

## Fifth Grade

### Academics

#### LITERATURE/READING

*Expeditions* will be the literature text for the fifth grade. This series offers a variety of themes and skills, and we are looking forward to another exciting year exploring all it has to offer. Students will further develop their skills in vocabulary, comprehension, and oral reading fluency, as well as their ability to identify complex story structures. Along with the literature series, the use of trade books in the language arts program is seen as an opportunity to encourage critical thinking while actively engaging students to become better readers. Students will have the opportunity to discuss, listen to and share points of view, ideas and feelings. A variety of activities allows for flexibility in providing students with challenging work at many levels.

#### LANGUAGE ARTS (Writing and Grammar)

The objective of *Voyages in English* is to enable students to become confident and skilled in both written and oral communication. Students will write throughout the year, utilizing and developing writing skills as part of an ongoing process. They will be writing from personal experiences as well as creating their own stories, essays, etc. Some of the students' writing will be kept in writing folders in the classroom so that progress can be monitored and assistance can be given when needed. Grammar, parts of speech, correct usage, capitalization and punctuation are skills that will be reinforced and developed simultaneously throughout the writing process.

#### INDEPENDENT READING

In an effort to support and promote reading enjoyment, students will be expected to do independent reading. Assessment will be in the form of book projects/reports, oral presentations, reviews and response journals. Your child should have reading material with him/her at all times.

#### SPELLING

The spelling program is incorporated in the practice book that the students will use each week in conjunction with the literature text. The students will be introduced to a new spelling list each week with most of the practice work being done at home. Please note that spelling may not necessarily coincide with the literature selection being read. A spelling test will generally be given every Friday.

#### SCIENCE

*SCIENCE* is the title of our science text. Our science program includes major domains of science: Physical sciences, life sciences, and earth and space sciences. The science curriculum emphasis is placed on the development of science process skills, including observing, making predictions, collecting, organizing, recording, analyzing and interpreting data; formulating and generating questions: forming hypotheses and drawing conclusions. Students will keep an organized notebook of vocabulary words, diagrams, and answers to scientific questions. This will help

students study for their tests and quizzes. Students will experience an electricity unit using a hands-on kit. This will promote group work and allow students to learn how to cooperate with each other. In the spring, students will be asked to participate in a science fair.

#### SOCIAL STUDIES

*Houghton Mifflin Social Studies, the United States; Making a New Nation* is the text book for social studies. Using the Massachusetts frameworks for sixth grade as a guide, we cover mapping skills and terms, explorers, the discovery of the New World, interaction with the Native American Indians and results of the interaction between them and the European settlers.

#### MATH

Using *Houghton Mifflin Math for Fifth Graders*, the focus will be on advancing the students' knowledge of Place Value with addition and subtraction, Multiplication, Division and Algebra, Units of measure, Data and Statistics, Fractions, Decimals, Geometry.

### Faith

*We Believe* is the title of our religion text. The focus of this series is to have students develop a deeper understanding of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, the center of Christian life. The students will be shown how to celebrate this life and deepen it through liturgy.

### Service

Students participate in the following service projects:

St. Vincent de Paul  
Math a thon (5-8)  
Pennies for Patients  
HCA boxes  
Lenten Paper Drive  
Capri Juice Containers  
Student Council  
Paper and Plastic Recycle

Juvenile Diabetes Research  
Cancer Fund  
Food Drive for Woburn Council of  
Social Concern  
Red Cross Hurricane Relief Fund

## Curriculum Overview

### Mathematics

**Purpose:** to insure that students have the basic knowledge of operations necessary for pre-algebra, increase their number sense, and that students have a love of learning mathematics and become confident problem solvers.

