

## **MATHEMATICS**

*The Mathematics program helps students enjoy and use mathematics in their everyday lives. The power of mathematical thinking is not reserved for an academic elite.*

### **YOUR CHILD WILL LEARN TO:**

- Compute with very large numbers and very small numbers, positive integers, decimals, and fractions and understand the relationship between decimals, fractions, and percents
- Understand the relative magnitudes of numbers
- Perform calculations and solve problems involving addition, subtraction, and simple multiplication and division of fractions and decimals
- Use variables in simple expressions, compute the value of the expression for specific values of the variable, and plot and interpret the results
- Understand and compute the volumes and areas of simple objects
- Identify, describe, and classify the properties of, and the relationships between, plane and solid geometric figures
- Know and use common measuring units to determine length and area
- Know and use formulas to determine the volume of simple geometric figures
- Know the concept of angle measurement
- Use grids, tables, graphs, and charts to display, compare and interpret data
- Make decisions about how to approach problems
- Use strategies, skills and concepts in finding solutions
- Move beyond a particular problem by generalizing to other situations

## **SCIENCE**

*The Science program encourages students to experience, explore, ask questions and draw conclusions.*

### **YOUR CHILD WILL:**

- Observe and describe patterns and relationships
- Ask meaningful questions and conduct careful investigations
- Collect and analyze data
- Participate in units of study which include:
  - ❖ Environments
  - ❖ Living Things
  - ❖ Oceanography
  - ❖ Mixtures and Solutions

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

*The Social Studies program develops individual and social intelligence. It prepares students for responsible citizenship, comprehending global interrelationships, and understanding the vital connections among past, present and future.*

### **YOUR CHILD WILL:**

- Explore the development of the United States with emphasis on the period up to 1850
- Examine the geography and development of the nation
- Examine the pluralistic nature of the United States in relation to American society
- Learn about:
  - ❖ Land and people before Columbus
  - ❖ Age of exploration
  - ❖ Colonial times
  - ❖ The American Revolution
  - ❖ The new nation and government
  - ❖ Westward expansion
  - ❖ Immigration

## **VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS**

*The Visual and Performing Arts program engages students in experiences which teach them how to enjoy and value the arts. Students are encouraged to express themselves through their own activities.*

### **YOUR CHILD WILL:**

- Express individual ideas and creative thought through a variety of performing arts activities in the classroom
- Develop musical skills by participating in general music or beginning instrumental instructional programs
- Understand and use the elements of art and principles of design (balance, unity, contrast, emphasis, movement, pattern)
- Understand and value the place of art in cultures, past and present

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

*The Physical Education program meets the students' need to develop physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially by providing planned physical activity. It promotes the learning of skills that enable students to participate in activities throughout life.*

### **YOUR CHILD WILL:**

- Participate in a program which includes basic motor skills, physical fitness, balancing, flexibility and ball handling skills
- Participate in games and team sports
- Exhibit individual responsibility for cooperative team behavior
- Use playground equipment properly and safely
- Develop a positive attitude toward the value of physical activity and cardiovascular system development

# **Menlo Park City School District**



## **Curriculum Highlights**

**GRADE 5**

Dear Parents,

We believe that an effective partnership between home and school promotes a lifelong love of learning and positively affects academic achievement and personal success. This brochure is designed to help us work together to ensure that success for your child. It includes information about the characteristics which are common to students at this grade level, an overview of the concepts and skills presented in each subject area, and suggestions for ways that parents can help and support students at home. We are committed to providing the best possible education for your child. We look forward to continuing a rewarding and productive partnership with you during your child's years in our school district.

Kenneth Ranella  
Superintendent

Jo Sauer Mitchell  
Assistant Superintendent

### **THE FIFTH GRADE CHILD**

*Every child is an individual who grows and develops at his own rate. Children in the same grade may be expected to differ widely from others in their group. There are, however, general characteristics and needs which apply to most of the children at a certain age.*

### **THE FIFTH GRADE CHILD WILL PROBABLY BE:**

- Growing slowly and steadily in height & weight
- Interested in factual material
- Increasingly aware of and concerned about ideas and beliefs of others
- Interested in peers & extracurricular activities
- Able to assume responsibilities
- Showing improved use of time
- Able to concentrate for longer periods

### **THE FIFTH GRADE CHILD WILL PROBABLY HAVE:**

- Strong interest in organized games and team play
- A developing sense of humor
- An interest in collecting
- Urge to earn money for special wants & needs
- Increasing tendency to separate work from play
- Greater satisfaction in ability to achieve
- Beginning interest in opposite sex
- Desire for pets

### **THE FIFTH GRADE CHILD NEEDS:**

- About ten and a half hours of sleep
- Opportunity for strenuous physical activity
- To be included in family and school planning
- Guidance in spending money wisely
- To be liked by friends (belonging)
- Recognition and approval
- Sympathy and security of home and school
- Opportunity to make some decisions

### **PARENTS CAN HELP BY:**

- Listening and talking to your child
- Respecting your child's individuality
- Giving praise for good work and behavior
- Recognizing your child's growing maturity
- Letting your child participate in making family plans
- Accepting friends and providing for widening social contacts
- Sharing in and helping the child pursue interests
- Understanding the child's need for peer approval
- Providing encouragement, a regular study time, and a quiet place with no distractions for homework
- Letting your child see you read to set example (Don't do all of your reading after child is in bed!)
- Asking your child to read to you
- Involving your child in real life problem solving situations
- Letting your child earn and budget an allowance
- Making child aware of math in all facets of life (cooking, shopping, gas mileage, portions for guests)
- Sharing information about family's heritage
- Encouraging the reading of many kinds of literature (including biographies, folk tales, legends and myths)
- Sharing what being a citizen of the U.S. means to you and your family
- Choosing quality television programs to watch and discuss together
- Taking nature walks and observing plants and animals with your child
- Encouraging musical and artistic expression
- Encouraging a variety of fitness activities
- Teaching lifelong habits of good nutrition

### **LANGUAGE ARTS**

*The Language Arts program encourages the integration of reading, writing, speaking, listening and critical thinking with the learning of language skills in meaningful context. Emphasis is on providing instruction and promoting a love of reading for all students at all levels of ability.*

### **YOUR CHILD WILL LEARN TO:**

#### **READING:**

- Read narrative and expository text with fluency and accuracy
- Expand vocabulary through word study
- Read and discuss a wide variety of literature informational text
- Use graphs, maps, illustrations, sequence to understand text
- Analyze text for main ideas, make inferences and draw conclusions
- Read and respond to historically or culturally significant literature
- Identify and discuss an author's purpose and mood

#### **WRITING:**

- Write multiple-paragraph narrative and expository compositions with focus and clarity using grade-appropriate spelling, grammar and mechanics
- Take notes and make outlines
- Write narratives, responses to literature, reports and persuasive essays using the writing process
- Use the *6 Traits* in writing (voice, word choice, ideas, organization, sentence fluency, conventions)

#### **SPEAKING and LISTENING:**

- Make oral presentations for a variety of purposes
- Interpret and evaluate oral presentations
- Analyze and evaluate media communication