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PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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PARENT CURRICULUM GUIDE

GRADE 5

"We know that every single parent cares deeply about their child's academic achievement. That's why we are working more closely with families, because we know their involvement is critical to the success of our children, and our schools."

- Chancellor Kaya Henderson

How to Use the Parent Curriculum Guide:

This guide gives you the tools you need to support your child at home. In this booklet, you'll find strategies based on the DCPS curriculum to help your child meet his or her learning goals. You'll have a better understanding of what your child is learning in school and how you can further learning at home.

In addition, this guide provides specific strategies to implement at home for our Cornerstone assignments. Cornerstone assignments are high-quality, in-depth activities offered across the district that all DC Public Schools students will participate in during each unit of study. We have provided you with four sample Cornerstone assignments that your child may experience along with tips and suggestions on ways to support them at home.

For more information on Cornerstones visit bit.ly/DCPSCornerstonesVid.

What You Can Do:

You play a very important role in your child's academic performance. Here are some things you can do to support learning at home:

- Let your child know that education is the foundation for success.
- Know what your child is expected to learn in the 5th grade.
- Help your child set high short-term and long-term academic goals.
- Provide a designated time and location to complete homework.
- Talk to your child about what is happening in school and constantly monitor progress.
- Advocate for your child.
- Share your child's strengths with your child's teacher.

Questions to Ask Your Child's Teacher:

When speaking with your child's teacher about academic progress, here are a few questions you may want to consider asking:

- What are the learning goals? Can you show me examples of student work that meets the learning goals?
- May I see an example of my child's work? How does it or doesn't it meet these learning goals?
- Is my child at or above grade level, what extra support is available? What can I do at home?
- What classroom routines do you have that should also be used at home?
- What kinds of questions could I ask my child on a daily basis about your class?

Talking to Your Child:

Good conversations help our children see that we are interested in their lives. Here are a few conversation starters you may want to consider asking:

- Tell me about the best part of your day.
- What was the hardest thing you had to do today?
- Can you show me something you learned today?
- What books are you reading in school? Describe your favorite character? Why do you like that character?
- What do you think you should do more of at school? What do you think you should do less of? Why?

What My Fifth Grader is Learning

District of Columbia Public Schools	English Language Arts	Math	Science & Social Studies	
August–October	Students will learn to explore the process of discovery by reading and comparing stories written about inventions and inventors.	Students will learn about place value, how decimals move as you multiply and divide numbers by a power or 10, and how to compare and round decimals.	Students will learn about different objects in space, our place in the solar system, and characteristics of our home planet.	Students will learn about place and location by studying geographical regions in the U.S. and analyzing how life is shaped by geographical differences.
October–December	Students will learn to examine historical texts while reading about the American westward expansion's impact on different groups; specifically, students will examine motives for westward expansion and the associated benefits and challenges.	Students will learn to add, subtract, multiply, and divide decimals.	Students will learn about things that are very small, focusing on matter and its interactions.	Students will learn about and analyze the context and causes of the westward movement of settlers in the U.S. from the 1780s to the 1850s.
December–February	Students will learn how authors use science and science fiction creatively to enhance storytelling while comparing and contrasting how an author uses science throughout several texts.	Students will learn how to find volume for 3-dimensional shapes using unit cubes or a formula ($v = l \times w \times h$) and add fractions with unlike denominators by creating equivalent fractions.	Students will learn how energy and matter move through an ecosystem through food chains and food webs and ways to protect the environment.	
February–April	Students will learn about the impact of a writer's point of view by comparing and contrasting written accounts of the Civil War and the Reconstruction and writing an opinion piece.	Students will learn how to multiply and divide fractions and multiply whole numbers with decimals.	Students examine the conditions that led to conflict during the Civil War and Reconstruction with a focus on 1820-1876.	
April–June	Students will learn about historical writing while studying the Civil Rights Movement and how individuals persevered during challenging situations.	Students will learn how to plot points and solve graphing problems, write algebraic expressions to solve for "x" and classify two-dimensional shapes based on their properties.	Students will learn about the continuity and change over time of race relations and economic cycles from 1920s to 1970s while studying the Harlem Renaissance, the Great Depression, World War II, and the Civil Rights movement.	

