

September 2020

Dear Fifth Grade Families:

Welcome to Fifth Grade! Students in grade five participate in a variety of classroom experiences to expand their love of learning while developing their academic, social and physical skills while seeking DISCOVERY. The following descriptions present a brief overview of the comprehensive program for the fifth grade. Due to the nature of instructional delivery at this time, we have compacted Curriculum to best meet student needs.

**i-Ready Diagnostic and Personalized Path:** This year, our students will take the i-Ready diagnostic. This diagnostic is a short series of questions that will help teachers know how to group students so that we can best address student needs and build on their strengths. The i-Ready diagnostic is administered on the computer and then the program creates a personalized series of games and activities unique for each student. We ask that each student spend 10 - 15 minutes each day on reading and math i-Ready activities for homework or asynchronous learning time. To learn more about i-Ready, please go to [www.aacps.org/iready](http://www.aacps.org/iready).

**Language Arts:** Students in fifth grade continue to develop and expand their literacy skills in word knowledge, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, writing, speaking, and listening by engaging in a variety of lessons and activities based on the Maryland College and Career Readiness Standards and the Anne Arundel County Literacy Curriculum. Fifth graders independently demonstrate and apply a variety of reading strategies as they engage in fluent reading and comprehension of more complex materials with literary and informational texts. They strive to construct meaning, monitor and check their own understanding, and engage in collaborative discussions of what they have read. Students are required to respond to text-dependent questions and write to source in all areas. Technology skills continue to develop during the fifth-grade year. Students become more independent in using online resources and computer applications to support their learning in all curricular areas. As writers, they focus on opinion, informative and narrative writing. Students learn to organize and develop complex ideas to compose pieces that include a variety of sentence structures, word choices, and language conventions to enhance their writing. Students continue to practice handwriting skills through writing.

**Mathematics:** Students develop mathematical thinking through the integration of the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards and the Standards for Mathematical Practice. These standards and practices require students to demonstrate skills and persevere when solving problems, explain their reasoning to others, choose appropriate mathematical tools, and be accurate with representations and explanations. The Standards for Mathematical Practices are incorporated into daily lessons and promoted through student discourse during lessons. The MCCR standards are a set of high-quality academic goals which provide rigor, focus, and coherence to prepare our students to be college and career ready by the time they graduate from high school. The mathematical concepts taught in Grade 5 include:

- Number & Operations: Fractions – Finalize fluency and integration of decimals and fraction, use four operations to solve problems with fractions
- Number & Operations: Base Ten – place value including decimals, decimal operations with multi-digit whole numbers
- Operations and Algebraic Thinking – write and interpret numerical expressions, analyze relationships
- Geometry - classify figures based on properties, use coordinate plane to solve problems
- Measurement and Data – Convert units of measurement, understand concept of volume

During the time of Virtual Learning, math topics have been narrowed to include essential grade level standards, guided by the work of NCTM, NCSM and Achieve the Core. With abbreviated time dedicated to teaching mathematics, it is important for students to continue their practice on math concepts using their Ready Common Core work text, the i-Ready platform and First In Math. Students can access both digital programs through ClassLink. Students can practice mathematics in a variety of ways at home including building sets and relating them to multiplication, measuring/estimating the distance from the house to the playground, estimating or determining elapsed time when they clean their room, cooking with a family member and using the world around them to name shapes and describe their attributes.

