



Fifth Grade Curriculum

*The Academy is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.*

*We are committed to excellence
in spiritual formation and academics.*

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Fifth Grade Curriculum

Academic Program



Religion /Scripture

The religion program focuses on spiritual formation. The primary text is Faith and Life, published by Ignatius Press. It is a comprehensive Catholic program that combines beautiful classical and original art work with a solid doctrinal and scriptural presentation. These texts according to Bishop Thomas Muldoon are unsurpassed in lucidity of doctrine, in fidelity to God's revelations, and in stimulation of real interest and love for the Faith.

Credo: I Believe, published by Ignatius Press

Aim

To help fifth grade students acquire a solid and specific knowledge of God and his Church through an understanding of the Creed we profess, and to distinguish the truths of our Faith from error that leads away from the love of God.

Theme

A thorough study of the articles of the Creed as the basic beliefs of our Catholic faith, with a special emphasis on careful understanding of definitions through the words of the Gospel, the prophets, and the prayers of the Church.

Sequence

Unit 1: God, the Father of All. The Old Testament and mankind's participation in the loss of God's life.

Unit 2: God, the Son, the Redeemer. The fulfillment of God's plan in Christ, God and Man.

Unit 3: God, the Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier. Our call to holiness and witness in the Church.

Reading/Language Arts

This research based program builds on students substantial knowledge by challenging them with:

† Making connections as they read literary, science, and social studies selections.

† Extending and refining comprehension , writing, and research skills.

† Exploring more sophisticated learning across the curriculum.

Open Court Collections for Young Scholars, transcends traditional reading programs.

Features of this series:

† Award winning fiction and non-fiction selections from renowned writers and illustrators.

† Science and social studies themes.

† A moral or virtue in every story.

† Systematic instruction; organized in unit themes around engaging concepts.

† Phonics, comprehension, and writing built into every lesson.

Selections include:

Poetry

Fiction

Folktales

Nonfiction

Riddles

Character Tales

Plays

Art

Reading/Language Arts continued...

This series stresses all the traditional reading skills that develop fluent readers. It then goes beyond the mechanics of reading, and stretches the mind and imagination of the reader. The goal of the series is to develop critical, independent readers.

Supplemental Readers

- † American Cardinal Readers
- † Bennets Book of Virtues for Young Children
- † The Bible, Matthews Gospel
- † Novels
- † National Geographic Publications

Writing

Legible handwriting will be developed through daily practice.

Creative Writing

Shurley English, English Made Easy, incorporates listening, speaking, and writing as an integrated whole. Students will learn to:

- † Use of poetic devices
- † Write business letters
- † Write friendly letters
- † Outline
- † Write narratives
- † Write descriptively
- † Express feelings and ideas
- † Listen and recall information
- † Write persuasive text
- † Write expository text

English

A firm grasp of the structure and use of language is critical to successfully harnessing the power of the written word. Mastery of proper grammar, usage, and mechanics is the goal of the comprehensive grammar program in Shurley English. The exercises in the English workbook provide the added reinforcement students need. Fifth graders will be able to:

- † Identify nouns and their uses within a sentence
- † Understand and apply subject/verb agreement rules
- † Identify natural/inverted sentences
- † Identify verb tense
- † Identify compound and complex sentences
- † Identify coordinate conjunctions and connective adverbs

Spelling

Students learn spelling rules, patterns, and high frequency words in a structured spelling program called Spelling Workout, published by Modern Curriculum Press. Students are also be required to spell correctly in all written assignments. Dictionary skills are reinforced.

Vocabulary

The Academy vocabulary program, including Amsco's Vocabulary Explorations, provides an engaging, systematic approach to new words. Students will:

- † Enjoy learning new words
- † Use the richer vocabulary in everyday speech
- † Incorporate new vocabulary in writing assignments

Analogies

Students are taught to think analytically as they solve a variety of analogies. The program that began in the first grade gets progressively more difficult. The students are taught to solve the analogy by looking for:

Analogies continued...

