



McCarthy Middle School

A Smooth Transition to Middle School

Communication

- Continually improving communication is part of our School Improvement Plan
- Electronic Communication
 - Email/BlackboardConnect (formerly ConnectEd)
 - X2 Aspen Family Portal
 - X2 Teacher Pages
 - Teachers' Google Classrooms
 - McCarthy homepage and calendar

How to Make a LARGE School Much Smaller: *Teams!*

- Four Grade 5 Teams
- 2 classroom teachers per team
- Ease students to middle school model
- Approximately 50 students per team
- Students spend the majority of the school day with these two teachers

TEAM ORGANIZATION

- Two person teams for Grades 5 and 6 include a teacher for Math and Science and a teacher for LA and Social Studies
- Teams meet with guidance counselor and resource teachers on a regular basis



These team teachers work together to discuss lessons and create projects that span the subject areas

Placement Process

- Meeting with elementary teachers soliciting their information
- Parent input via letter (Due May 26)
 - Learning style
 - Please separate from... OR try to place with...
 - We do the best we can to accommodate
- Students are heterogeneously grouped into classes
- No leveling in grades 5 & 6
- Factors affecting placement
 - Support services received
 - School input
 - Parent input



Technology Integration Throughout All Curriculum

1-to-1 Technology Initiative

- All fifth graders will be given a chromebook
- Teachers will be using Google Classroom on an expanded basis

Grade 5 & 6 Computer lab - students have scheduled time in the computer lab and library.



Grade 5 Specialists

- Grade 5 Specialist class taken weekly:
 - Physical Education (2x)
 - Health
 - Library
 - Computer



Arts Block Offerings

- 5th grade Students choose one of the following options:
 - Band
 - Orchestra
 - Chorus
 - Art/General Music (two terms of each)
- *Please note that certain support services are offered during the arts and specialists blocks. Therefore, depending on the services your child receives, they may or may not be able to participate full time in these courses.*



SUCCESS FOR ALL

- We value the importance of daily homework.
- All students will receive a Reminder Binder on the first day of school to write assignments.
- Google Classroom expanded use.
- Students have an average of 20-60 minutes a night of homework.
- Extra Help from the classroom teacher
- Attend Homework Club

Our Social Contract

McCarthy Middle School is a PRIDE-ful community.

We agree to:

- ***Be hardworking and pursue our goals***
- ***Honor each others' differences***
- ***Be honest and responsible for our actions***
- ***Put time and effort into our work and community***
- ***Acknowledge other people's feelings***

SUCCESS FOR ALL- OUR COMMUNITY

- Recognizing “*Paws-itive*” & *PRIDEful* behaviors
- Student of the Month Awards by Team and Specialist subject areas
- Supports for our students include:
 - School Counselors
 - School Psychologist
 - Supervisor of Students
 - Special Education Services
 - Reading Specialists
 - Health Services
 - Board Certified Behavior Analyst



Community Service

- Community service experiences such Pennies For Patients, Coats for Kids, and Project 300 for families in need during the holidays drive give students a sense of connection to the larger community.



Project 300

After School Activities

- After school clubs are an important offering to our students

Live Smart

ASL Club

Cross Country

Art Club (For Grade 5-6

Performance Music Students)

Backstage Crew

McASAP/ HW Club

Writer's Society

Stand Up McCarthy

Yearbook

Select Choir

Jazz Band

Musical- Drama Club

Computer Club

Ecology Club

Paws and Claws

3-D Printing

TV Club

Intramural Sports

Game Club

Science Olympiad



To Sum It All Up

- We offer a creative, challenging, engaging curriculum in a caring environment.
- We have a “Whatever It Takes” attitude to support success for all students.
- We educate the whole child.
- We are proud of our schools’ and our students’ achievements – and we always reflect to improve.
- Active, supportive PTO!



Summer Open House/Walk-around Opportunities

- We have traditionally offered two separate opportunities for students and families to walk around the school once schedules have been made available for students and families through the X2/Aspen family portal (by mid-August).
- Those Summer Open Houses are TBA (late August), but will be on our website as soon as those dates & times are established.



