



A Parent's Guide To the Los Altos School District GRADE 5 Course of Study

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Fifth grade instructional programs in Los Altos schools are committed to helping each child meet the academic and intellectual competencies expected at this grade level and become active, engaged learners in a classroom setting. The following summary of the instructional program provides an overview of the fifth grade year. The fifth grade program builds on skills and knowledge children have learned in preceding years. It encourages critical thinking, creativity, and respect for self and others. Expectations are modified or expanded to meet a child's needs and abilities.

Curriculum standards are what all grade-level students are expected to know and be able to do by the end of a school year. Key concepts and standards of fifth grade education are included. If you would like a complete description of fifth grade standards, they can be downloaded from the [California Department of Education](#) website.

If you have questions about curriculum, please contact your child's teacher.



MATHEMATICS

Adopted Programs

Scott Foresman enVision

Number Sense

Understands and computes percents
Determines the prime factors of all numbers through 50
Compares decimals, fractions and integers & know how to represent on a number line
Adds, subtracts, multiplies & divides with decimals
Adds and subtracts with negative numbers
Divides multi-digit numbers by a multi-digit divisor
Adds and subtracts using unlike fractions and mixed numbers
Solves multiplication and division problems with fractions

Algebra and Functions

Uses a letter to represent an unknown and solves simple problems
Solves problems involving linear functions with integer values

Measurement & Geometry

Understands and computes volumes & areas of simple objects
Understands and computes area and perimeter
Differentiates between & uses appropriate units of measurement for 2D and 3D objects
Measures and draws angles, lines, and shapes

Statistics, Data and Probability

Knows the concept of mean, median and mode
Organizes and displays data in appropriate graphs



READING/ LANGUAGE ARTS-----

Adopted Programs	Houghton Mifflin Medallions Edition, Reading
Reading	
Word Recognition:	Reads grade level text aloud fluently
Vocabulary:	Applies knowledge of root words and forms
Comprehension:	Uses appropriate strategies when reading for different purposes Makes and confirms predictions Distinguishes between cause/effect Distinguishes between fact/opinion
Analysis:	Understands the differences between literacy genres Analyzes basic elements of fiction and non-fiction

Writing

Organization:	Develops a central idea in sentences and paragraphs Creates multiple paragraph compositions
Research:	Uses information in reports appropriately and cites sources
Revision:	Edits and revises to improve drafts
Applications:	Effectively writes personal narratives & summaries Spells grade level appropriate words in writing
Penmanship:	Writes fluidly and legibly in cursive or joined italic
Sentence Structure:	Uses simple and compound sentences
Grammar:	Identifies and uses regular and irregular parts of speech
Punctuation:	Uses commas and apostrophes correctly
Capitalization:	Capitalizes proper nouns and the first word in quotation
Spelling:	Spells roots, suffixes, prefixes, and syllable constructions

Listening and Speaking

Comprehension:	Listen attentively and responds appropriately Gives precise directions and instructions
Delivery:	Communicates ideas and emphasizes points effectively
Applications:	Makes narrative and informational presentations

SCIENCE-----

Adopted Programs FOSS, [Mixtures & Solutions](#)(Physical), [Living Systems](#)(Life), [Water Planet](#)(Earth)

Scientific Process Skills

Conducts a complete scientific investigation and writes a report

Life, Physical or Earth Sciences

Matter: Knows the properties of solid, liquid and gaseous substances
Knows elements and their combinations account for all matter

Plants & Animals: Understands the systems of living things

Water Cycle: Understands the water cycle
Knows the reasons & practices of local/regional water use & conservation
Shows understanding of the role of the water cycle in weather

SOCIAL STUDIES-----

Adopted Programs [Macmillan/McGraw-Hill, Making a New Nation](#)

Geography: Uses basic map reading skills correctly
Identifies and understands the geography of the U.S.

Exploration: Describes the routes and explorations of the Americas and their effect on Native peoples

Colonization: Shows understanding of the colonizing of the United States

Revolution: Understands causes, effects, and major events of the Revolutionary War

Research: Uses research skills to write a report

PHYSICAL EDUCATION-----

All children participate in daily physical education aimed at developing sportsmanship, coordination, agility, strength, stamina, enjoyment of physical activity and participation in team and individual sports. All upper grade children have the opportunity to take part in the Los Altos Junior Olympics each spring. A P.E. specialist works with the children twice every week.

FINE and PERFORMING ARTS-----

All upper grade students receive instruction in the arts on a weekly basis. Fifth grade students participate in a year-long music offering from the following choices: Wind Instrument Ensemble, Brass Instrument Ensemble String Instrument Ensemble or Non-Instrumental. Students also participate in three fine arts offerings during the course of the year, each lasting one trimester. Students will take each of the following courses: visual arts, drama and digital design. In addition to the weekly Fine Arts Block, the District provides trained volunteers through an Art Docent program.