

Edgar Middle School Courses of Study Grade 5

English Language Arts (ELA)

English Language Arts -5

The comprehensive fifth grade English Language Arts program integrates the elements of Balanced Literacy. The expectation is that the students receive direct and differentiated instruction in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and grammar. This standards and research-based curriculum is designed to build upon each student's experiences and skills addressed in the previous school year and facilitate student growth in the areas delineated by the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for English Language Arts, which in turn assists each student in becoming critical, lifelong readers and writers.

Mathematics

Mathematics - 5 UL

The UL mathematics curriculum is designed for students who have demonstrated exceptional intellectual giftedness in mathematics. Students are placed based on their performance on the Study Island benchmarks, a district open-ended math assessment, a fifth grade readiness assessment, and teacher recommendation. This program provides a sequence of experiences that develop a comprehensive understanding of mathematical processes, which grows and expands over time, reaching a greater depth and higher levels of sophistication at a faster pace than the other ability groupings. The mathematics curriculum includes a variety of instructional activities and teaching methodologies that incorporate all learning styles. The program is currently aligned with the Common Core Curriculum Standards and meets state testing requirements. By the end of the year (fifth grade) students are able to solve a multitude of mathematical problems using a variety of strategies that extend from the classroom to everyday experiences. Their talents also allow them to communicate mathematically through written, oral and visual forms of expressions in order to demonstrate reasoning abilities.

Mathematics -5 High

The High mathematics curriculum is designed for students who have demonstrated advanced abilities in mathematics. Students are placed based on their performance on the Study Island benchmarks, a district open-ended math assessment, a fifth grade readiness assessment, and teacher recommendation. This program provides a sequence of experiences that develop a comprehensive understanding of mathematical processes, which grows and expands over time, reaching a greater depth and higher levels of sophistication at a faster pace than the other ability groupings. The mathematics curriculum includes a variety of instructional activities and teaching methodologies that

incorporate all learning styles. The program is currently aligned with the New Jersey Learning Standards for Mathematics and meets state testing requirements. By the end of the year (fifth grade) students are able to solve a multitude of mathematical problems using a variety of strategies that extend from the classroom to everyday experiences. Their talents also allow them to communicate mathematically through written, oral and visual forms of expressions in order to demonstrate reasoning abilities.

Mathematics -5

Mathematics in grade 5 is designed to provide all students with an opportunity to become mathematically literate, to extend their learning through their experiences and become informed citizens capable of understanding issues in today's society. Our program provides a sequence of experiences and tasks that help to strengthen students' ability to use what they have learned to solve everyday problems at a pace that is aligned with students' needs. Students at all levels are held accountable with high expectations for knowledge and discipline. The strengthening of critical thinking and problem solving skills is a major focus area within the curriculum. The mathematics curriculum includes a variety of instructional activities and teaching methodologies that incorporate all learning styles. The program is currently aligned with the New Jersey Learning Standards for Mathematics and meets state testing requirements.

Social Studies

Social Studies -5

This course commences the study of American History that continues in the sixth grade. The year begins with a study of the geography of North America and continues through a comprehensive chronological study that ends with an overview of the U.S. Constitution. The fifth grade program focuses upon the early colonization of North America and the fight for independence from Great Britain. The curriculum is aligned with the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards in Social Studies and 21st Century Skills.

Science

Science 5

In Science 5 students explore the topics of Weather on Earth, Motion & Design, and Ecosystems. The emphasis of the course is to develop students' science inquiry skills and advance deeper understanding of science content, concepts and processes. Students will frequently be actively engaged in hands-on investigations, allowing them to build knowledge based on their observations and experiences in a teacher supported environment. Students will experience both individual and cooperative learning activities, with opportunities to relate learning to the world around them, solve problems with

scientific information, and develop engineering designs. Scientific literacy and the ability to communicate about science through reading, writing and speaking is an important part of this course.

World Language

Spanish-5

This curriculum has been created for those students beginning their Spanish studies (students with no prior Spanish language background) and for those who have previously acquired some knowledge of Spanish by other means. The curriculum will focus on the elements addressed in the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for World Languages and the 21st Century Life and Career Skills.

