

FIFTH GRADE (5TH)

Math

Saxon stresses basic math skills to better prepare students for higher learning. The success of Saxon programs can be attributed to the program's unique, effective, and research-based pedagogy, which helps students develop a deeper understanding of concepts and how to apply them. Saxon's innovative instructional approach breaks complex concepts into related increments, recognizing that smaller pieces of information are easier to teach and easier to learn. The instruction, practice, and assessment of those increments are systematically distributed across a grade level. This distributed approach ensures that students gain and retain critical thinking skills. Students will receive instructions in the following:

- Numbers and Operations
 - Numeration
 - Basic Operations
 - Properties of Numbers and Operations
- Algebra
 - Ratio and Proportional Reasoning
 - Patterns, Relations, and Functions
 - Variables, Expressions and Equations
- Geometry
 - Describe Basic Terms
 - Describe Properties and Relationships of Lines
 - Describe Properties and Relationships of Angles
 - Describe Properties and Relationships of Polygons
 - 3-Dimensional Figures
 - Coordinate Geometry
- Measurement
 - Measuring Physical Attributes
 - System of Measurement
 - Solving Measurement Problems
 - Solving Problems of Similarity
 - Use Appropriate Measurements
- Data Analysis and Probability
 - Data Collection and Representation
 - Data Set Characteristics
 - Probability
- Problem Solving
 - Four-Step Problem-Solving Process
 - Problem-Solving Strategies

Science

Science activities provide for the teaching of basic elements that make up the scientific method. Students will participate in Science Fair competition Instructions include, but are not limited to, the study of:

- Systems in Living Things
- Populations and Ecosystems
- Matter and Energy
- Light and Sound
- Solar System and Beyond
- The solid Earth

Reading

A *Balanced Literacy* curriculum that focuses on *Guided Reading Levels* and challenging literature is used to teach reading. The curriculum focuses on comprehension, accuracy, fluency, and expanding vocabulary through extensive reading and writing of novels, poems, essays, nonfiction, and other material. Students are assessed individually on a regular basis to determine comprehension, vocabulary development, and reading level. Since the curriculum is novel-based, the students thoroughly examine several novels throughout the year. These include:

- Sing Down the Moon by Scott O'Dell
- The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin
- Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
- The Cay by Theodore Taylor
- Number the Stars by Lois Lowry

Spelling

The *Balanced Literacy* curriculum method focuses on phonics and word parts, which strengthen the students' understanding of word structure, meaning, and of course, spelling. Words are taken from the novels the students are studying at the time, activities in social studies, and challenging word part lists. The weekly words are organized into *Word Walls* and weekly practice activities include:

- Writing to use words in context
- Alphabetizing, rhyming, syllables, synonyms, and antonyms
- Finding related words (using word parts)
- Etymology

The 5th grade participates in the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Handwriting

Zaner-Bloser is the guide for instruction and practice, for both manuscript and cursive.

- First Semester: cursive practice
- Second Semester: cursive mastery

Language Arts

The *Balanced Literacy* curriculum lends itself well to the mastery of writing mechanics and grammar practice. The students carefully examine how the authors write the novels, their word usage, and how they reach the reader. The students practice, apply and synthesize these elements into their

own writing of poems, newspaper articles, response essays, short stories, drama vignettes, and rhetoric. These elements include:

- Capitalization and punctuation
- Sentence structure
- Parts of speech
- Listening and speaking skills, through the annual 5th grade debate
- Writing and original composition
- Daily language review

Social Studies

The SJES 5th grade uses the *Harcourt Horizons: United States History* curriculum. This rigorous curriculum challenges the students to learn about many aspects United States history. The students gain valuable practice in understanding geography, economics, the history of their country, and social studies terms. The students apply and synthesize this information through the creation of the 5th grade village, a model of one town through US history, starting in colonial times. The 5th grade also participates in the National Geography Bee.

In addition to classroom activities, the students receive instruction each week in music, computers, library, Spanish, art, P.E. and Godly Play. During those times, enrichment teachers with specialized training for their particular area guide the children through lessons appropriate for their age level.

We will also attend Chapel three days a week. These days include Tuesday, praise and worship, Wednesday, formal chapel (Holy Eucharist every 3rd Wed. of the month), and Thursday which will be led by grade levels.