

Fifth Grade Course Description

Overview for Parents

Teacher: Bruce Freeberg

Content / Content Goals

Language Arts

- We will read in a wide range of genres, including novels, plays, short stories and folk tales, poems, speeches, news articles, essays, textbooks and letters.
- We will practice reading comprehension strategies such as making connections, inferences and predictions, summarizing, distinguishing main points and supporting details, identifying causal relationships, themes and literary devices, making interpretive judgments and supporting them from the text, etc. We will practice reading orally with fluency and expression.
- Students will write in a variety of genres, including personal narratives, short stories, expository essays, book reports, research reports, poems, speeches, news articles and letters. Students will practice constructing outlines and will write multi-paragraph pieces using topic paragraphs, transition sentences, and concluding paragraphs. They will continue to develop revising and editing skills.
- Students will expand their working vocabulary through a study of words in the context of literature and through a study of Greek and Latin word roots.
- Students will study spelling patterns and strategies and will review commonly misspelled words.
- Students will review rules of punctuation and practice identifying parts of sentences.

Geography

Our study of geography will be integrated as much as possible with the study of history. Work will be arranged in several major units as follows:

- General Overview and Review
- Great Lakes of the World
- The geography of Western Europe (in conjunction with the study of the Renaissance, the Reformation, and the Golden Age of England)
- The geography of the U.S.A. (in conjunction with the study of westward expansion and the Civil War)

Character Education

For character education we use the Core Virtues program. Core Virtues was created by the founder of Crossroads Academy, Mary Beth Klee. Every month we introduce a new virtue such as respect, loyalty, and gratitude. We bring these virtues to life through oral reading of high quality literature and through modeling.

Expectations for Students

- Arrive on time — our morning gathering is important
- Assume responsibility for your work
- Give your best effort to all you do
- Complete all homework and turn in on time
- Follow classroom rules
- Participate in class discussions and activities
- Be respectful of other students, faculty, and materials
- Endeavor to develop the virtues covered in our Core Virtues curriculum

Homework Requirements

Homework should take approximately 60 minutes overall.

- Reading: There will be 20-30 minutes of reading assigned each night
- Literature responses: Response questions will accompany many reading assignments. These will be completed at home.
- Composition: Students will complete much of the writing process in class. Final drafts will sometimes be completed at home.
- Vocabulary and Spelling: Vocabulary and spelling assignments will be given on alternate weeks.
- Grammar: Most grammar exercises will be completed in class using the Voyages in English workbook. Students will occasionally use homework time to review for quizzes.
- Geography: Most work in geography will be completed in class. Students will have occasional geography homework and will need to use homework time to review for quizzes and tests.

Contacting the Teacher

- For questions about homework assignments, you may call my home number between 6:00 P.M and 8:30 P.M. My home number is (802) 674-6836.
- For other information or to schedule a meeting, you may contact me at home,
- by phone at school (603) 795-3111 or by email (bruce.freeberg@crossroadsacademy.org)

