Spelling: Spelling strategies are used to reinforce vowel/consonant sounds, use of prefixes/suffixes, and the use of memorization.

- **Math** - In Math classes, the students study the addition/subtraction properties, adding and subtracting whole numbers, decimals, and fractions. We learn the use of and special ways to make circle graphs, line graphs, bar graphs, stem and leaf plots, and double bar graphs. We also multiply whole numbers with 2 to 4 digits. Students learn to divide with 3 digits and 2 digit divisors. With fractions, we learn to add, subtract, multiply, and divide with like and unlike denominators. The students receive an introduction to geometry, measurement and the metric system. Along with each area, the students learn problem solving strategies.

- **Religion** - The fifth grade Religion classes study the mission of the Church, the sacraments, saints, and the liturgical year with the use of our textbook. Students are introduced to bible studies. Following the liturgical year, we read and study Bible stories from the Old Testament dealing with the promise of a Messiah. We then read and study bible stories from the New Testament dealing with the Life of Christ.

Steps to Respect education continues to engage children in solving the problem of bullying. The program teaches students what to do about bullying and how to ask adults for help. This program integrates bullying prevention into academics with various activities for all subject areas.

- **Science** – Fifth grade Science includes plant and animal cells, seed and seedless plants, life cycles, pollination and fertilization, food chains and webs. Students study biomes, and are introduced to atoms, elements, and the periodic table. We study acids and bases, mixtures and solutions, and the laws of motion. During the final quarter, students study sound, rocks, minerals, crystals, and constellations. Activities, labs, and guest speakers are utilized.
- **Social Studies** – Social studies covers several stages of American history beginning with Native Americans. We study the exploration of our country, the founding of the thirteen original colonies, the American Revolution, and the Declaration of Independence. We continue with the Constitution, westward settlement, the Civil War, industrialization, World War I, the depression, World War II, the Cold War, and immigration. Throughout the year, the students engage in hands-on activities to enhance learning. Map reading skills are reinforced throughout the year.
- **Art** - Students will review and build on the foundations of art theory, the elements of art (line, shape, color, texture, form, value, space) and applying that knowledge to projects and activities. Color production will expand to include the intermediate colors. They will continue to also build on the principles of design (balance, pattern, contrast, rhythm, unity, movement). The projects will reflect cultures some of which are Ethiopian, German, African, Polish, Tibetan and American.
- **Physical Education** - Physical Education for the intermediate level works with the mature form of the basic skills and gears them towards the sport specific skills. We take the knowledge learned and use this to improve one's own physical and mental well-being. Offense and defense strategies are worked on along with social skills with the use of good sportsmanship.
- **Vocal Music** – Students will review and expand upon all notes, rests, musical signs and symbols, musical instruments, and musical rhythms that have been learned previously. They will review the letters of the treble staff and learn the letters of the bass staff. They will learn to identify instruments by sound and will learn to play and build chords (dyads and triads). They will study musical eras and famous composers from those eras, ending with the students writing a report on one of the composers. They will write individual melodies for the piano and they will listen to discuss, and write about music from different cultures and eras. As always, students will sing and listen to a wide variety of music.

- **Concert Band** - The Band Program is open to students in Grades 4-8. Students may join band for the first time at any of the above grade levels; it is not necessary for students to start in 4th Grade in order to participate.

The Concert Band is open to all students in Grades 5-8 and those 4th Grade students who have achieved adequate preparation through lessons and Fourth Grade Band. Students have the choice of learning one of the following instruments: flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, or percussion. Band students will learn to read music in the clef necessary for their chosen instrument. They will learn to play that instrument individually and as part of a group. Students are continually challenged to learn new rhythms, notes, and to reach new levels of expressiveness. Emphasis is placed on teamwork. Students are expected to play as a band, rather than as a random grouping of instruments that are all playing the same music at the same time. The Concert Band plays two concerts, Christmas and Spring, and when the opportunity is available, at the Band Festival held annually at Notre Dame Academy. Students are also given opportunities to participate in Honors Bands and Solo and Ensemble.

- **Spanish** - In Spanish Class this year, your child will be basically reviewing everything they've already learned in Spanish and preparing for Middle School. We will be reviewing greetings, weather, days of the week, numbers, school materials, classroom commands, colors, foods, family, animals, body parts, and things around the house. We will still be adding some more vocabulary to those areas and even touching on a few new areas, but we really want to focus on understanding the language before we start forming sentences in Middle School. It's good to have a strong vocabulary base before we get into sentence structure so it's not too overwhelming.
- **Technology** – Technology for the kids at Lourdes is part of the daily curriculum in the classrooms and computer lab with a variety of activities, lessons and software programs. All classrooms have personal computers for use in small group and individual activities. The computer lab is used for large group instruction, research and independent study. The lab is reserved by classroom teachers as required by their lesson plans.

Fifth grade utilizes technology: Keyboarding occurs during the 2nd semester with emphasis on keyboarding skills and accuracy. A review of Microsoft Word is performed along with the introduction of Microsoft PowerPoint software for presentations and the introduction of Microsoft Excel software for spreadsheets. Internet terminology, safety and search techniques are discussed and exercised. Student Writing Center is introduced with the creation of a classroom newspaper with student reporters. Print Shop software is used to create brochures. The teachers allow the students to use Where in the USA is Carmen San Diego software and The Oregon Trail software to apply their knowledge. The students use a variety of websites to complement the curriculum.