FIFTH GRADE HIGHLIGHTS

- 3-day Science Experience - visit Nature Bridge, an environmental camp located on Lake Crescent on the Olympic Peninsula
- Colonial Day Open House - visit colonial villages constructed by the 5th graders (STEaM Project combining geometric shapes and measurements with the construction of colonial buildings)
- Americana Day Open House - celebrates a year-long study of the United States as well as our own individually chosen states to study, culminating in the sharing of our own state text books, state box, and mask of our state animal
- Service Learning - participating in Villa’s state-recognized Green Team Program as part of our year-long service learning

READING

Books, books, and more books! Reading to learn is the focus of our work this year. This includes reading informative text as well as fictional reading. We emphasize learning the specific skills and strategies needed to successfully read and comprehend informational text. Using the SQ3R (survey, question, read, recite, review) strategies, fifth graders learn to make inferences, interpret specialized vocabulary, and use context clues among other skills. Much of our reading supports our science and social studies curricula.

Fictional reading includes self-selected books as well as read-alouds and class novels or small group book clubs centered around a curriculum-related theme.

Some of the fiction books we may read include:

- Children of the Longhouse, a novel which illuminates our study of Native American cultures
- Flush, Scat, and Hoot, realistic fiction by Carl Hiaasen, helps us understand that we all have a stake in the environmental health of our planet
- Chains and Forge by Laurie Halse Anderson, historical fiction novels set in the Revolutionary War; told from the perspective of slave boy/girl.

A well-stocked book corner, literature circles, and lots of sharing make for a love of reading that will last a lifetime!
VOCABULARY/SPELLING

Word Voyage is a vocabulary program designed to develop students’ vocabularies by providing lessons drawn directly from their assigned readings and includes hundreds of vocabulary lists from classic and popular books. This unique online program helps students achieve greater reading comprehension, more enjoyment of reading, superior writing, and higher standardized test scores while also teaching students better work habits!

Spelling focuses on the most common words used in our daily writing. Using Rebecca Sitton’s program, we build on the lists of words the students have already learned. Students learn a number of new words each week with the expectation that they will use these words in their everyday writing.

WRITING

Being effective communicators is a goal we have for our student writers. Specific skills include:

• writing effective introductions
• the proper formation of a paragraph
• writing concise conclusions

MATH

One of the goals we have for our fifth grade math students is to have a growth mindset that says, “I can do math.” Fifth graders learn math through Envision Math, a rigorous, problem-based curriculum offering comprehensive, blended digital and print components. It is designed to help our students achieve mathematical proficiency levels that will provide the foundation for future math courses and beyond. At the center of this curriculum are the Common Core Standards.

Our students are actively involved in using concrete and digital tools to develop deep mathematical understanding and apply this understanding through practice and problem-solving in every math lesson. The problem solving component helps students to develop specific skills that are used by “good math thinkers.”

The focus topics in fifth grade are:

• place value- whole numbers and decimals
• whole numbers- fluently multiply and divide
• decimals- add, subtract; multiply and divide with models
• fractions- equivalence, add, subtract; multiply and divide with models
• volume- understand concepts, volume formulas, prisms
• measurement- convert within a given system
• represent and interpret data- line plots
• algebra- order of operations; evaluate, write and interpret numerical expressions
• geometry- graph points on the coordinate plane; classify two dimensional figures (triangles, quadrilaterals)
**SCIENCE**

The science curriculum for fifth grade incorporates inquiry-based instruction with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), engaging students at the intersection of the disciplinary core ideas, science and engineering practices, and crosscutting concepts. FOSS kits, the core curriculum used in our science program, are designed to center around learning as a developmental progression, providing experiences that allow students to continually build on their initial notions and develop more complex scientific and engineering ideas.

Students experience the following units in fifth grade:

- **Earth Science** - Earth and Sun
- **Physical Science** - Mixtures and Solutions
- **Life Science** - Environmental Detective

Each unit includes opportunities for students to use all four steps of the scientific method (observation, hypothesis, prediction, and experimentation/testing) through inquiry-based lessons. The Villa grounds are used often as an outdoor classroom to enhance various lessons and/or units.

Science Camp at Naturebridge in the Olympic National Forest allows students to experience science first hand!

**SOCIAL STUDIES**

Students spend the year exploring and studying the United States: its geography, history, cultures, and current issues. Geography study includes learning about five major regions and the location of all 50 states and capitals. Students choose a state to research and explore the geography, history, and culture of this state as well as the entire country. Students learn to research using many different print and online resources as they write a “state textbook”.

Our history study covers ancient civilizations, such as the Maya and Aztec, through the Revolutionary War and the establishment of our country. A variety of experiences from reading to participating in a simulation help to make this history come alive.

We also analyze and discuss current events and issues, helping students to draw connections between historical events and the issues facing our country today.
RELIGION

Our religion program is based on the Cabrinian tradition of educating the whole child and building compassionate hearts through service to others. With this as an overall theme, learning about the Catholic faith, class meetings, social/emotional learning (Second Step curriculum), and community service (including buddies) are all part of religion.

THE CATHOLIC FAITH

Fifth graders learn that through the seven sacraments, we receive God’s grace and are enabled to see God in others and in ourselves. Also, in looking at the story of Jesus through the Gospels, we learn by His example what it means to have wisdom, compassion, empathy, and understanding.