- † Similarities
- † Comparisons
- † Categories
- † Causal relationships

Math

McGraw-Hill's My Math series uses incremental development and continual review to insure mastery learning. Genuine learning is demonstrated not only through the understanding of a concept, but also through the ability to apply that concept to new situations. Fifth grade students will cover and/or develop:

- † Operations and algebraic thinking
- † Two digit multiplication and division
- † Fractions
- † Decimals
- † Geometry
- † Measurement
- † Expressions and Patterns

Think Through Math and ALEKS

Think Through Math (TTM) and ALEKS are web based programs that instruct, assess, support, and motivate students at their level. Students progress at their own rate while developing higher order thinking and problem solving skills.

Science

The Macmillan/McGraw-Hill Science, A Closer Look, provides a blend of concepts, inquiry, and hands-on content. Students are exposed to the process skills needed to form and test hypothesis. The units taught are:

Science continued...

Life Science

- † Structure and function of cells
- † Cell reproduction
- † Changing and adapting

Physical Science

- † Heat and matter
- † Changes in matter
- † Moving objects
- † Light, color, and sound

Earth Science

- † Technology and weather
- † Earth processes
- † Exploring the universe
- † Resources and conservation

Social Studies

Houghton-Mifflin prepares students for informed participation in tomorrow's America. This comprehensive social studies program presents a mixture of history, geography, economics, citizenship, and culture. The fifth grade text, A Message of Ancient Days, explores themes that focus on:

- † The world past and present
- † The earliest people
- † Early Middle Eastern and North African civilizations
- † Rome: A World Power

Geography

A comprehensive map skills program from National Geographic called, Map Essentials, covers map skills. Concepts covered in fifth grade are:

- † Population density map
- † Transportation Maps
- † Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn
- † Historical Maps
- † Inset Maps
- † Arctic and Antarctic Circles

Health

Students will develop an understanding of personal health and safety issues such as:

- † Good eating habits
- † Proper rest and exercise
- † Good hygiene
- † Personal cleanliness
- † Seat belt use
- † Safe use of medication

STEM

Students integrate Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math in a variety of problem solving situations. Students apply the Scientific Method and Engineering Process during experiential learning.

Computer Science

Code.org enables students to become algorithmic thinkers as they work through puzzles with increasing complexity in the computer lab. Students also learn and practice digital citizenship.



Specials

Physical Education

Fifth grade students will continue to develop muscle strength, cardio-respiratory endurance and flexibility as they learn to coordinate their motor skills. Learning to follow the rules of sports, teamwork, and good sportsmanship occur as they participate in games and activities.

Art

Students will explore many of the more sophisticated art media and techniques. They will:

- † Explore new artistic experiences
- † Experiment with form and style
- † Use elements of art to express their ideas

Music

Students will:

- † Understand that different cultures express themselves through their music
- † Be able to creatively express themselves through music
- † Interpret music in movement

Spanish

¡Viva el Español The curriculum, by McGraw-Hill, allows students to practice writing skills, reinforce vocabulary and language concepts, develop language-learning skills, and have fun with the language.

Using sounds, images, and text words the students are able to build sentences and turn sentences into conversation.

General Information

Report Cards/Progress Reports

Students will receive a report card at the end of each ten-week marking period. Students in need of academic assistance will receive a progress report at the end of the five-week point or half way through the marking period.

Parent Conferences

Parent conferences are scheduled for late October. However, parents may schedule a separate conference at anytime.

Homework

For children to achieve mastery, reinforcement is absolutely necessary. Homework is assigned, as needed, for practice and special projects. Expect to give some assistance. Help your child succeed by:

- † Providing a quiet area for study
- † Discourage or prohibit TV on school nights
- † Provide nutritious meals and plenty of exercise
- † Schedule sufficient rest (8 hours for fifth graders)
- † Show an interest in school activities
- † Keep communication lines open with the school

SchoolSpeak

Kindergarten - 8th Grade

SchoolSpeak is an online communication tool which allows parents and students to view homework, newsletters, grades, and report cards. Parents and teachers can easily message each other when the need arises.

