

Social Studies

The fifth grade social studies curriculum begins with the study of pre-Columbian civilizations and extends through the analysis of the causes of the Civil War.

- Interpret maps using a variety of map skills
- Identify and describe the major characteristics of the pre-Columbian civilizations that existed in Central and South America (Maya, Aztecs, and Inca)
- Trace the voyages of selected explorers and identify their goals and accomplishments
- Explain the development of colonial governments and describe how these developments contributed to the American Revolution
- Describe the major battles of the American Revolution and the outcomes
- Describe the significance of the founding documents (Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, Constitution) and identify the major leaders involved in their design
- Identify the branches of the state and federal governments and describe their responsibilities and interrelationships
- Explain the economic concepts of supply and demand, trade, and profit as an incentive for entrepreneurs
- Identify the causes of the War of 1812 and the issues that contributed to the Civil War

Integrated Arts

Art

Visual Arts education inspires students to perceive and shape the visual, spatial, and aesthetic characteristics of the world around them, as well as develop their capacity for imaginative and reflective thinking. (Massachusetts Arts Curriculum Framework) Information is presented and enhanced by using 21st century technology.

- Explore a variety of traditional media and tools as well as technology to create 2D and 3D works
- Apply knowledge of the principals and elements of design; color(tints and shades), value (highlight and shadow), perspective (atmospheric perspective)

- Learn the art of critique by contrast and comparison
- Integrate classroom curriculum into the visual arts

Music

- Develop individual and ensemble singing skills
- Use knowledge of music notation to read, compose, and perform simple melodies
- Demonstrate understanding of musical concepts through improvisation and composition
- Explore how history, culture, and personal experiences play a role in a composer's creative process
- Understand how harmony provides structure, depth, and expression in music
- Understand the relationships between music, the arts, and disciplines outside the arts
- Understand music in relation to history and culture
- Use appropriate terminology to identify and describe the instruments of the orchestra, as well as those from a variety of different time periods and cultures

Chorus

- Perform music of various styles, genres, cultures, and historical periods in a variety of languages
- Demonstrate proper vocal techniques including breathing, intonation, diction, and phrasing
- Develop ensemble performance skills
- Understand how musical concepts are used to create expressive performances
- Demonstrate proper performance and audience etiquette

Wellness

The Westford Public Schools' Wellness Program integrates various aspects of well-being throughout the K-12 curriculum. Wellness literacy promotes fundamental concepts that encourage social, emotional and physical health, which guides efforts to build healthy habits, as well as strong schools, communities, families and relationships.

General Content:

- Human growth & development
- Safety practices
- Develop and appreciation for the value of life long fitness
- Develop a respect for self and others

Benchmarks are aligned with state and national standards.

WESTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Curriculum Benchmarks

Grade 5

Abbot School

John A. Crisafulli School

Norman E. Day School

Compiled by Curriculum Task Committees
under the direction of
Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Lorraine Tacconi-Moore

“Shaping the future one child at a time”

Visit our website at: westfordk12.us

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English Language Arts

- Show respect for differing viewpoints by listening and responding appropriately
- Make oral presentations that demonstrate consideration of audience, purpose and information to be conveyed
- Identify and analyze sensory details and figurative language
- Use examples from text to support understanding of story elements
- Identify, analyze, and apply knowledge of the characteristics of different genres
- Recognize the theme in fiction pieces using examples from text
- Analyze the meaning of poetry using the form, tone, and figurative language
- Identify organizational structures in nonfiction such as chronological order, cause and effect, classification, and compare and contrast
- Apply the traits of effective writing in a variety of genres such as personal narrative, persuasive essay, fiction, and informational reports
- Use knowledge of correct mechanics, word usage and sentence structure when writing and editing
- Locate information using a variety of resources and organize information using note-taking techniques
- Create a media presentation using images, text, music, sound effect and/or graphics

Math

- Read, order, and compare whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and percents; identify place value in whole numbers & decimals; locate fractions, decimals, and integers on a number line
- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide whole numbers (two-digit divisors), decimals, and fractions; add integers; simplify fractions; find prime factors; calculate percent
- Demonstrate proficiency using the standard division algorithm
- Use ordered pairs to name, locate, and plot points on a coordinate grid
- Solve number sentences with a variable
- Apply appropriate order of operations rules
- Identify 2-D and 3-D figures based on properties; identify relationships among points, line segments, lines, and angles
- Find area and perimeter of polygons and combined shapes; calculate surface area and volume of rectangular prisms
- Describe and compare data sets using mean, median, mode, and range
- Express the probability of an event as a fraction, decimal, or percent
- Communicate mathematical thinking using pictures, numbers, and words
- Identify and perform transformations on 2-D figures

Accelerated Math

All of the benchmarks listed above plus:

- Add and subtract signed numbers, including simple fractions
- Simplify complex expressions involving exponents using order of operations rules
- Solve complex multiple-step word problems
- Find area and circumference of a circle; surface area of prisms; volume of prisms, cylinders, and cones

Science, Technology/Engineering

Inquiry and investigations are embedded in all domains.

Earth and Space Science

- Use weather maps and instruments to collect and analyze weather data
- Identify and explain the formation of various types precipitation
- Describe how global patterns influence local weather
- Compare and contrast weather and climate
- Identify and understand stages of the water cycle and its effect on weather and climate

Life Science

- Explain how animal and plant interaction is necessary for survival
- Observe and describe how animal adaptations and instincts affect survival
- Build animal habitats and record observations of the interaction of plants and animals
- Build an ecocolumn and record observations

Physical Science

- Describe how light is a form of energy
- Observe and describe how light travels
- Explain reflection, refraction, and light absorption

Technology/Engineering

- Identify simple machines
- Construct investigations to determine how simple machines make work easier
- Explain the difference between simple and complex machines
- Demonstrate an understanding of how the design process is used to solve a problem
- Observe, describe and compare animal structures and behaviors to the design of man-made objects
- Use scientific instruments properly

Living Lab Visits

- Animal Study: “Brook Book”