Fifth graders also learn about and experience the liturgical seasons of Advent and Lent. Lastly, students attend liturgies and prayer services during the year, and are responsible as a grade level for preparing and planning for one liturgy or prayer service.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

The Second Step program, taught in Preschool through Grade Five in Villa classrooms, focuses on four key areas in fifth grade:

- **Empathy and Skills for Learning:** empathy and respect, listening with attention, being assertive, predicting feelings, taking others’ perspectives, accepting differences, disagreeing respectfully, and responding with compassion
- **Emotion Management:** calming down, managing anxiety, managing frustration, resisting revenge, handling put-downs, and avoiding assumptions
- **Problem Solving:** problem solving skills, making a plan, seeking help, dealing with gossip, dealing with peer pressure, reviewing all skills

Students learn and practice all of these skills through fun and interactive lessons, role plays, games, stories, video segments, and short daily reinforcements. Students also begin to develop self care skills, an emotion vocabulary, and problem solving strategies that are utilized both in and out of school.

CLASS MEETINGS

Creating a safe and emotionally secure classroom encourages students to share their feelings and solve problems together. Daily/weekly class meetings enable such an environment to thrive. Whether celebrating each other or solving problems together, students are empowered to make a difference in their classroom community and their school.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Fifth grade’s service learning focuses on caring for God’s Creation. Each day, a team of two fifth graders give up their lunch recesses to assist students in the lunchroom. They monitor where students place their leftover food and waste items at the end of lunch, making sure everything gets placed in the correct receptacles: food waste, recyclable materials, and “landfill” (garbage) items. In addition, they clean up around the lunch bins and sweeping up bigger “messes” as needed. Some of the food waste that we generate each day is composted and used in our own Villa Garden.

Fifth graders also take ownership of an area near the greenhouse. Each month, students weed, tend to new plantings there, and clean up any trash present. They truly act as stewards of God’s creation on Villa’s beautiful grounds.
SPECIALISTS

Fifth Grade students also participate in a varied schedule and see specialists in the following areas:

- **Visual Arts:** 60 minutes — once a week
- **Music:** 30 minutes — twice a week
- **World Languages:** 45 minutes — twice a week
- **PE:** 30 minutes — twice a week
- **Library:** 45 minutes — once a week
- **Technology:** 60 minutes — once a week

VISUAL ARTS

Fifth grade students continue to refine and enrich their knowledge of arts concepts and vocabulary.

In art class, fifth graders:

- demonstrate the use of line through direction, type, and quality
- use a color wheel to demonstrate color relationships
- designate various color schemes and use a range of values
- use a variety of techniques in observational drawing, recognize perspective (i.e., closer objects have more detail) and understand how contour lines can be used to draw people and objects
- work with variety of art media and mix media (i.e., painting, drawing, printmaking, oils pastel, collage, ceramics, and paper maché)
- demonstrate and draw symbols and sacramental instruments used during Mass and liturgical services

MUSIC

The purpose of the fifth grade music program is to expose students to a wide range of musical experiences in order that they may develop the foundation for a lifetime of music appreciation, a working knowledge of music in performance, and theory skills to aid in the understanding of musical structure.

Students are graded on performance, effort, and attitude. Each class culminates in several performance projects demonstrating skills learned through the study of music theory, music history, performance, acting, and singing.

WORLD LANGUAGES

In preparation for selecting an international language to study in Middle School, fifth graders continue taking French for half of the year and are introduced to Spanish for the other half. The French and Spanish programs present language in meaningful contexts and build continuity by using language in the development of specific themes.

Students use the languages both to communicate and to express themselves and their needs. Fifth graders also increase their ability to read and write in another language.
PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Fifth graders’ skills continue to grow as their scope of abilities have been further developed. They play more complex activities such as Frisbee games, volleyball, soccer, basketball, floor hockey, and softball. Students participate in these activities in a slightly more competitive environment. We continue to focus on lifelong fitness, sportsmanship, self-improvement, individual growth, and teamwork.

LIBRARY

The goal of our library program is to develop students who value learning and can apply the skills, strategies, and processes to be independent users of information. Students use self-selected topics to develop information literacy skills including:

- formulating central and sub-questions
- locating relevant and reliable resources including databases and websites
- using note-taking strategies to gather relevant facts and ideas
- interpreting and evaluating Information in various formats to answer the research questions

Students listen and respond to a variety of stories and informational texts comparing styles, genres, perspectives, opinions and facts while building comprehension skills.

TECHNOLOGY

Once each week, fifth grade students come to Villa’s Computer Lab for one hour to build their computer literacy skills. Assigned projects in this class integrate with the students’ classroom curriculum throughout the school year. For fifth grade students, technology class reinforces past skills and prepares them to be independent computer users in sixth grade when they receive their own laptops.

As part of their yearlong state textbook project, students learn new skills and practice familiar ones as they:

- research their state using valid websites for information, note-taking, and summarizing content into their own words
- develop a state symbols slideshow
- create population and area charts
- design a state poster, an economy collage, and a tourism brochure

The students also work on gaining proficiency and speed in touch typing in the lab and at home with the Edutyping website. Applications that are introduced and/or used include Google Drive, Hyperstudio, Scratch, Inspiration, Pixie 3, iMovie, iPhoto, and Garageband.

STUDY SKILLS

Fifth graders continue to receive formalized instruction in specific organizational and study skills. These include, but are not limited to, time management strategies, methods for organizing work, study and test taking strategies, and how to effectively read informational text. Strategies and methods introduced in fifth grade are reinforced and expanded upon as students enter the Middle School.