

It would be helpful to:

- Offer your child opportunities to predict what might happen to situations where the outcome is unknown or uncertain. Prediction plays a big role in scientific investigation.
- Select nonfiction titles to read and share about these topics.
- Use or explain metric measurements in length, volume, and temperature.
- Allow your child to experiment if the opportunity arises, stressing sage practices during any activity.

United States and Its Neighbors



This year's social studies explore our own country, state by state, as well as its neighbors,

Canada and Mexico. Again, students use their developing research (and computer) skills to learn about the US government, its roots, the regions of States and geographical – social characteristics of our neighbors. Fifth graders also take the NYS SS test in November. This two-part test focuses on concepts learned in earlier grades, testing through constructed responses and Document Based Questions essay. (DBQ)

It would be helpful to:

- Write to family members living in other states for information about their state.
- While traveling, visit historical sites, points of interest, and museums.
- Collect any literature or materials when traveling in the US, Canada, or Mexico.

Just for Fifth Graders

DARE, our drug education program begins in the spring with weekly visits from the Deputy instructor. Students learn the importance of saying no, as well as

ways to deal with changing social pressures. A Movin' On - DARE graduation and Skate Factory trip in June is the culmination of this timely program.

Students have the opportunity to participate in the **Instrumental Music** program by signing up in their fourth grade year.



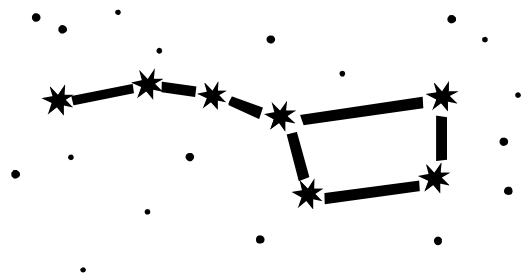
Weekly lessons and **band** participation are essential parts of the program. **Chorus** is also offered, with concerts in the winter and spring.

Nature's Classroom is an optional four-day program usually offered during April vacation. Students participate in a variety of science, historical, environmental, and mathematical challenges and projects, while staying at the beautiful site of Silver Bay.

Fifth graders also participate in **Arts in Ed** workshops that develop creative problem solving through the arts. Past projects have included drama (Harriet Tubman), poetry writing, visual arts (puppets), and music (Faultline).

Fifth grade **field trips** have included:

- Musical performance at Proctor's
- Planetarium trip
- Hudson River Boat Trip



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN FIFTH GRADE!

MHG

Kathy Bolstad
Susan Jermain
Susan Mallery
Chris Soulia

MVB

Don Dingee
Lynn Nardacci
Patty Tollerton

Chicago Math Series

Topics include:

- Understanding Numbers: addition and subtraction of whole numbers, fractions, and decimals
- Multiplication of whole numbers, decimals, fractions
- Division of whole numbers and decimals
- Preparation for NYS math test in March

It would be helpful to:

- Continue practicing all math facts in add, sub, mult, div learned in fourth grade.
- Encourage the use of measurements, both standard and metric, in daily activities like cooking or building.
- Allow students to become familiar with making change and adding money.
- Stress the importance of math in our daily lives, showing examples (like pizza cut into fractions or figuring miles on a trip.)

Language Arts

Our grade level offers a variety of styles and programs to teach the complex skills of reading and writing. Using literature-based, guided, and Macmillan reading programs, students are able to enjoy quality thematic



literature while learning specific skills aimed for deeper comprehension and connections. We prepare for the NYS ELA test in January. Our writing workshops continue a student's development with different writing styles and techniques. Different genres include personal true stories, fact/opinion, how-to, on-demand, poetry, research, and nonfiction/fiction pieces. Some of our favorite fifth grade titles include:

Running Out of Time Number the Stars
Night of the Twisters
My Side of the Mountain Maniac Magee

It would be helpful to:

- Read aloud to your child as often as possible.
- Encourage your child to select books from the school or local library for their enjoyment.
- Discuss books and TV programs with your child, focusing on connections and content.

Hands On Science

Most of our science is activity based and hands-on, focusing on content and practice as a beginning foundation for later grades. There are also opportunities for scientific research and reports. This is the year to study diverse topics through experimentation and group activities. Fifth graders participate in a variety of research and note-taking activities, including library skills workshops, independent studies, and consumer testing. Topics include:

- Classification of Animals
- Invertebrates/Vertebrates
- Oceanography
- Weather
- The Universe