#### Learning Outcomes

Students will be able exhibit knowledge and behaviors in the following areas:

1. Math Vocabulary
2. Multiplication
3. Division
4. Number Sense
5. Decimals
6. Money
7. Measurement
8. Data and Graphing
9. Algebra Concepts
10. Fractions
11. Word Problem Solving
12. Geometry
13. Measurements
14. Probability
15. Integers

### Language Arts

**Purpose:** to challenge students to explore their world through the spoken and written word, enabling them to develop as individuals both personally and socially. Through written and oral language students are able to communicate and express their thoughts, feelings, and emotions to one another. The language arts curriculum includes, writing, grammar, correct usage, mechanics, dictionary and library skills, speaking and listening skills. The primary goal of a reading program is to be able to comprehend what we read. It requires active and thoughtful effort on the part of the reader. Successful instruction requires a program that includes fiction and

nonfiction; independent reading; explicit teaching of comprehension skills and strategies; and cooperative discussion of the text. The spelling curriculum is incorporated in the literature program.

#### Learning Outcomes

Students will be able exhibit knowledge and behaviors in the following areas:

1. Written and Oral Communication
2. Language Mechanics
3. Literature
4. Spelling
5. Penmanship

### Social Studies

**Purpose:** to teach Early American History from the perspective of the past's impact upon the present.

#### Learning Outcomes

Students will be able exhibit knowledge and behaviors in the following areas:

1. History
2. Economics
3. Civics and Government

### Science

**Purpose:** to help students develop the skills, appreciation, respect, and awareness of the world around them. Areas of study include: Earth and Space, Life, and Physical Science. Students are required to conduct an experiment write a research paper for the science fair.

#### Learning Outcomes

Students will be able exhibit knowledge and behaviors in the following areas:

1. **Earth and Space Science**
2. **Physical Science**
3. **Life Science**
4. **Electric Circuits**

## Religion

**Purpose:** to foster the student's relationship with God through the study of the seven sacraments; beginning with God, His presence in the sacraments, the messages of the Gospel and the teachings of Jesus.

### Learning Outcomes

Students will be able exhibit knowledge and behaviors in the following areas:

1. **Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation**
2. **Sacraments of Healing: Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick**
3. **Sacraments of Service/Commitment: Holy Orders, Matrimony**
4. **Prayer/Prayers, Psalms**
5. **Moral Formation**

### Field Trips

Stoneham Theater  
Museum of Science

### Presentations:

Dress-Up Day  
Planet Brochure

## Sixth Grade

### Academics

The sixth grade English and Language Arts Program is focused on the acquisition of reading and writing skills, along with increasing student's vocabulary. Students read a variety of poetry, books, and short stories aimed at reinforcing these skills. The Collins Writing Program is used school wide across the curriculum allowing for a smooth transition from grade to grade, and subject to subject, and a reinforcement of the good traits of writers. Students write a variety of genres, including poetry, essays—persuasive and comparison and contrast, as well as various works of fiction.

### Faith

The focus in Grade Six is the Covenant God made with His people. We learn about the history and struggles of the Covenant Nation as it tries to uphold the Covenant, and how the Covenant is fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Our Text, the Sadlier series, *We Believe*, also invites students to pray, and reflect on the meaning these lessons have in their lives. The series also relates the lessons to our Catholic Theology. The Sixth Grade has a special devotion to Mary, and prays a decade of the Rosary daily.

### Service

Students participate in the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry, bringing the prescribed food contribution each month. In addition, the Sixth Graders have contributed to two bulletin boards, one on raising awareness of our responsibilities as stewards of God's gift, the Earth, and the second one on

Lent, reminding our student community to “walk in the footsteps of Jesus” by making sacrifices for Lent.

## Curriculum Overview

### Mathematics

**Purpose:** to teach the students a sixth grade math curriculum with an emphasis on number sense and operations, patterns, relations, algebra, geometry, measurement, statistics, and probability. Both text and curriculum include real world applications, daily practice and drills, labs, cooperative learning, problem solving, and assessment strategies that evaluate a student's knowledge of the material.