Grade 5 Curriculum Information

The following slides include information directly from the Department Coordinators. It may include information regarding the fifth grade curriculum and/or suggestions from the departments on sharpening your child's knowledge for the upcoming year.

English Language Arts

Students have chromebooks to support their learning, and teachers are trained in a blended learning approach.

Teachers design lessons in reading literature, reading informational text, writing, speaking, and listening. They assess progress toward these grade-level skills. Our curriculum is the Fountas and Pinnell Classroom reading program.

Teachers design personalized instruction using iReady, iXL, and district benchmarks. Students also pursue independent reading.

Suggested summer reading books will soon be on the CPS website.

Science

Grade 5 Students explore concepts centered on the 2016 MA STE Frameworks with Next Generation FOSS Science Curriculum.

Students complete investigations related to the Earth & Sun, Mixtures & Solutions, and Living Systems.

Each unit has active investigations, recording in Science notebooks, reading resources, and assessment to monitor progress and motivate student reflection on learning.



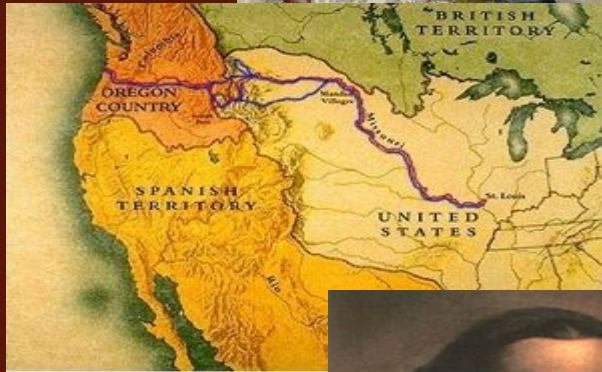
Mathematics Recommendations

- ‡ Discussing how and where you use math
- ‡ Encouraging your child to compute, measure, estimate, follow directions, build models, etc.
- ‡ Involving children in cooking, shopping, planning trips, etc.
- ‡ Doing math puzzles such as Sudoku and Kenken
- ‡ Playing games that require logic, reasoning, and strategy such as Albert's Insomnia!
- ‡ Discussing statistical information (sports data is a good source)
- ‡ Encouraging your child to explain his/her thinking for solving a problem
- ‡ Practice sessions and games to encourage multiplication and division fact fluency to 12 by 12

Social Science



Students will spend Grade 5 exploring the history of our country. They will investigate history through various resources, images, artifacts, and stories.



<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/365208>

Each student will have access to online resources through Savvas Realize as well as their own copy of the anchor text/workbook.

[MyWorld Interactive Building Our Country](#)

<https://www.ushistory.org/us/21b.asp>



Teachers design lessons around the content that support their developing skills in the humanities. They assess progress toward each skill through a variety of activities.

<https://adhc.lib.ua.edu/site/literarylandscapes/olaudah-equiano/>

Reading

Literacy Support

Literacy Support is a course for fifth grade students who have been identified as needing additional support with reading. The focus of the course is to provide students with integrated reading strategies across a developmental continuum. Students in Grade 5 receive core instruction in Language Arts from the Language Arts teacher on their grade level team in addition to Literacy Support. Emphasis is placed on content area reading strategies including understanding the text structure of textbooks, using literature to make relevant connections to content instruction, concept mapping of content area vocabulary, analysis and synthesis of ideas through discussion, written summaries, and test taking strategies.

Health Education

Skills and **Content** in 5th Grade Health Education:

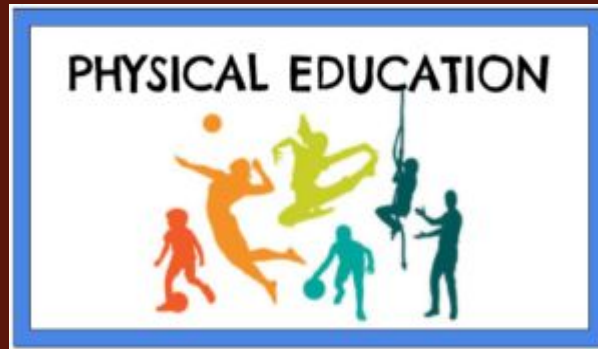


- Accessing Valid and Reliable Information - **Health Triangle**
 - Decision Making - **Nutrition**
- Self-Management/Self-Awareness - **Managing Emotions**
 - Advocacy - **Public, Community, & Environmental Health**

