



A Quick Overview

In fifth grade, the curriculum broadens and deepens with students' growing abilities to use higher level thinking. New skills are now built upon with more sophisticated content and a higher level of independence. The curriculum supports the students' increased ability to become aware of and appreciate different perspectives and experiences in the context of history, literature, and writing. Student classroom activities support the developmental readiness of the ten and eleven year old to move toward increasing freedom from adult direction. Yet, they also provide a balance of age appropriate directed instruction. The wide variety of experiences in fifth grade promotes confidence and builds self-esteem as an individual and member of a group.

Park Maitland's dedication to building written communication skills is evident as student writing deepens through emphasis on more compositions in other academic subjects, including science and math. A major factor that allows this evolution is the fifth grade one-to-one iPad initiative. Having such a robust and resourceful tool at each student's fingertips is invaluable. It allows students unlimited opportunities for research, discovery, and innovation across the curriculum and in the world.

With the needs of every child in mind, daily curriculum is also enhanced through an intentional focus towards developing the 4Cs: creativity, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration. These competencies are nurtured and built upon in a carefully crafted continuum throughout each Park Maitland student's journey, ultimately preparing him or her to be a productive asset in a global society.

Evidences of the 4Cs at this level include assignments and tasks across our curriculum where the fifth grade student will do the following:

Build Creativity

- Value the creative process as the best way to come up with ideas that are meaningful and thoughtful
- Advocate for unconventional or unpopular positions
- Show empathy as a learner and creator
- Tackle challenging problems without obvious solutions, despite the potential for failure
- Implement self-reflection in his/her creative process
- Seek out and apply critique from peers, teachers, and experts





PROGRAM OVERVIEW AT-A-GLANCE



Build Critical Thinking

- Formulate questions to initiate and sustain an idea or investigation that has value in context outside the classroom
- Modify initial questions and ideas based on self reflection and critique from peers, teachers, and experts
- Identify open-ended problems and propose complex solutions
- Demonstrate persistence and grit independently
- Use computational thinking to develop and identify a sequence of steps and patterns to create and test solutions
- Use multiple modes to articulate and reflect on the Design Thinking Process
- Take pride in both the process and product during the exhibition of his/her work



Build Communication

- Use responsibility and integrity when engaging in online communication environments (e.g. interactive video, Web-based video/audio interactions, chats, email, threaded conversations)
- Research possible choices as he/she considers which modes to use for communication
- Use and integrate a range of digital media (e.g. photography, audio, video, hypertext, Web production, digital editing, presentation slides) to generate communication
- Curate information from print and digital sources using a variety of tools and methods to create collections of artifacts that demonstrate meaningful connections or conclusions
- Participate in a classroom culture of communication that values critique from peers, teachers, and experts
- Cultivate and manage his/her digital identity and reputation, aware of the permanence of actions in the digital world



Build Collaboration

- Use collaborative tools and technologies to work with others, including peers, experts, or community members, to examine issues, problems, and solutions from multiple viewpoints
- Implement digital tools to connect with learners from a variety of backgrounds and cultures, engaging with them in ways that broaden mutual understanding and learning
- Publish, plan, present, and exhibit work with group members - highlighting common goals and problems solved - to an authentic audience.
- In preparation for the middle school years, the 5th grade program at Park Maitland provides the foundation for future success!





PROGRAM OVERVIEW AT-A-GLANCE



PARK MAITLAND SCHOOL

Excellence Begins in Wonder

Course Descriptions:

Language Arts: Reading and E.S.W (English, Spelling, and Writing)

The English, spelling, and writing program provides a concentrated study of grammar, composition, and mechanics to strengthen the students' foundation of English as they develop their writing skills. With a wide variety of compositions, ranging from personal narratives to persuasive speeches, students will be immersed in the writing process. The ownership they develop through this experience is one that will build voice and purpose into their style. To reflect a higher level of independence and capitalize on each fifth graders' longing for confidence, this course utilizes the portfolio and writing workshop model, which will lead students to cherish both the process and products they produce.

Reading

The English curriculum is complemented by literature study in the reading classroom where students are exposed to a variety of genres and extended analysis of literary works. Self-selected literature is balanced with assigned literature, both supporting the curriculum and allowing for individual student interest. A variety of book reports- creative in nature- provide practice in oral expression, public speaking, and literary analysis. Finally, intense vocabulary study across the curriculum helps to build stronger comprehension skills and vocabulary usage.