### Learning Outcomes

Students will be able exhibit knowledge and behaviors in the following areas:

1. Integers
2. Algebra and Functions
3. Integers
4. Algebra: Linear Equations and Functions
5. Applying Fractions
6. Ratios and Proportions
7. Applying Percents
8. Measurement
9. Data Analysis
10. Statistics
11. Probability
12. Geometry
13. Pythagorean Theorem

## Language Arts

**Purpose:** To teach the major areas of writing, grammar, correct usage, mechanics, dictionary and library skills, speaking and listening skills, and literature. Students will read a variety of literary genres from poetry, Greek and Roman myths, multicultural, social, and historical backgrounds. These areas are integrated to teach students competency and success in all other curricular areas. Reading and writing classes are taught according to the Massachusetts State Frameworks and the Archdiocese of Boston Frameworks.

### Learning Outcomes

Students will be able exhibit knowledge and behaviors in the following areas:

1. Punctuation
  2. Grammar
  3. Writing
  4. Language and Composition
  5. Vocabulary
  6. Media
- Oral Presentation

## Social Studies

**Purpose:** to increase students' knowledge of the world through the five themes of Geography, and to master the art of reading and analyzing data on maps, to better understand the world they live in.

### Learning Outcomes

Students will be able exhibit knowledge and behaviors in the following areas:

1. Five themes of Geography and apply the five themes of geography to the study of the continents of Africa, Latin America, Europe, and Asia
2. Draw, interpret, and analyze maps
3. Understand the economics of the countries studied and the vocabulary of economics
4. Recognize the Political Systems of the countries studied; democracy, tribal rule, monarchy, dictatorship, oligarchy
5. Ecology: the impact of disappearing habitats and climate changes that can effect a nation's culture, economy and its people, and the interdependence of all people on Earth

6. Culture: the way of life of a people including their beliefs, customs, and practices
7. Historical events that have impacted the government of indigenous people

## Science

**Purpose:** The sixth grade science course is divided into three parts: Weather and Climate (Book 1), Inside Earth (Book 2), and Earth's Waters (Book 3). Each chapter is divided into 4-5 sections. Students are responsible for vocabulary, questions, essay writing, quizzes and tests for each chapter. Students are also asked to perform an experiment for a science fair in the spring. A logbook, poster, and typed paper are required for their science fair project.

### Learning Outcomes

Students will be able exhibit knowledge and behaviors in the following areas:

1. Atmosphere
2. Weather
3. Climate and Climate Changes
4. Plate Tectonics
5. Earthquakes
6. Volcanoes
7. Rocks and Minerals
8. Water and the Earth
9. Ocean Motions
10. Ocean Zones

## Religion

**Purpose:** to introduce the students to the Old Testament and to promote knowledge of faith education. The curriculum focuses on educating for liturgical participation, teaching students to live moral lives, teaching prayer, and educating for community life and missionary activity. The curriculum revolves around the scriptures which will help relate to catholic beliefs and most importantly their faith.

### Learning Outcomes

Students will be able exhibit knowledge and behaviors in the following areas:

1. **Old Testament**
2. **Introduction to Salvation**
3. **Sanctity of Covenants**
4. **God's Revelation through Scripture**
5. **Moral Formation and Judgements**

## Seventh Grade

### Academics

In Science, students will focus on hands on exploration, reading, and lab work to interact one on one with the physical world of plants, animals and cells. Through the use of the scientific method, students will experiment and write lab reports based on the data they collect. Recognize, identify and appropriately use scientific vocabulary.

### Faith

Students study the person of Jesus, His life, and His mission in today's world. Through readings of the Gospel, students study the message of Jesus and further develop a respect for human life.

### Service

The seventh grade participates in numerous service projects throughout the school year. Among them are Pennies for patients, Diabetes Walk, Saint Vincent de Paul, Muscular Dystrophy, Breast Cancer Awareness, Holy Childhood, Lions' Club Research, Red Cross Hurricane Relief Fund. The students also serve as a lunch buddy for the kindergarten students.

## Curriculum Overview

### Mathematics

**Purpose:** to teach the students a seventh grade math curriculum with an

emphasis on number sense and operations, patterns, relations, algebra, geometry, measurement, statistics, and probability. Both text and curriculum include real world applications, daily practice and drills, labs, cooperative learning, problem solving, and assessment strategies that evaluate a student's knowledge of the material.