Grade 5 Physical Education

- The Fifth grade Physical Education curriculum focuses on skill development and fitness. We strive to teach all the skills in a particular sport while incorporating fitness in each unit of instruction. We spend the first couple of days of the unit on skills and then move the students into small fitness-based games utilizing the skills they have been practicing and learning in previous lessons. Here are the Units of Instruction in 5th grade Physical Education:

- Ultimate Football
- Frisbee
- Badminton
- Fitness
- Basketball
- Adventure



- Floor Hockey
- Team Handball
- Soccer
- Volleyball
- Cooperative Activities
- Pickleball

- The mission of the Chelmsford Physical Education Department is to educate minds, develop healthy bodies, and promote positive attitudes towards lifetime physical activity, fitness, and sports skills. Each student will be empowered with the knowledge and skills necessary to make responsible lifestyle choices that directly impact his/her health and well-being.

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)

Through Weekly SEL Curriculum Lessons students will grow SEL skills focusing on the following units:

- Growth Mindset & Goal Setting
- Empathy & Kindness
- Problem-Solving
- Recognizing Bullying & Harassment
- Thoughts, Emotions & Decisions
- Managing Relationships & Social Conflict

English Language Education

English Language programming is offered to eligible students whose primary language is not English.

Focus areas:

- Provide developmentally appropriate English language instruction tailored for students' level of English proficiency
- Provide effective content instruction while developing English language proficiency
- Instruction is based on language driven ELL curriculum that is aligned to the WIDA and Massachusetts Frameworks
- Provide a rich language environment where all students have the opportunity to learn academic English through scaffolded instruction
- Highly qualified personnel and resources along with continuous staff development
- Develop and maintain positive family engagement opportunities



Fine and Performing Arts



In grade 5, students select **one** of the following options:

- Full year **BAND** (Grade 5 Instruments: trumpet, trombone, flute, or clarinet)
- Full year **CHORUS** (singing in groups)
- Full year **ORCHESTRA** (Instruments: violin, viola, cello, or bass)
- ½ year **Visual Art** and ½ year **Music Concepts and Cultures** (general music)

These classes are all offered during the school day.

Students who take band, chorus, or orchestra who would also like to participate in art are encouraged to join the Art Club, which is an after-school club taught by the school's art teachers.

Click the links below for more details and to meet the grade 5 art and music teachers!

[McCARTHY VIDEOS](#)

[PARKER VIDEOS](#)



Computer Literacy

Fifth grade students receive their own Chromebook as part of Chelmsford's 1:1 Initiative and use this device in school and at home for schoolwork. To support student use, in Computer Literacy classes students learn:

- How to create strong passwords
- To use safety techniques to protect their personal information online
- Utilize the X2 Aspen portal as a means to monitor their assignments & grades
- How to prevent cyberbullying
- Netiquette as they begin email using school email
- Responsible use of computers
- To choose the best digital tools for their tasks, such as multimedia projects or communicating key ideas individually to teachers, or collaboratively with their peers.
- Keyboarding instruction which continues to build speed and accuracy, important in all curriculum areas as well as in standardized testing.
- To collaboratively collect and manipulate data digitally
- Computer Science skills through Project Lead the Way

Library Science



Students now can use digital library skills in every curriculum area given that fifth graders receive a new personal Chromebooks as part of the Chelmsford 1:1 initiative. They learn these skills in their weekly library classes:

- How to access and use eBooks
- Purpose of copyright and appropriate use of others' intellectual property
- Identify the impact of social media on individual, families and society
- Identify digital information sources to answer research questions
- How to properly cite information sources in projects and reports (images, audio and video)
- Describe and use databases (contact lists, school records, library catalogs)



Contact Us!

- Feel free to contact us if you have additional questions
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