

Grade 5 at Ellis School

Home-School Connection

1.inquisitive

2.impulsive

3.energetic

4.creative

self- advocacy

2.social justice

3.understand respectful social interactions

Fifth Graders are entering the wonderful world of young adolescence where friends become very important and you may feel your role as a parent become more challenging. Don't worry, your children still need you to provide love, structure and understanding! Physically your child will be growing more quickly and might be hungry all the time... have lots of milk in the fridge!

Fifth graders are very inquisitive and they have the skills to seek and find answers. They are creative and energetic, but impulsive too. They need your help in analyzing situations, particularly social norms and definitions of friendship. They want independence too, and it's important that they learn self-advocacy skills. A common lament is, "It's not fair!" so be ready with an explanation.

At home you can set high expectations for your children and help them meet them. You'll want to be in contact with the school so that you understand what is happening in the classroom. This is an age where your child responds to your question about what happened in school today with the popular "nothing" answer, so you'll want to ask more specific questions such as "What book are you reading and what did you discuss with your partner?" or "What progress have you made on your science project?"

In fifth grade your child should be reading closely and drawing evidence from the text to answer questions. Our students should be reading both fiction and non-fiction, and should have the ability to provide an audience with enough background information to grasp a topic. All of the comprehension strategies that your child has been learning in prior grades are practiced in the different genre studies throughout the year. Fifth graders read as much fiction as non-fiction.

In mathematics, your child should be fluent in the operations of numbers (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) and will work with fractions and decimals during the year. They will also be working with volume and various geometry concepts.

It is important that we maintain strong home-school connections so keep in touch!

Language Arts

By the end of the school year, your child can:

- Summarize the key details of stories, dramas, poems and nonfiction materials including the theme or main idea
- Identify and judge evidence to support particular ideas in an author's argument to change the reader's point of view
- Integrate information for several print and digital sources to answer questions and solve problems
- Write opinions that offer reasoned arguments and provide facts and examples that are logically grouped to support the writer's point of view
- Write stories, real or imaginary, that unfold naturally; develop the plot with dialogue, description and effective pacing
- Be ready to participate in discussions and engage thoughtfully by contributing accurate information and listening to others
- Report on a topic or present an opinion using a logical sequence including sufficient facts and details
- Build knowledge of academic vocabulary
- Produce writing using technology

Suggestion for home activities in language arts

- Read with and to your child. Create a family book group where everyone reads and shares conversation about the book.
- Invite your child to share writing with you and members of your family. Discuss word choice and different ideas in the piece.
- Encourage community activities such as drama, choral groups, Toastmasters, etc.
- Attend library or other booktalk events. Check out NH.com for weekly events.
- Attend a play with your child and be sure to discuss it afterwards.
- Look into your family history, or share stories at family functions. Have your child write the stories and recheck with family for accuracy.

Mathematics

By the end of the school year, your child can:

- Add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators and solve word problems using them
- Multiply fractions, divide fractions and use them in word problems
- Understand in the place-value system, the value of a digit directly relates to its position
- Multiply and divide whole numbers quickly and accurately
- Understand the concept of volume including solving word problems
- Graph points in the two-dimensional coordinate plane
- Classify geometric figures into hierarchies
- Analyze mathematical patterns and relationships

Suggestions for home activities in mathematics

- Skip counting forward and back by different denominations
- Post multiplication facts around the house in frequently visited places
- Explore fractional parts through cooking
- Look for word problems in your daily lives including computing sale items, budgeting, etc.
- Multiply with decimals as you are working with different recipes (ex. you use $\frac{2}{3}$ or a $\frac{3}{4}$ -cup measure of vegetable stock, so how much did you use?)
- Use length width, perimeter and area in a garden plot to determine how many bags of soil you will need

Science

By the end of the school year, your child can:

- Use science process skills to follow procedures, analyze data, and draw conclusions during inquiry investigations
- Create and analyze tables and graphs
- Successfully use science writing to communicate the findings of an investigation
- Investigate technology and careers in the science fields
- Study topics such as ecosystems, human body systems, classifications of living and nonliving things, weather and erosion, human impact on the environment, forces and motion, properties of matter, physical changes

Suggestions for home activities in science

- Cook together to consider solids, liquids and gases
- Design and use a compost area in your yard; develop strategies for recycling in your home or neighborhood
- Investigate different sources of energy in your home and develop and implement a plan to conserve those resources
- Visit the same coastal location each year and take a family picture. It will be fun to notice the changes over time!
- Study a specific ecosystem together and discuss the interactions of various organisms. Consider what might happen if something is removed
- Visit science based museums, Odiorne Park, and Audubon Center at Masabesic Lake

Social Studies Topics

- . Know all 7 continents and 5 oceans
- 2. use a globe and map to answer geographical questions
- 3. understand earth's resources and our responsibility towards harnessing these
- 4. understand personal finance and financial responsibility as a consumer
- The explorers of America and early settlements
- The American Revolution
- U.S. Constitution
- Civil Rights
- Current events

Suggestions for home activities in social studies

- Identify license plates with states
- Identify resources within their environment
- Manage personal finances through chores, checkbook and/or savings account
- Watch the evening news together and discuss the events of the day
- Compare different reports of the same event to determine accuracy and points of view
- Discuss areas in daily life where the Constitution is in play (ex. freedom of speech, right to gather, freedom to worship)