### Learning Outcomes

Students will be able exhibit knowledge and behaviors in the following areas:

1. Algebra
2. Integers
3. Linear Equations, Inequalities and Functions
4. Applying Algebra to Geometry
5. Extending Algebra to Statistics and Polynomials
6. Number Theory Concepts
7. Geometry

### Language Arts

**Purpose:** to help students improve their ability to understand, communicate and appreciate the written and spoken English language effectively, with sensitivity, creativity and purpose.

### Learning Outcomes

Students will be able exhibit knowledge and behaviors in the following areas:

1. Punctuation
2. Grammar
3. Creative Writing
4. Language Mechanics
5. Vocabulary
6. Literature
7. Poetry
8. Written and Oral Communication

### Social Studies

**Purpose:** to study the past from the fall of the Roman Empire to the Age of Enlightenment. We explore the roots of Islam and the empires of

the ancient world with emphasis on Africa, China, Japan, and feudal Europe.

## Learning Outcomes

Students will be able exhibit knowledge and behaviors in the following areas:

1. **Acquire an awareness of recognizing the interrelatedness of geography, economics, culture, belief systems, and political systems in history.**
2. **Recognizing the global interdependence of economic societies**
3. **Understand the basic concepts economics (basic wants and needs, scarcity, choices, decisions making, opportunity costs, labor.)**
4. **Develop an understanding of multicultural, pluralistic nature of societies**

## Science

**Purpose:** to focus on Life Science. The emphasis is on Cells and Heredity, which includes the study of Genetics; Bacteria and Viruses; and Animals. Students are encouraged to think critically by using the Scientific Method. All students are required to take part in a Science Fair where they must demonstrate their knowledge of the Scientific Method and write a research paper.

## Learning Outcomes

Students will be able exhibit knowledge and behaviors in the following areas:

1. **Viruses and Bacteria**
2. **Protists and Fungi**
3. **Seed Plants**
4. **Cell Structure and Functions**
5. **Cell Processes Energy**
6. **Genetics: The science of Heredity**
7. **Modern Genetics**
8. **Sponges, Cnidarians and Worms**
9. **Mollusks, Anthropods, and Echinoderms**
10. **Fish, Amphibians and Reptiles**
11. **Birds and Mammals**
12. **Animal Behavior**

## Religion

**Purpose:** to reveal the person of Jesus, His life and mission in today's world.

## Learning Outcomes

Students will be able exhibit knowledge and behaviors in the following areas:

1. **The Gospels**
2. **Living the Message of Jesus**
3. **Recognizing and Respecting Individuality**
4. **Understanding the impact of emotions on sound Decision Making**
5. **Moral Formation and Judgments**

## Eighth Grade

### Academics

Eighth grade reviews and then builds upon the foundation of grammar that students have received in previous years using the *Prentice Hall Writing and Grammar* textbook. Grammar concepts such as noun, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections are reviewed. Then the more advanced concepts of direct and indirect objects, phrases, clauses, verb tenses are studied. Also during the year students spend time diagramming sentences.

Vocabulary - Students begin the year with a brief introduction to Latin and Greek roots. They are responsible for learning the meaning of the roots and some vocabulary words that utilize these roots. The students then begin the regular vocabulary course using the Sadlier-Oxford Vocabulary book.

During the school year, eighth graders read and analyze a variety of both literary and informational texts, including *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie, *Assignment: Rescue* by Varian Fry, *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare. Works by Rudyard Kipling, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Robert Frost and Walt Whitman and included in a poetry unit in the spring. Students make well-developed connections and analyze authors' use of various elements of writing for effect and purpose. Eighth graders are expected to read with accuracy, appropriate speed, and expression in order to effectively comprehend what they read. Literature is often the jumping off point for most of the writing assignments. At this age, students write fiction and nonfiction

stories and reports with well-defined ideas and organization. They use grade-appropriate grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation in their writing. The John Collins writing program is continued into the 8<sup>th</sup> grade as students revise and edit their own work.

