

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

GRADE-LEVEL EDUCATIONAL GOALS  
PARENT REFERENCE GUIDE

5TH GRADE

# READING / WRITING

**By the end of the school year, your fifth grader should be able to:**

- Continue to build a reading, writing and speaking vocabulary
- Read to learn new information
- Read a wide range of stories, books and magazines for enjoyment
- Understand a problem or conflict in stories or books and talk or write about an appropriate solution
- Make connections between stories and texts that they have read and the world around them
- Tell and/or write a summary that gives the main idea of what they read and the most important details or events
- Complete a research project including a written report
- Write stories with several paragraphs
- Write poems, plays, and reports



# MATHEMATICS

**By the end of the school year, your fifth grader should be able to:**

- Compute and find the relationships using whole numbers, fractions, and decimals
- Locate positive and negative numbers on a number line (integers)
- Explain to you what prime numbers, factors, multiples and composite numbers mean
- Compare numbers (equal to, greater than, and less than)
- Collect, organize, display, and analyze data in a variety of ways
- Find mean (average), median (middle number), mode (most frequent) and range (difference from largest and smallest) of data
- Predict or determine all possible combinations and outcomes, such as, ‘How many outfits can be created with six shirts and eight pants?’
- Calculate the chance of a simple event happening
- Use a variety of methods to solve for unknown quantities in simple one-step algebra equations (solve for  $x$ )
- Sort polygons according to their properties and angles, such as triangles, rhombi, and parallelograms
- Define and compare perimeter (distance around) and area (amount covered inside) of shapes
- Understand properties of a circle
- Explain how they solved a math problem in their own words

# SCIENCE

**By the end of the school year, your fifth grader should be able to:**

- Develop skills that will emphasize the five senses while doing science
- Use prior knowledge when making observations
- Make predictions and hypotheses based on observations
- Design investigations with a control and one or two variables
- Gather, organize and display data independently
- Build an understanding of how solar energy is transferred
- Recognize that the sun is the main source of energy for people and they use it in various ways
- Design and conduct experiments with variables. Students should be able to explain cause and effect
- Study the relationship in an ecosystem that shows the relationship of an organism to its environment
- Conduct hands-on investigations to discover and understand their world
- Record observations in science notebooks



# SOCIAL STUDIES

**By the end of the school year, your fifth grader should be able to:**

- Demonstrate an understanding of the geographic regions of the United States
- Explain the impact of exploration and colonization in the Americas
- Discuss the ideas, values, beliefs and decisions that contributed to the creation of our government
- Analyze the issues that led to the Revolutionary War and Civil War
- Explain the political, economic and social reforms that shaped America
- Demonstrate an understanding of African American History
- Examine the roles various ethnic groups have played in the development of United States History

# HEALTH/PHYSICAL EDUCATION

**By the end of the school year, your fifth-grader should be able to:**

- Identify qualities of healthy relationships
- Recognize use and abuse of drugs
- Recognize bullying in all its forms, including cyber bullying
- Know the purpose of health check-ups
- Understand offense and defense in game situations

# ART AND MUSIC

**By the end of the school year, your fifth grader should be able to:**

## **Art**

- Use art materials in a safe and responsible way
- Describe the subject, idea or symbol in a work of art using art vocabulary
- Know what an art historian does

## **Music**

- Sing and play melodies with accuracy and appropriate expression
- Recognize and analyze music from its historical and cultural perspective