



Learning Across the Year

• Fifth Grade •

Great Falls Public Schools is committed to...

Vision: All kids engaged in learning today...for life tomorrow.

Mission: We successfully educate students to navigate their future.

This document provides a broad overview of what your child will be learning in each of the content areas. For a more detailed look at the complete curriculum for 5th grade, go to: www.gfps.k12.mt.us

Reading

In fifth grade, students broaden and deepen their understanding of informational and literary text. Students reflect on their skills and adjust their comprehension and vocabulary strategies to become better readers. Students discuss, reflect, and respond, using evidence from text. They are able to quote a text for evidence or elaboration, describe the influence of point of view and compare/contrast two texts on the same topic. Students read for pleasure, choosing books based on personal preference, topic, genre, theme, or author.

Writing

Students develop a strong personal voice in their writing. This is demonstrated by the way they sometimes inject humor into their narratives and how they add emphasis or opinion into informational persuasive writing. Students use precise, specialized vocabulary appropriately in content-area writing. They experiment with sentence length and complex sentence structures and vary leads and endings. Scoring guides, often student-initiated, provide criteria for critiquing their own work and that of others. These guides are often detailed, addressing content, organization, style, and conventions. Students are more comfortable editing and revising their work.

Language

Students in fifth grade understand and correctly use capitalization and punctuation and are encouraged to use correct grammar when reading, writing and speaking. Students utilize content vocabulary and descriptive language to enhance their writing.



Speaking and Listening

In fifth grade, students engage in collaborative conversations and readily contribute to discussions. They are prepared to speak to others and follow agreed upon rules for discussions. They report on information, clearly explain their own ideas, synthesize the ideas of others, ask and answer questions, and use appropriate speech for the situation.

Handwriting

Fifth grade students use D'Nealian handwriting and continue practicing basic keyboarding skills.

Math

Fifth graders learn efficient ways to divide whole numbers. They apply what they know about division to solve problems, using estimation and mental math skills to decide whether their results are reasonable. They extend their work with common factors and multiples as they deal with prime numbers. Fifth graders learn procedures for adding and subtracting fractions and decimals. They begin exploring multiplication and division of fractions. Students apply these procedures to solve a wide range of problems that involve more of the types of numbers students see in other school subjects and in their lives.

Science

Children learn to observe, communicate, measure, classify/compare and take notes while conducting experiments in exploring the following units: Variables; Levers and Pulleys; and Food and Nutrition.



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Social Studies

Fifth graders develop social skills and an awareness of their community and our nation through experiences centered around the topics: American History, Native American History and a unit on Charles Russell, a Montana artist.

Music

Fifth graders listen, respond to and present music. They interpret music symbols and terms. They identify vocal parts in a musical piece. They elect to be part of band or orchestra.

Physical Education/Health Enhancement

Students learn body and space awareness, manipulative and fine motor skills, endurance and flexibility in PE. Other topics covered include nutrition, safety and fitness.

Technology

Students will use a variety of digital tools appropriately and ethically to create, collaborate, communicate and solve problems.

Art

Fifth graders are encouraged to develop individual creativity through visual means. Students learn to use art materials, create works of art, respond to and analyze works of art and understand art influences.

Counseling

Counseling lessons focus on personal and social development, academic development and career development. Fifth graders apply their own interests and strengths to write a plan to achieve goals.

Library

Students learn effective and efficient ways to access information. They are encouraged to access and read information and literature for learning and enjoyment.

How to Help Your Child Learn at Home

Try to develop a routine where your child sits in a quiet place for 15 to 30 minutes daily to complete homework or reading. Sitting with your child will allow you the opportunity to see what he/she is learning. You will be the first to know if your child needs help with specific topics.

- Make sure reading is part of your child's daily routine. Set aside a quiet time with no distractions for reading. Read together if possible or ask your child to tell you about the book he/she is reading. Ask questions such as: "Why do you think the author wrote this?" "Where does it say that in the text?" "What evidence do you have to support your thinking?"
- Have your child read his/her writing out loud to other family members. Ask questions about your child's word choice and ideas.
- Discuss family stories and history with your child. Encourage your child to ask questions of relatives and somehow document these ideas.
- Go to a play or musical with your child. Discuss the way the actors bring words to life.
- Look for real-life math problems involving decimals and fractions. Encourage your child to cook with you and have him/her double the recipe. Ask him/her to add and subtract dollar amounts when shopping or balancing a checkbook.
- Encourage language development and vocabulary building by talking to your child and giving him/her your undivided attention. Eliminate all distractions and have a conversation that has multiple exchanges. Ask questions and use new vocabulary to model effective speaking/listening skills.