

Grade 5 Curriculum Guide

Mission and Philosophies of Swasey Central School

The mission of Swasey Central School is to prepare children for future learning and life experiences. Specifically, Swasey will provide children with knowledge, develop and support their capacity to learn, and strengthen the social and emotional skills they will need to succeed as middle school students and as members of their families, neighborhoods, and the world community.

To achieve its mission, Swasey Central School operates under the following philosophies:

Academic Growth and Continuous Improvement

We believe in high academic standards for all children. We should continually improve and renew our academic program so that all children reach their fullest potential.

Teaching at Swasey should be tied to specific learning goals based on New Hampshire Curriculum Frameworks, SAU 16 curriculum guidelines, and other learning goals deemed relevant by the Swasey School community.

In addition to basic knowledge and academic skills, we should develop the skills (such as critical and analytical thinking) that empower children to pursue learning beyond the classroom. Teachers must understand each child's unique academic strengths and needs. The school should provide the resources and structure (such as small class size) to support that understanding.

Children learn best in a nurturing environment; a strength of Swasey Central School. We should maintain and strengthen this environment while challenging students to reach high standards. The school should provide learning materials and instructional strategies that are research based, current, and strongly tied to learning objectives. To meet learning objectives as children progress through Swasey School, the administrative and instructional teams should work together to build consistent strategies and programs across grades.

We believe in accountability through assessments of student performance that are efficient, relevant, and appropriate. The most powerful use of assessment is to improve curriculum and instruction so that all children reach high standards.

Social and Emotional Growth

In the Swasey School learning community, each member is responsible for the success of others. Students, parents, teachers, and administrators should respect each other and themselves, live by the school's rules, work cooperatively, use self knowledge for change, challenge themselves, and appreciate the ideas and experiences of others.

Community and Parent Involvement

With the goal of building strong partnerships, Swasey Central School's responsibilities to parents include inviting them to participate in decision-making; clearly explaining what is to be learned and how children are progressing; and assisting parents as they support their children's learning at home.

Parents' responsibilities to the school include making sure children come to school ready to learn and actively supporting children's learning in all parts of their lives. The school encourages parents to participate in other ways where possible, such as attending school events, participating in decision-making, and volunteering.

Swasey School has traditionally enjoyed the strong support of the community at large. We should continue to build that relationship by asking for community opinion, answering questions, and encouraging the community to learn about the school's mission and goals. We recognize that the school is part of a larger community with many diverse needs.

Homework

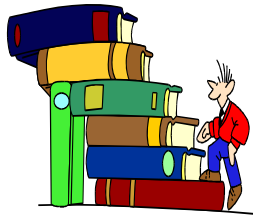
Students in grade 5 will have nightly assignments of approximately forty-five (45) minutes. They will also have long-term projects. Both time management skills and organizational skills are stressed at this grade level.

Language Arts

Fifth grade uses the Four Blocks For Upper Grades framework to provide instruction in the areas of guided reading, writing, self-selected reading and working with words.

Reading

Fifth grade instruction continues to develop reading comprehension skills with fiction and nonfiction. Students are exposed to a variety of literature genres including fantasy and historic fiction. The reading series Spotlight on Literature is used along with content-area novels and children's periodicals.



Writing and Grammar

Students will concentrate on the following topics through the writing of reading response journals, compositions, book reports, research papers, and grammar assignments:

- The four types of sentences
- Subjects and predicates
- Parts of speech

The writing process will include the following types of writing:

- Descriptive
- Expository
- Persuasive
- Reports
- Comparative
- Story
- Poetry

The Write Source Writer's Express will be used to review writing and grammar skills.

Spelling

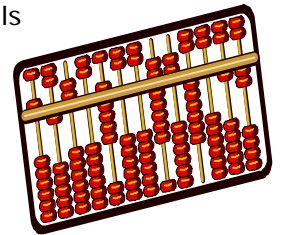
Spelling instruction is focused on using spelling strategies to spell polysyllabic words, high frequency words, and commonly misspelled words correctly.