Social Studies in the eighth grade helps students develop a deeper understanding of the history of the United States from its earliest beginnings to 1877. Students have options at each stage of instruction to read about new concepts and content, engage in hands-on activities, and explore history through interactive technology. Students spend time learning about the formation of the new country, the writing of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Students are required to write a research paper during the school year on a topic which will include a works cited page and parenthetical citations. Students use the Prentice Hall History of Our Nation textbook.

In Science, students will focus on hands on exploration, reading, and lab work to interact one on one with the chemistry of the world around them and with the motion, forces, and energy at work in our world. Through the use of the scientific method, students will experiment and write lab reports based on the data they collect in which they will recognize, identify and appropriately use scientific vocabulary.

### Faith

*We Live Our Faith* is the religion text used to guide students in the eighth grade. The book presents the Catholic faith to adolescents. Students learn the history and traditions of the church. Students learn how to live in a modern world with the Commandments and teachings of the church as a guide through modern life.

## Service

The eighth grade participates in numerous service projects throughout the school year. Among them are Pennies for Patients, Diabetes Walk, Saint Vincent de Paul, Muscular Dystrophy, Breast Cancer Awareness, Holy Childhood, Lions' Club Research, Red Cross Hurricane Relief Fund.

## Curriculum Overview

### Mathematics

**Purpose:** to teach the students an eighth grade math curriculum with an emphasis on preparing students for a high school Algebra I course. The concentration in grade eight is on Algebra with an integration of topics of all branches of mathematics, like geometry, probability, and statistics. Both text and curriculum include real world applications, daily practice and drills, labs, cooperative learning, problem solving, and assessment strategies that evaluate a student's knowledge of the material.

### Learning Outcomes

Students will be able exhibit knowledge and behaviors in the following areas:

1. Integers
2. Linear Equations, Inequalities and Functions
3. Systems of Linear Equations
4. Applying Algebra to Geometry
5. Statistics and Polynomials
6. Proportional Reasoning and Probability
7. Quadratic and Exponential Functions
8. Radical Expressions

### Language Arts

**Purpose:** to encourage students to express themselves through their thoughts, feelings and, opinions, in both oral and written form. Clarity of thought and conciseness of expression are emphasized. Previously acquired grammatical, vocabulary, and spelling skills are augmented by

more complicated concepts and in-depth word study, as students further develop their ability to write in a variety of styles and formats. Comprehension and analysis of literature are integrated into the curriculum, challenging students to explore various literary genres from a more critical perspective.

### Learning Outcomes

Students will be able exhibit knowledge and behaviors in the following areas:

1. Classic Literature
2. Literary Themes
3. Language Mechanics
4. Figurative Language
5. Poetry
6. Written and Oral Communication
7. Interpretation and Critique

### Social Studies

**Purpose:** to study American History and the formation of our government. We begin with European exploration and settlement in the New World and explore our country's growth and development through the American Revolution, the destruction caused by the Civil War and the Reconstruction Era.

### Learning Outcomes

Students will be able exhibit knowledge and behaviors in the following areas:

1. History and Geography
2. Economics
3. Civics and Government
4. Citizenship in Action

## Science

**Purpose:** to focus on Physical Science. The emphasis is on Properties of Matter, Chemistry, and Physics. Students are encouraged to think critically and utilize the Scientific Method. All students are required to take part in a Science Fair where they must demonstrate their knowledge of the Scientific Method as well as write a research paper.

### Learning Outcomes

Students will be able exhibit knowledge and behaviors in the following areas:

1. Matter
2. Elements of the Periodic Table
3. Carbon Chemistry
4. Motion
5. Forces
6. Forces in Fluids
7. Bernoulli's Principle
8. Work and Machines
9. Energy and Power
10. Thermal Energy and Heat

## Religion

**Purpose:** to lead students to a greater knowledge of the history and purpose of the Church, and to gain a greater understanding of and appreciation for their Catholic traditions.

### Learning Outcomes

Students will be able exhibit knowledge and behaviors in the following areas:

1. Responding to God's Love
2. Moral Choices
3. God's Laws
4. Love and Creation
5. Respect for All
6. Christianity over the Centuries
7. Church in Crisis and Change
8. People of Reform and Renewal