

Eagle Ridge Academy Fifth Grade

At Eagle Ridge Academy, we follow the Core Knowledge Framework and the Minnesota State Standards for Language Arts; History and Geography; Visual Arts; Music; Mathematics; and Science. Core Knowledge provides a solid foundation for learning by building upon student knowledge and skills from one year to the next and eliminating gaps in student learning.

Students will receive instruction in the following areas during Fifth Grade:

Language Arts: We follow a novel-based reading program using mainly core knowledge classics; Shurley English for writing and grammar; Wordly Wise Vocabulary; and spelling.

Benchmarks: In reading, students will work on reading comprehension and response; study poetry, fictional stories, drama, myths and legends, and speeches; and literary terms. In writing, students will produce a variety of writing (reports, summaries, poems, stories, descriptions, letters, research essays, essays that explain a process); conduct research; work on formal essays; editing and revising skills; vocabulary; and work on spelling, grammar, and usage. They will also learn sayings and phrases.

History and Geography: The topics studied will include geography with spatial sense (working with maps, globes); great lakes of the world; United States geography; Meso-American civilizations (geography; Maya, Inca, and Aztec civilizations; Spanish conquerors); European exploration, trade, and the class of growth and expansion (history and culture; geography); feudal Japan (history and culture; geography); Westward expansion (before Civil War); the Civil War (causes, conflicts, consequences); Westward expansion after the Civil War; and Native American cultures and conflicts (culture, life, American government policies, conflicts, reconstruction).

Visual Arts: The topics will include art of the Renaissance; American art of the nineteenth century; and the art of Japan.

Music: The topics will include the elements of music through participation (rhythm, melody, harmony, form, timbre); music notation and terms; listening and understanding (the composers and their music, musical connections); American musical traditions; playing the Recorder and the Guitar; singing folk songs and dancing or moving responsively to music.

Mathematics: We follow the Saxon Math curriculum that allows for the development of foundational concepts and critical thinking skills, and concepts are developed, reviewed, and practiced over time. This curriculum is effective in reaching and challenging students at all levels. The scope and sequence of the curriculum provides instruction in Numbers and Operations; Measurement; Geometry; Patterns; Algebra and Functions; Statistics; Data Analysis and Probability; Problem Solving; Communication; Mathematical Reasoning; and Connections.

Benchmarks: The topics will include numbers and number sense; ratio and percent; fractions and decimals; computation (addition, multiplication, division); solving problems and equations; Pre-Algebra; measurement (conversions and time); geometry; and probability and statistics.

Science: In Science, teachers follow the FOSS science kits which create a hands-on, lab approach to developing science skills. They will use a textbook called Science: A Closer Look.

Benchmarks: The topics will include the classification of living things; cell structures and processes; plant structures and processes (structure, photosynthesis, reproduction); life cycles and reproduction (reproduction in animals); the human body (adolescence, endocrine system, reproductive system); chemistry matter and change (atoms, molecules, compounds, elements, chemical and physical change; geology (including landforms, Earth's layers, mountain formation, weathering and erosion); force and motion: simple machines; and science biographies.

Latin: Students will receive weekly instruction in Latin Vocabulary, derivatives, grammar and culture.

Physical Education: Students in fifth grade receive instruction in physical education twice a week.