Math cornerstone

In this Cornerstone, students use tenths, hundredths, and thousandths grids to support their understanding of the relationship between fractions and decimals, and the values of the digits. Students create patterns or designs on tenths, hundredths and thousandths grids and identify the shaded and unshaded parts of the grid as fractions and decimals. For more information visit bit.ly/DCPSLearnZillionGrids5

How You Can Help Your Child:

- Urge your child to show their work. Writing out your work can help you take complicated questions, and break them down into logical pieces and steps. This cuts down on careless errors, which could improve test scores and grades. Being able to write down step-by-step how to solve a question can also help increase your child's understanding of it. Ask your child to "Show me your steps to solve this problem." or "Explain each step you took to solve this problem?"
- Set up an account on KhanAcademy.org. Encourage your child to go to bit.ly/1NHVOhO to gain background knowledge on fractions and decimals.

English Language Arts Cornerstone

In this Cornerstone, students create a research plan to present an invention that solves a practical problem. Students plan, design, and create a presentation board or visual to use as support during their oral presentation.

How You Can Help Your Child:

- Ask your child to share the process they used to identify their invention.
- Go to the library with your child to check out, *Mistakes that Worked* by Charlotte Jones. This book provides engaging stories behind the creation of many commonly used inventions.
- Watch SoulPancake, "Kid President - How To Be An Inventor!" with your child www.youtube.com/watch?v=75okexRzWMk. In this video Kid President tries to be an inventor, and goes to GE to get some tips and advice from the pros. The video highlights the parts of the inventing process from idea conception, to what to do if you are stuck or frustrated.

Year Long Learning Tips:

- When your child asks for help, provide guidance, not answers. When helping your child, ask guiding questions, such as "Where do you begin?", "What do you need to find out?", or "Can you show me in a drawing how you got the answer?"
- Have your child read each problem out loud slowly and carefully, so he or she can hear the problem and think about what is being asked. This will help your child break down the problem and come up with problem-solving strategies.
- Continue talk with your child about the books they read. Help your child continue to build understanding when they read by modeling the thinking process. Consider saying "I predict... what do you predict will happen next?" or "I wonder... what do you wonder?" or "When I read this, I pictured... what are you picturing?"

In this Cornerstone, students begin to build real-world connections with peers from other countries by connecting online with an international class to exchange information and practice using the target language (Spanish, French, Mandarin Chinese or Latin).

How You Can Help Your Child:

- Ask your students about their exchange classroom and what they have learned about that town, country, and culture.
- Help your student generate questions about the exchange students' culture, community, and classroom.
- Help your student identify what information they would share about their own culture, community and classroom, and invite them to share information in the target language.

Year Long Learning Tips:

- Make sure your child has a quiet, well-lit place to study. Avoid having the television on and remove other distractions.
- Allow your child to take regular study breaks. Students should break for 10 minutes after every 45 minutes of studying.
- Encourage your child to write. Give them a journal or diary where they can write about their thoughts or their favorite person, place or thing.

Suggested Reading

☐ *Gilda Joyce, Psychic Investigator,* by Jennifer Allison

Ever since her father died, quirky Gilda Joyce has been working hard to sharpen her psychic skills. She's determined to communicate with spirits from the Other Side and become a crack investigator of spooky, twisted mysteries. After wrangling an invitation to visit relatives in San Francisco, Gilda discovers that her dreary, tight-lipped uncle and his strange, delicate daughter need her help to uncover the terrible family secret that has a tortured ghost stalking their home.

☐ *Inkheart,* Cornelia Funke

One cruel night, Meggie's father reads aloud from a book called INKHEART-- and an evil ruler escapes the boundaries of fiction and lands in their living room. Suddenly, Meggie is smack in the middle of the kind of adventure she has only read about in books. Meggie must learn to harness the magic that has conjured this nightmare. For only she can change the course of the story that has changed her life forever. This is INKHEART--a timeless tale about books, about imagination, about life. Dare to read it aloud.

☐ *Bud, Not Buddy,* by Christopher Curtis

It's 1936, in Flint, Michigan. Ten-year-old Bud may be a motherless boy on the run, but he's on a mission. His momma never told him who his father was, but she left a clue: posters of Herman E. Calloway and his famous band, the Dusky Devastators of the Depression! Bud's got an idea that those posters will lead to his father. Once he decides to hit the road and find this mystery man, nothing can stop him.

