

# Our Fifth Grade Curriculum

This is the year your student prepares to become a middle schooler. In fifth grade, students begin to write essays and analyze literature. They continue to develop their problem solving and reasoning skills. They also interpret data, restate information, and collaborate with their peers.

## Reading Goals:

- Read grade level material accurately, fluently, with the ability to self-correct while reading
- Relate new information to prior knowledge and experiences
- Compare and contrast literary elements
- Demonstrate an understanding of different literary styles
- Understand and use key vocabulary words
- Restate and summarize information
- Analyze literature and different genres

**Book Buddies:** Your student is paired with a Kindergarten Book Buddy. They meet regularly for fun activities and to read together. Fifth graders enjoy being friends and role models to younger children in the school.

## Language Arts Goals:

- Spell frequently used words correctly
- Use punctuation and parts of speech correctly
- Use complete sentences and vary sentence length
- Write a strong essay with introduction, conclusion, topic sentences and transition sentences
- Write a variety of pieces paying close attention to the “traits of good writing”
- Continue writing in cursive

**Class Assembly:** Fifth grade students perform in a class assembly usually based on literature or poetry they’ve read in class. Yearly class assemblies are one of the cornerstones of a Topeka Collegiate education, often cited as a reason our students feel comfortable in front of an audience.

**Student Treasures:** Each student writes and publishes a book, and receives a hard-bound copy.

## Math Goals:

- Know basic facts, divisibility, and order of operations
- Estimate sums, differences, products, and quotients for whole numbers and decimals
- Work with fractions in a variety of contexts
- Know exponential notation, powers of ten, and scientific notation
- Understand ratios and percents
- Use a protractor, compass, and percent circle
- Identify properties of polygons
- Organize and analyze data to create a variety of plots, graphs, and tables
- Understand pan-balance problems and write open algebraic sentences

**AMC-8:** Students participate in the AMC-8, a competition sponsored by the Mathematical Association of America and designed to promote the development and enhancement of problem solving skills.

**Math Olympiad:** Fifth graders take part in the Math Olympiad, an international competition consisting of five monthly contests given from November to March.

**Math Olympics:** Students represent a country, join in the colorful Parade of Nations, then visit various “countries” to participate in math games.

## History and World Geography

This course is the first of a two-year sequence on world geography and history. Students first learn the language of geography and studying human societies. They then explore the following regions: Central and South America, North Africa and Southwest Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Australia and Oceania.

### History and Geography Goals:

Students learn about the human cultures and their impact on the earth through the study of:

- Languages, religion, foods
- Building styles, urban areas, agriculture
- Transportation systems, politics, economics
- Population demographics

Students also look at the water, air, animals, and landscapes at the surface of the earth.

**Egyptian Study:** Students research, write an essay, and create an illustration of an Egyptian God.

## Science Goals:

- Learn how organisms are classified into groups according to their traits
- Discover how the structure of an animal’s body part or system is related to its function
- Explore the form and function of each part of a sea sponge as foundation for 8th grade SeaCamp trip
- Answer the question of how plants adapt to their environment to help meet their needs
- Find out how seismic waves are used to determine the location of earthquakes and why earthquakes usually occur at the edges of plates
- Explore the interesting shapes in a limestone cavern, learn how they are formed, and compare how long it takes caverns to form to the timeline for earthquakes, volcano eruptions, and landslides.

**Sponge Model:** Students create a sea sponge model, using paper sacks, toothpicks and netting, then explain and share their model with 8th graders just returning from SeaCamp, other school adults and parents.

**Hidden Pond:** Students conduct a field study on Goldenrod Galls, collecting data for K-State University in the tallgrass prairie habitat at Hidden Pond.

**Egg Drop Challenge:** Engineers challenge students throughout the area to create the lightest structure that protects an egg in a 25-foot fall. Students work individually or as a team.

## Technology Goals:

- Learn word processing

## (Technology Goals cont’d)

- Become familiar with multiple search engines, Online data bases, spreadsheets and more
- Learn to add graphics from the Internet and other electronic resources to presentations and documents
- Refine PowerPoint skills

**PowerPoint Presentations:** Students complete PowerPoints to coincide with a class research project and are given the opportunity to showcase their expertise.

## Evaluations:

Teachers are your partners in ensuring that your child is succeeding in fifth grade. They perform oral and written assessments, as well as informal evaluations to determine how each student is progressing.

Teachers are committed to making sure your child is offered help, encouragement and enrichment based on his or her individual learning needs.

## The Well-Rounded Education

Our resource teachers work hard to give your child a well-rounded education at Topeka Collegiate and an overall exciting and enjoyable fifth grade experience.

**Spanish:** Students learn common actions and expressions, adjectives; household items; classroom objects; parts of the body; travel; foods; geography; current events; culture.

**P.E.:** Students learn to perform physical activities competently and safely, practice combining skills into sequences, and execute sports skills in a variety of individual and team activities.

**Music:** Students learn folk music, seasonal songs, and composed music, beat and rhythm, folk dances and other choreographed movements, rhythm and instruments as accompaniments, recorders, reading and writing music basics, and musical forms.

**Art:** Students learn line and shape; line shading, shadows, hatching, and crosshatching; drawing from observation; color and shading; texture

## 5th Grade Field Trips and Traditions

**Hidden Pond:** Students spend two memorable days at Stone Nature Center in team building and leadership activities on the ropes course. Students are immersed in nature and use the prairie landscape as inspiration for creative writing.

**Exchange City:** Students travel to Kansas City to experience what having a career is like. They perform a job, receive a paycheck and abide by all Exchange City laws. This is a signature fifth grade event.

**Topeka Symphony:** Students attend a performance by the Topeka Symphony.

**Junior Achievement:** Students learn how businesses operate and explore various economic issues affecting business.

**Greek Mythology:** Students will study a God or Goddess and create a project board. Students will hold a fashion show for Topeka Collegiate parents.