



## **Fifth Grade Overview**

### **Covenant Christian School**

Fifth grade is a pivotal year at Covenant Christian School during which students develop as independent learners, prepared to think, work hard, and understand more about the world around them. The teacher supports each student as they learn curricular material and concepts, but also as they learn to use that knowledge across disciplines and apply it to real world situations. Students are encouraged to take greater ownership throughout the learning process, to set goals, self-assess and take more personal responsibility.

#### Bible

The study of God's Word in fifth grade focuses on an in-depth look at the life and teachings of Jesus as told in the book of Matthew. Students engage Matthew through large and small group discussion, journaling, and guest instructors. While Bible is a specific strand of study, a biblical worldview is woven into all facets of daily learning.

#### Chapel (Morning Gathering)

Fifth grade students join the rest of the school community for Morning Gathering three mornings each week. Students and staff come together as a whole to pray, to sing hymns and to memorize Scripture.

#### Language Arts

The fifth grade literature-based reading curriculum leads students through a variety of genres, including historical fiction, fantasy, adventure, science fiction, and biography. Students learn to use great literature as a guide for their own writing, as they study plot, theme, and the various literary devices used throughout the literature. Additionally, students strengthen their reading comprehension through focused exercises that are designed to support a student's ability to infer, question, visualize, synthesize, and develop higher level thinking.

Across all grades at Covenant, students are taught the 6+1 Traits of Writing: ideas, voice, sentence fluency, word choice, organization, conventions, and presentation. In fifth grade, students learn to recognize and assess these writing traits in their assigned literature, in the written pieces of their peers, and in their own work. Students are taught to recognize their writing strengths, as well as areas for growth and learn how to practice and improve their writing. Over the course of the year, students are given instruction in writing personal narratives, descriptions, book reports, persuasive essays, creative pieces, poetry, and research papers. Writing projects reflect other disciplines, including history, literature, science, and math.

Voyages in English is utilized for grammar and writing. The curriculum provides a wide variety of resources to help reach students at all proficiency levels. Over the course of the year, students study verbs, nouns, pronouns, prepositions, adverbs, sentence structure, and learn to diagram sentences. Voyages works together with the writing curriculum to ensure that the concepts the students are learning are immediately put into use.

## Mathematics

Covenant utilizes Saxon Math as the primary text, with all grades moved up one level in the curriculum (fifth grade uses Saxon's sixth grade curriculum). In fifth grade, the focus is mathematical concepts. Concepts are presented at a steady pace, with each lesson building incrementally on previously taught concepts. The emphasis is on practice, vocabulary, and mastery. Students are regularly assessing their knowledge and identifying areas for growth. Students meet with the teacher to discuss errors, make corrections, and practice. This model allows for students to understand clearly where they need additional support and empowers them to develop their own strategies for improvement. In addition to Saxon, the students engage in enrichment activities that allow them to practice math in a practical setting. Students build a toolkit of problem solving strategies to apply mathematical understanding and skills to familiar and unfamiliar situations.

## Science

Delta and Foss science modules form the core of the Science curriculum. Fifth graders learn about astronomy, electricity and magnetism, and rocks and minerals through experimentation and hands-on experiences. Students participate in several field trips in support of their studies so they can experience first-hand the concepts they learn in school. Students continue their understanding and application of the scientific method as they ask questions, seek answers, and understand the world God has created.

## History

Susan Wise Bauer's The Story of the World serves as the foundation for the study of history. Covering the period between 1500 and 1850, students engage history through the reading of secondary and primary source material. Students learn valuable note-taking skills and write essays and research papers focused on events and historic figures. Through the history curriculum, students analyze the cause and effect of decisions, create timelines, participate in simulations, create dioramas and models, hold historical debates, and discuss how the lessons from the past can be applied to our world today.

## Skills

Covenant works to support the development of each student's skills including collaborative learning, creative and critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication. Each of these areas are woven into curricular and study skill applications in the classroom and throughout the school. Additionally, Covenant places an importance on caring well for one another, being good citizens, friends, and brothers and sisters in Christ.

## Enrichment

At Covenant, each child is treated as a whole person, with a variety of interests, gifts, and learning styles. Therefore, we make every effort to provide opportunities for students to explore their gifts or to begin recognizing them. Each week fifth grade students participate in Physical Education, Art, Drawing, Music, and library.