



Grade 5-6 Program

Essential Questions:

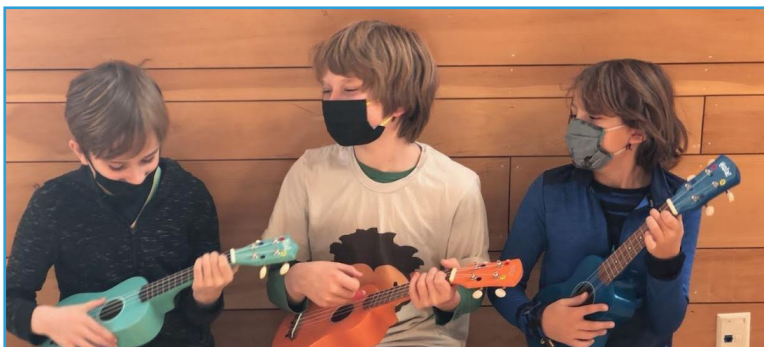
- *Year 1:* What does it mean to be an American?
- *Year 2:* What are the factors that lead to change?
- 55 minutes of outdoor recess each day

Competent, engaged, and reaching ever wider into the world, 5th and 6th graders continue to develop independence, ownership of their learning, and sense of self.

In math, students solidify, extend, and put to use their understanding of basic operations, integers, fractions, measurement, and basic geometry. A key emphasis is engaging with complex math problems that call upon mathematical thinking, computation, and flexible problem-solving.

Through authentic reading and writing activities, often integrated with social studies or current topics, students hone skills of oral and written communication. Students write for a variety of purposes and focus on clarity, concession, mechanics, and evidence. Students read across many genres with a focus on comprehension and analysis. Fostering joyful and lifelong reading is central in 5th/6th grades.

In science, process is emphasized: students work on formulating testable questions, gathering experimental data, and drawing and communicating evidence-based conclusions. Students' Spanish language study becomes more intensive, with classes both in small- and whole-group settings to allow for exploration of new skills and vocabulary, opportunities to practice speaking, and engaging projects. In the art studio, students demonstrate independent and individual artistic behaviors, practice increasingly complex techniques, and work cooperatively in a studio setting.



The music experience in fifth-eighth grade weaves the study of theory, music history, and ethnomusicology opportunities for composition, ensemble work, and performance. In stewardship and physical education, fifth and sixth graders work on improved coordination by practicing more advanced skills and movements, demonstrating fair play and positive attitude, and developing leadership skills. The Advisory program emphasizes leadership, stewardship, and community building, and it protects time for important group conversations around interpersonal, health, and other issues and questions that arise for young adolescents. 5th-8th graders choose three electives each year, focused on topics from newspaper to Latin to activist art.

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