**Social Studies:** Students explore the answer to the question “What does it mean to be an American?” by studying the history, government, and geography of the United States through the lens of diverse perspectives. Students investigate the historical events leading to the founding of our country and learn about exploration, colonization, and the American Revolution. They also study the principles of democracy and our form of government. Students have the opportunity in the U.S. Government unit to participate in a class campaign or a Simulated Congressional Hearing for which they will receive 5 hours of service learning. Students continue to practice the skills of social studies by sequencing events, analyzing cause and effect, and analyzing perspective. They read primary sources and complete writing assignments and research projects. They are expected to read and write independently. Students will utilize the textbook, America's Past both in traditional and digital format. They also interpret and construct maps, charts, tables and graphs. The units studied are:

- Colonization
- Road to Revolution
- American Revolution
- We the People

**Science:** Through exploration of the Next Generation Science Standards curriculum, students engage in scientific inquiry. Throughout this process, students generate questions around real-world science phenomena and develop investigations to find the answers to these questions. They take measurements, collect data, and analyze information to find solutions to scientific problems. Students study patterns and relationships within science and learn to build evidence-based arguments in response to claims. The topics are:

- Food Webs in Ecosystems
- Stars and Constellations
- Interactions of the Four Spheres of Earth
- Phases & Interactions of Matter
- Engineering Design

In the Spring, Students can apply what they learned by taking part in the Innovators Science and Engineering Challenge.

**Environmental Literacy & Outdoor Education:** Maryland Environmental Literacy Standards are integrated into curriculum through engaging units that connect students with their local natural world. Students answer the question, how do state and local laws address environmental issues? During the fourth quarter in social studies, they examine state and local laws related to an environmental issue. They conduct research, investigate and then students act as responsible citizens and promote the common good by taking action on the issue.

**Drownproofing:** The Drownproofing Program is a comprehensive aquatic safety program for AACPS fifth graders. Students learn personal water safety skills through teacher and Drownproofing staff

led lessons. The instruction is aligned with the language arts and physical education curriculum. Water safety instruction is provided by certified aquatic safety instructors. Lessons focus on personal water safety, use of personal flotation devices, safe rescues, cold water survival techniques, hypothermia and ice safety.

**English Language Acquisition Program (ESOL):** English Language Acquisition (ELA) classes comply with the requirements of Title III of ESSA. The goal of English Language Acquisition instruction is to enable English Learners to construct meaning from oral and written language, express complex ideas and information, as well as access grade-level instruction across content areas. In order to accomplish this goal, the ELA curriculum is based on WIDA English Language Development (ELD) standards:

- Social and Instructional Language
- The Language of Language Arts
- The Language of Math
- The Language of Science
- The Language of Social Studies

The WIDA English Language Development standards framework represents the social, instructional, and academic language that students need to engage with peers, educators, and grade-level content curriculum. As such, the framework for teaching language is integrated with the Maryland State Standards for College and Career Readiness, as well as National and State Content Standards. In addition to classroom instruction, ELs engage with personalized learning through Imagine Language & Literacy, an online adaptive learning program that builds reading and language proficiency skills. All students who have been identified as eligible to receive English Language Acquisition services will take WIDA ACCESS for ELLs, the annual assessment to measure English Language Proficiency.

**Media Arts:** Students experience a heightened level of art access through a unique medium of artistic expression that can amplify and integrate the four traditional art forms by incorporating the technological advances of the contemporary world with emerging skill sets available to students and teachers. In the Media Arts, students cultivate both artistic abilities and a technological aptitude. The media artist utilizes a fundamental understanding of the mediums of analog and digital media to integrate digital technologies with traditional forms of artistic expression. Artistic processes are the cognitive and physical actions by which arts learning and making are realized. National Core Arts Standards are based on the artistic processes of Creating; Performing/ Producing/Presenting; Responding; and Connecting.

**Technology:** Students increase their creativity, communicate and collaborate with others and gather, evaluate and analyze information and data using computers. They solve problems and make decisions in a manner that demonstrates their understanding of the social, ethical, and human issues related to technology.

**Health Education:** Students increase their awareness in the health skills of analyzing influences, nutrition, safe living environment, communication, disease prevention and control, decision making, conflict resolution, self-management and advocacy through identified literacy texts within the 5<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum.

We are looking forward to a year of learning for your fifth grader. If you desire additional information, please contact your child's teacher.

Sincerely,

WRL/pmw