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**School District of Philadelphia**  
Office of Schools and Academic Programs

**Fifth Grade**



For more information, call  
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**Dear Parents, Guardians and Caregivers,**

This booklet provides you with an overview of the curriculum your son or daughter will follow in school from grades four through eight. Each subject area is presented in outline form according to the School District's approved core curriculum. All courses are aligned with Pennsylvania's academic state standards, as well as with initiatives generated by the District's strategic plan, Imagine 2014. These include English, Math, Science, World Languages, Social Studies, Health and Physical Education and Art and Music.

We encourage you to monitor your son or daughter's progress, attendance, test scores and grades through Family Net which you can access by clicking on the Parent Box on the School District website. Many parents and caregivers have already logged in and are using Family Net regularly. But if you are not familiar with the site, you can register any time using your child's name and student ID number to log in.

We have made great strides in recent years for which we can be justifiably proud but never satisfied. There is always more work to be done and other mountains to climb. By working together and acting now to achieve all academic and personal goals, I believe we will continue to see even greater results in the years ahead. Please accept my ongoing thanks for your continued support and active involvement in the education of our young people. Our students, schools and communities will succeed because you care enough to get involved and stay involved. Thank you.

Sincerely

Leroy D. Nunery II, MBA, Ed.D.  
Acting Superintendent and Chief Executive Officer

## Reading / Writing

By the end of the school year, your fifth grader should be able to:

- Continue to build a reading, writing and speaking vocabulary
- Read to learn new information
- Read a wide range of stories, books and magazines for enjoyment
- Understand a problem or conflict in stories or books and talk or write about an appropriate solution
- Make connections between stories and texts that they have read and the world around them
- Tell and/or write a summary that gives the main idea of what they read and the most important details or events
- Complete a research project including a written report
- Write stories with several paragraphs
- Write poems, plays, and reports



# Mathematics

**By the end of the school year, your fifth grader should be able to:**

- Compute and find the relationships using whole numbers, fractions, and decimals
- Locate positive and negative numbers on a number line (integers)
- Explain to you what prime numbers, factors, multiples and composite numbers mean
- Compare numbers (equal to, greater than, and less than)
- Collect, organize, display, and analyze data in a variety of ways
- Find mean (average), median (middle number), mode (most frequent) and range (difference from largest and smallest) of data
- Predict or determine all possible combinations and outcomes, such as, "How many outfits can be created with six shirts and eight pants?"
- Calculate the chance of a simple event happening
- Use a variety of methods to solve for unknown quantities in simple one-step algebra equations (solve for x)
- Sort polygons according to their properties and angles, such as triangles, rhombi, and parallelograms
- Define and compare perimeter (distance around) and area (amount covered inside) of shapes
- Understand properties of a circle
- Explain how they solved a math problem in their own words

# Science

**By the end of the school year, your fifth grader should be able to:**

- Develop skills that will emphasize the five senses while doing science
- Use prior knowledge when making observations
- Make predictions and hypotheses based on observations
- Design investigations with a control and one or two variables
- Gather, organize and display data independently
- Build an understanding of how solar energy is transferred
- Recognize that the sun is the main source of energy for people and they use it in various ways
- Design and conduct experiments with variables. Students should be able to explain cause and effect
- Study the relationship in an ecosystem that shows the relationship of an organism to its environment
- Conduct hands-on investigations to discover and understand their world
- Record observations in science notebooks



# Social Studies

**By the end of the school year, your fifth grader should be able to:**

- Demonstrate an understanding of the geographic regions of the United States
- Explain the impact of exploration and colonization in the Americas
- Discuss the ideas, values, beliefs and decisions that contributed to the creation of our government
- Analyze the issues that led to the Revolutionary War and Civil War
- Explain the political, economic and social reforms that shaped America
- Demonstrate an understanding of African American History
- Examine the roles various ethnic groups have played in the development of United States History

# Health/Physical Education

**By the end of the school year, your fifth-grader should be able to:**

- Identify qualities of healthy relationships
- Recognize use and abuse of drugs
- Recognize bullying in all its forms, including cyber bullying
- Know the purpose of health check-ups
- Understand offense and defense in game situations

# Art and Music

**By the end of the school year, your fifth grader should be able to:**

## Art

- Use art materials in a safe and responsible way
- Describe the subject, idea or symbol in a work of art using art vocabulary
- Know what an art historian does

## Music

- Sing and play melodies with accuracy and appropriate expression
- Recognize and analyze music from its historical and cultural perspective