Math

The fifth grade math curriculum strives to help students make sense of mathematics in meaningful ways. The main goal of the year's curriculum includes achieving a comfort with complex mathematical concepts. This translates to grappling with algebraic reasoning, probability, and geometric measurement. With multi-step equations and inequalities at the doorstep, developing a stronger number sense, including estimation and mental math, become paramount. In turn, the fifth grade students transform into proficient problem solvers, expertly utilizing reading skills and mathematical reasoning. Ultimately, this pivotal course builds confidence in each student's mathematical prowess. In preparation for middle school mathematics, differentiated math placement is provided to allow for the appropriate challenges and foundational skills of each student.





PROGRAM OVERVIEW AT-A-GLANCE



Social Studies

In social studies the history of the United States is used to teach pride in our heritage, tolerance of a diverse population, and an understanding of the importance of democracy in the world. Map studies, analysis of historical documents and figures, and research of famous events and people provide students with a solid knowledge and understanding of American history. Technology is infused into this course to enhance study skills and support the curriculum through research and cooperative learning projects.

Special events make the fifth grade year unique and provide opportunities for students to delve into a true understanding of historical times and people. During this course students study about and travel to Williamsburg, Virginia, visiting Monticello and Jamestown to relive the content they have been studying. They also collaboratively experiment with unconventional materials to create scaled versions of national monuments. This project is showcased as students utilize their oral skills to present their product in a school-wide event titled Monument Avenue. Furthermore, students complete a research paper on a historical figure and then become fully immersed in their character in a Wax Museum event where they deliver a memorized speech in first person. These hands-on experiences contribute to building a love for history while launching 21st century skills to a new level.

Science

Science in the 5th grade year continues to build on the students' understanding and application of the scientific method. An appreciation for science and discovery, as well as an appreciation and respect for the earth and our environment, are also emphasized. Students are encouraged to relate their knowledge of science concepts and theory to their everyday experiences. Problem solving as it pertains to scientific inquiry continues to strengthen critical thinking skills and prepare students for life in the 21st century. Dissection is introduced as the fifth graders delve into a hands-on approach to learning and application of scientific knowledge. Furthermore, participation in the schoolwide "Dr. Alan Safra Science Expo" allows for individual recognition of student achievement, further develops student presentation skills, and helps to create a school-wide atmosphere where science is celebrated.





PROGRAM OVERVIEW AT-A-GLANCE



Enrichment Classes

Emphasis on the education of the whole child is extended through a variety of outstanding enrichment classes which celebrate the talents and passions of each student. These courses are all taught by highly talented and experienced teachers who inspire and engage their students in a variety of ways.

Music: The fifth grade students further ignite their love of music by singing a wide range of American songs as well as audition preparation pieces. Much of the year will be spent elevating the annual production to the next phase, where students are taught the true balance of drama and music that comes with musical theatre and the performing arts.

Drama: Participants become familiar with the more mature elements of drama, such as onstage focus, scene study, and monologue work. The performer in each student emerges as the stage becomes a comfortable place to express and explore complex emotions, collaborative messages, and imaginative characters.

Visual Arts: Continuing their journey in the Artylogy program, students are inspired to create their very own scratchbooks from "scratch" and fill them with various works of art. The focus artist in the fifth grade is Claude Monet, whose frescoes spark exploration into forms, space, and texture.

Physical education: Each child is challenged to increase physical awareness of their body through the development of psychomotor, cognitive, and affective skills. The collaborative aspect of P.E. also enables students to learn about the benefit of teamwork and sportsmanship.

Computer: The computer course aims to build on students' digitally native status. Learners are encouraged to develop a keyboarding speed of at least 25 words per minute with a 90% accuracy, which correlates to the requirements of most middle schools (private and public). Also, since technology is thoroughly infused through the fifth grade curriculum, this class offers the opportunity to provide support for several academic projects across the grade level.

Spanish: Students will exercise their language muscle in order to learn and retain Spanish. This immersion in language ensures a mastery of conversational skills at a novice level, developing a familiarity with the language, preparing participants for further instruction as they head off to middle and high school.

Design Thinking: Students are challenged to grow in their 21st century skills of collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creativity as they cultivate their use of Design Thinking and Project Based Learning. A foundational project in the fifth grade is the Wallet Project, where students develop empathy as they interview a partner about their wants and needs in a wallet and then design one to capture their partner's wishes. Students learn about form, function, and fashion as they develop the 21st century skill of communication with one another.

