

## **Academics | The Day in the Life of Fifth Grade**

**Chapel:** Every Wednesday, elementary students meet for a time of worship. Students sing worship songs and listen to a short message from God's Word. Once a month during chapel, students are recognized for character traits. Elementary classes focus on two character traits a month. Teachers recognize students whose behavior has shown evidence of the monthly character traits. Fifth grade students help lead chapel in music and prayer, and run both audio and sound.

**Bible:** An overview of the Old Testament presenting Bible characters in chronological order is studied and discussed. The class is led by a student in prayer after listing the needs voiced.

**Prayer:** Students pray daily. They are taught to pray by offering praise and thanksgiving, as well as praying for their needs and the needs of others.

**Reading:** Our program is TEKS based and includes Mentoring Minds which focuses on critical thinking skills and comprehension. Some of the literature read includes Number the Stars; and Johnny Treman as well as using selections from Reader's Theater. Students also work on vocabulary, fluency and inference skills.

**Accelerated Reader:** AR is used as an enrichment program and provides for further comprehension assessment. Fifth grade also takes part in a Speech Meet competition. Students memorize material and are judged on their recitations.

**Writing:** All students participate each year in Young Authors and Illustrators, where they produce an original work which is bound and presented during an evening with parents and staff. The Six Traits of Writing is used in writing instruction evaluation. Some pieces students write include personal narratives, research papers and poetry.

**Grammar/Spelling:** Weekly spelling word lists focus on vocabulary. Spellingcity.com is used as a study tool that students access from home. Parts of speech, punctuation, and capitalization concepts are taught using TEKS. Students may participate in the ACSI Spelling Bee held yearly in San Antonio.

**Math:** Fifth grade is the foundational year for mathematics, because it is when they learn the base of every math subject. We cover basic skills, decimals, fractions, exponents, measurement, geometry, pre-algebra, and statistics. Every morning we work through MooseMath which is a set of advanced word problems. We have strategic problem solvers every week and math fact tests every Tuesday and Friday. In math, note taking skills and study skills are taught to help better prepare the students for the upper grades.

**Social Studies:** Fifth grade focuses on U.S. History and the important people, places and events that shaped our country. A field trip to the capitol in Austin and Bob Bullock museum gives students further insight into local historical events and the people involved.

**Science:** Fifth grade covers life science, earth science, and physical science. We begin with cells and work our way through animal behaviors genetics, plants, ecosystems, biomes, landforms plate tectonics, our solar system, gravity, mass, states of matter and so much more. We work on note taking skills, but we also focus on the creativity of science.

**Specials:** Students attend at least one of the following classes each day: physical education, music, art, computer, Spanish, Impact Education and theater.

**Impact Education:** Fifth graders learn about the persecuted church around the world today. Through stories, activities, skits, and videos, students become familiar with what life is like for members of the persecuted church.

**Lunch:** Summit has a full-service cafeteria where students may either bring their lunch or purchase a hot lunch that is prepared on-site.

**Recess:** 30 minutes a day.

**Special Events:** Fifth grade presents the Live Nativity at Christmas, as well as performs a musical number during the Christmas program. Fifth grade students participate in many other special events throughout the year as well such as Field Day and a fifth grade field trip.

**Service Project:** Through SCA's Summit Serves program, students serve the community for a day by doing one of various projects throughout the community. Every year during the Christmas season, elementary students participate in a service project that helps meet the needs of other people groups. Some examples of past projects are: collecting blankets for a village in Afghanistan, making care bags for the homeless, and collecting gift cards for local families in crisis.