☐ *101 Ways You Can Help Save the Planet Before You're 12!,* by Joanne O'Sullivan

It's easy being green! Kids have enormous potential to affect change, and this enlightening book harnesses children's natural energy, enthusiasm, optimism, and drive to make a difference in the world. Young eco-activists will feel empowered as they begin doing simple things such as cutting down on water use, starting a compost bin, and creating litter-free lunches. From these activities will grow even greater sensitivity to how they, their families, schools, and neighbors can have a positive impact on our planet.

☐ *Math Curse,* by Jon Scieszka

Did you ever wake up to one of those days where everything is a problem? You have 10 things to do, but only 30 minutes until your bus leaves. Is there enough time? You have 3 shirts and 2 pairs of pants. Can you make 1 good outfit? Then you start to wonder: Why does everything have to be such a problem? Why? Because you're a victim of the Math Curse. That's why. But don't despair. This is one girl's story of how that curse can be broken.

Activities to Practice with My Fifth Grader

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Read together everyday for 20 minutes.

AUGUST–OCTOBER	Identify a problem you could solve with an invention! Write down your ideas in a journal and then draw a sketch of your favorite one. Do you think you could build this on your own?	Lay down four playing cards (numbers 2-9) and a coin to represent a decimal. Move the coin to the left or right and discuss the change in number value with each move.	Spend a day at the National Air and Space Museum's Exploring the Planets exhibit or the IMAX Theater. Visit airandspace.si.edu for more information.	Keep a journal recording how much time you spend reading each day! List your favorite characters from each story and identify a place in the story where the character shows a quality that you admire.	Sketch a map with significant places your family members have traveled to or visited in the region. Plan a road trip that you could take to visit places that defined your family.
OCTOBER - DECEMBER	Using a deck of cards, flip over two cards and multiply. Flip over another card and multiply the total using the number on the new card. Repeat!	Using a computer with internet, visit Kids National Geographic online at bit.ly/GhostGlove to complete the "Ghost Glove" experiment and observe a real chemical reaction!	Interview five people who have moved in the last 10 years. Why did they move? What similarities exist between their stories and those who settled west?	Brainstorm a list of modern amenities that wouldn't have been available when people first journeyed west. How is moving west different now? Is modern life easier or more difficult?	Visit your local library to check- out three new books! Visit bit.ly/FindMyLibrary to find your local library branch. Make sure to add the new books you read to your reading journal!
DECEMBER - FEBRUARY	Talk about ways you can conserve water, then visit bit.ly/DCPSwater for more great ideas!	Speed up your typing skills with the fun games and activities at bit.ly/TyingFun. Can you win all of the games?	Think about a science fiction television show or movie you watched recently! Use this program for inspiration to create a science fiction comic strip.	Visit the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History's Butterfly Pavilion, free of charge on Tuesdays. Visit www.mnh.si.edu for more information.	Imagine filling a room with water from top to bottom. Based on the size of the room, approximately how many gallons of water would it take to fill the room?
FEBRUARY - APRIL	Visit the National Cherry Blossom Festival bit.ly/DCPSCherry.	Practice jumping rope in February, Heart Health Month! Track your pulse before and after to see how hard your heart is working. Visit bit.ly/ DCPSPulse to learn more.	Visit the African American Civil War Museum on the first Saturday of each month, where U.S. Colored Troop descendants share family stories and facts. Visit afroamcivilwar.org for more information.	Practice multiplying and dividing fractions. Visit bit.ly/DCPSmultiply or bit.ly/DCPSdivide for online resource to visit at home or at your local library!	Discuss how war and conflict have influenced people in your life. How can we honor those who have served? Visit bit.ly/WriteOurTroops and send a letter (or email) to our troops or veterans.
APRIL - JUNE	What are some examples of how the Civil Rights Movement is still relevant today? Write a speech on this topic and share it with your friends and family.	Visit the Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens' Water Lily and Lotus festival. Visit nps.gov/keaq for more information.	Visit bit.ly/DCPSgraphing, bit.ly/DCPSgraphing2, or bit.ly/DCPSgraphing3 to practice graphing on a computer.	What are your summer plans? Brainstorm five activities you can do together to keep learning over the summer.	Visit the Musem of American History's Through the African American Lens exhibit to follow personal narratives from the Revolutionary Era to the present. Visit nmaahc.si.edu for more information.

English Language Arts · Enrichment Activity · Math · Science · Social Studies