



FIFTH GRADE



"Perhaps we shall best use this wonderful power of reasoning by giving it plenty of work to do, by asking ourselves what is the cause of this and that; why do people and animals do certain things. Reason, which is not worked, grows sluggish; and there are persons who never wonder nor ask themselves questions about anything they see." ~ *Charlotte Mason*



Fifth Grade at Covenant is a year of preparation as students ready themselves for the expectations of Middle School. Instruction is delivered in a modified departmentalized model which, allows students to begin to navigate the world of changing classrooms and meet the expectations of multiple teachers. Students learn to organize their belongings independently through the use of an assigned cubby and take greater responsibility for the management of assignments and tools of learning. Independent learners apply the skills and knowledge presented to them through direct instruction and demonstrate proficiency through narrative writing, complex problem solving and computation, literary discussions, and independent and group projects. By combining active learning with classical methods of direct instruction, repetition, recitation, memorization and repeated application, our fifth graders will use their solid skills to grow as students who are now responsible for the outcome. Fifth graders partner with their teachers as they assume the posture and responsibility of a life long learner.

Walking by the 5th Grade, you might see:

- A teacher welcoming each student in the morning with a handshake and a “good morning”, setting a tone of respect and sense of community that permeates the entire day.
- Children engaged in a lively yet organized book discussion about classic and modern literature of all kinds, such as *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*, *The Shakespeare Stealer* or *Island of Blue Dolphins*.
- Colored pencils spread on the desks, students are focused on the creation of comic strips which illustrate their understanding of Latin adjectives. Later, the teacher will lead them through a verbal conjugation of Latin verbs in present, imperfect and future tenses.
- The teacher and a student working one-to-one, going through a rough draft of a research paper. The student is being challenged to clarify an aspect of the paragraph content; perhaps a focus is also on cursive letter formation. A graphic organizer used to prepare one's thoughts before writing is near by and is referenced.
- Students designing and building vehicle from K'Nex, then testing its speed in a controlled experiment. Perhaps they are looking through their personal microscopes, investigating properties of living and non- living organisms.
- Children mastering grammar by diagramming both English and Latin sentences with parts of speech and identifying the various patterns in sentences. Jingles may be heard murmured as they remember the grammar rules.
- Students presenting their solution to a word problem about fractions and discussing multiple strategies for solving with their peers. Another group of students are working together to solve challenging math problems using the Singapore Model Drawing Method.
- Chairs in a circle, children sitting with the teacher sharing the things for which they are grateful and for which they desire prayer. A scripture recitation might follow, with a discussion of the significance applied to our lives today. Understanding the truths evident in God's holy word is an essential part of the morning meeting time.
- Some giant grids, used to document student research for a paper on historical events and people, are on a side table. Children are engaged in the discussion of the great story of world history; they may be studying the Renaissance and Reformation, or European exploration and colonialism
- Students excited to depart CCA for a three day retreat at Camp Berea in Hebron, NH., a highlight of the year as they will learn to work as a team, take responsibility for their spiritual growth, and experience life away from home, sometimes for the very first time.