



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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PARENT CURRICULUM GUIDE



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GRADE **5**



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.

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

	ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 	MATH 	SCIENCE 	SOCIAL STUDIES 
FALL 	<p>Students learn about America's expansion into the West, and its impact on different groups of people, such as the First Americans and Europeans. They also explore the motivation for journeying West.</p> <p>Students learn about the Civil War and the subsequent Reconstruction Period. They analyze the impact of the Civil War on the United States; why the nation was divided during this time period, how to read a variety of accounts of the conflicts, and how to compare the perspectives they embody.</p>	<p>Students will understand place value to compare, order, add and subtract decimal numbers to the thousandths.</p> <p>Students will write and solve simple expressions with parentheses and brackets. Students will multiply, and divide multi-digit whole numbers.</p>	<p>Students will explore how objects in space are observed and how they interact.</p> <p>Students will explore the properties of matter and its interactions with other matter.</p>	<p>What is progress? Students identify geographical regions in the U.S., and analyze the context and causes of the westward movement of settlers in the United States from 1780s to the 1850s.</p> <p>Is Reconstruction a work in progress? Students examine how slavery shaped DC and the conditions that led to conflict during the Civil War and Reconstruction.</p>
WINTER 	<p>Students learn about the Solar System and all its elements by analyzing: the Sun's impact/influence and the effect of the Big Bang and how it created galaxies and our Solar System. Students will learn how to use technology and texts to craft an informative piece of writing that is evidence-based, supported by facts and details.</p> <p>Students develop an understanding of the process of discovery through the development of inventions, as well as, the contributions that creative thinkers, inventors, and scientists have made to society. Students quote key evidence from the inventors' lives that led to their discoveries, compare two inventors, and write an informational piece.</p>	<p>Students will add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions and decimal fractions.</p> <p>Students will understand volume and relate it to addition and subtraction.</p>	<p>Students will explore the flow of matter and energy in ecosystems.</p> <p>Students will explore water on our Earth and the protection of Earth's natural resources and environments.</p>	<p>Does too much involvement around the world hurt the United States at home? Students examine how changes in the relationship between media and Americans contributed to the U.S. involvement in global wars.</p> <p>What is the best way to promote change? Students explore the various social and economic factors that led to the Great Migration, Harlem Renaissance and Civil Rights Movement.</p>
SPRING 	<p>Students learn about the American Civil Rights Movement and study the experiences of civil rights activists; how their actions changed people's beliefs, attitudes, and perspectives, and how they responded to challenging situations. They learn how to examine characters, compare and connect characters and events across texts, and write an informational piece.</p>	<p>Students will solve problems with the coordinate plane.</p>		

ACTIVITIES TO PRACTICE WITH MY FIFTH GRADER



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Read together everyday for 20 minutes.

FALL



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?

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.



Compete in a measurement olympics with your child. Measure the distance of ball toss or the speeds in a race and then have your child order and compare the distances and times.

Have your child calculate the tab on various shopping trips.



Take your child on a visit to the Albert Einstein Planetarium at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

Create a lava lamp using water, oil, and an effervescant tablet. Ask your child to tell you, based on what they've learned in class, if this is a solution or not.



Ask your child to identify and explain areas of progress in their own community.

Have your child practice their speech for the Ford's Oratory Festival in front of an audience of family members. Visit the African American Civil War Museum (free).



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.

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!



WINTER



Man has traveled to the Moon, but not yet Mars. That doesn't mean we haven't tried! Using the internet, research two different projects or initiatives of trying to get to Mars. What are the challenges that are preventing us from landing on Mars? How are scientists trying to address those challenges?



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!



Visit the U.S. Botanic Gardens and take a free tour of the many exhibits and plant collections. Challenge your child to identify as many examples of plant and animal connections as they can.



Discuss current events about the United States' involvement in other countries with your child, and ask them to compare to events in the past.

Visit the Phillips' Collection Exhibit of Jacob Lawrence's Great Migration Series (free, Tues-Sat, located at 1600 21st Street NW). Visit phillipscollection.org/visit for details.



Speed up your typing skills with the fun games and activities at bit.ly/TypingFun. Can you win all of the games?

Visit the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History's Butterfly Pavilion, free of charge on Tuesdays. Visit www.mnh.si.edu for information.



SPRING



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?

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.



Explore volume by building rectangular prisms with legos or other cubic blocks. Discuss ways to count the blocks without counting each individual block.

Play the game of battleship with your child.



Visit the National Cherry Blossom Festival at bit.ly/DCPSC Cherry.
Visit the Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens' Water Lily and Lotus festival. Visit bit.ly/DCPSKen for more information.
What are your summer plans? Brainstorm five activities you can do together to keep learning over the summer.



English Language Arts



Math



Science



Social Studies



Enrichment Activity