Mathematics

Fifth graders will be using the *Everyday Mathematics®* program.

During fifth grade math, your child will cover:

- Problem solving
- Numeration
- Computation using whole numbers, fractions, and decimals
- Measurement
- Geometry
- Estimation
- Data analysis
- Vocabulary



Science and Health

The fifth grade students will explore the following areas in science:

- Ecology
- The scientific method
- Matter
- Weather and meteorology
- Health

Social Studies

In grade five, students study the following parts of the social studies curriculum:

- Geography
- Formation of American Government
- Explorers
- Colonial America
- Revolutionary War

Study Skills

The following skills are stressed in grade five:

- Note taking
- Test taking strategies
- Use of the Independent Investigation Method of research
- Organizational skills
- Accessing resources



Technology

The use of technology as an educational resource should be an integral component of all curricula. We desire to use technology as an information acquisition, processing and productivity tool.

A two-tier approach is used to provide our students with opportunities to acquire and reinforce technology skills:

1. Regularly scheduled whole-group instruction in the computer resource center.
2. Individual skills practice, research, and writing on classroom computers.



Grade five students learn the following new technology skills:

- Creating, editing, and saving a spreadsheet.
- Editing and resaving a database.
- Independently using drawing and paint programs and incorporating the elements into a word processing document or multimedia presentation.
- With assistance, incorporating elements from the Internet into a word processing document or multimedia presentation.
- Independently locating information on an intranet and the Internet.
- Independently creating a simple multimedia presentation.

- Demonstrating proper keyboarding techniques and typing with accuracy.

Physical Education

The physical education program is designed to meet the needs of all children. Wellness and the concept of lifelong fitness are interwoven throughout the year.

The fifth graders are involved in a wide range of skill themes designed to encourage and assist them in beginning to acquire the fundamental competencies that will become the foundation skills for many sports and physical activities they will pursue as adolescents and adults.



Art

In art, students in fifth grade will:

- Explore one point perspective to achieve the illusion of depth.
- Continue to explore the seven elements of art, focusing on space, color and line.
- Work on creating balance, unity and rhythm in their art.
- Observe and discuss a variety of works of art, including their own.
- Be introduced to famous artists and arts and crafts of other cultures.
- Experiment with drawing, painting, collage, clay and printing.
- Continue to learn to express themselves symbolically through art.
- Be able to apply art techniques to everyday learning.
- Discuss various professions in the visual arts.

Music

Our music program is designed for all children with each contributing to his or her ability. Using the MacMillan text Music and You combined with an Orff-Schulwerk approach to teaching, children in all grades learn the elements of music through movement, speech, song, and playing instruments. Improvisation is encouraged to develop creative thinking. Integrating with core subjects and performance is also a part of the music experience. Skills that are concentrated on in grade five include:

- Part singing using partner songs, simple two-part harmony, descants, and vocal ostinato.
- Creating verses for songs, composing introductions, interludes, and codas.
- Identifying form - AB, ABA, rondo, rounds, and theme and variation.
- Adding sixteenth notes and rests to their rhythmic repertoire.
- Continuing to sight-read rhythms onto body percussion or instruments.
- Transferring songs and accompaniments onto barred instruments from a musical score.



Library

Students in grade five will review skills taught in previous grades.

- Web site evaluation.
- Continued practice in use of online catalog with use of advanced features.
- Continued practice in Bibliographic format and IIM research model.
- Additional library terms - bibliography, appendix, cross-reference, see also reference, plagiarism, pseudonym, annotation, verso, epilogue, prologue, frontispiece, etymology.
- Continued practice in use of reference materials including encyclopedias, atlas, dictionary, thesaurus, biographical dictionary, almanac and periodicals.
- Continued practice using the Dewey Decimal System.
- Introduction to audio-visual equipment.