Physical Education/Health Education

Physical Education

Physical Education is a co-educational program. Activities in the program are designed for the students to explore various positive physical experiences. These activities are used as a medium for attaining, improving and maintaining physical fitness. The students will be introduced to sports for recreational purposes while developing sportsmanship qualities. Skills will help develop agility, balance, cardio-vascular endurance, flexibility and strength. Individual skills, team play, strategy and playing rules of sports and games are taught. Opportunities for skill development in lifetime sports are also offered for carry-over value later in life.

Health-5

Students in fifth grade study the relationship between mental and social development in preteen and early teenage years. Students will study stress management, physical fitness and how to use safety and first aid techniques in various situations. Students will also understand the communicable diseases such as HIV. Students will learn in-depth, age-appropriate, drug-specific information and explore the relationship between drugs and physical, intellectual, and emotional well-being.

Cycle Courses

ICE-5 (In Class Enrichment)

This is a cycle course for students in the fifth grade. The program provides enriching experiences that will develop critical and creative problem solving, collaborative group work, individual research skills and hands-on work with journalism. A geography unit is also included as a component of this course offering. The content of the program is based on an expansion of the fifth grade social studies curriculum. Students will become familiar with the research process as they create an original product using information they have learned through their investigation of a topic.

Art-5

The fifth grade art program is a first-level course designed to introduce students to the middle school art program, both regular and sequential. This program provides all students with the opportunity to explore, express, research, and critique the varied art formats available to them. The program is designed to focus on the New Jersey Visual Arts Core Curriculum Content Standards for the arts.

General Music-5

In this general music format, classroom activities focus on three general areas: music listening (stressing the development of listening skills); music theory (reading music on the treble clef, understanding the basic elements of music); performance (emphasis on playing piano and guitar—reading melodies from music as well as guitar tablature). Students are introduced to composing on *Garage Band* and begin to fine tune their musical skills. Classes are aimed at developing an appreciation for different forms of music. The curricular offerings are tied directly to the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for the Arts.

Computers-5

Computers 5 is an introductory course designed to provide students with a basic set of computer skills for living in a digital society. The goal of this course is to foster a fundamental understanding and practical application of technology. This is a cycle course lasting 10 school weeks and is the foundation for future computer courses. Students are introduced to word processing, touch typing, internet search techniques, a programming language and various visual organizational tools. The curriculum incorporates the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for Technology along with key Common Core State Standards for Language Arts and Math. Woven throughout the course are the New Jersey Core Content Standards for 21st-Century Life and Career skills incorporating creative, critical thinking, collaborating and problem-solving skills in each major units of study.

Music Ensembles

5th & 6th Grade Band

This music program is intended for those students who would like to begin band or continue band activities from a former grade and wish to continue expanding upon their knowledge and enjoyment of music. This course focuses on the development of skills, knowledge and musical insights necessary for mature performance and appreciation. The program closely addresses all New Jersey Core Content Standards for the Performing Arts.

5th & 6th Grade Chorus

The choral program is designed based on the belief that every child brings with themselves a unique set of abilities, understandings, and life experiences so that every individual's vocal contribution is integral to the experience of the entire singing ensemble. Music will

be studied and rehearsed from a variety of musical styles and languages. Students will learn basic vocal technique, sight singing, reading music notation and singing individual parts. The curriculum will focus on all elements addressed in the New Jersey Core Curriculum Contents Standards for the Performing Arts.

5th & 6th Grade Orchestra

Students participating in the string program in 5th and 6th grade are scheduled for orchestra once a week and group lessons once a week. The full Orchestra schedule meets the same time each week while the group lesson schedules rotate. Classes are designed to develop the skills, knowledge, teamwork, independence, and musical insights necessary to develop mature performance practices. Correct technique, note reading, and developing precise intonation are stressed. Performance repertoire is chosen to reinforce concepts introduced in lessons. All offerings are closely aligned with the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for the Performing Arts.

Gifted and Talented

Grade 5 G&T

The emphasis of the Grade 5 G&T curriculum is to develop the talents and abilities of our most gifted students. The program will provide individualized instruction based on children's talents and interests. The course is offered for three cycles: one cycle focuses on enrichment in English Language Arts and Social Studies, one cycle focuses on enrichment in the STEM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), and one cycle is interdisciplinary. Students may be enrolled in one or more cycle, depending on their identified areas of talent. Students will meet daily for each cycle they are enrolled.