



# 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Program Overview

Update: August 28, 2014



In fifth grade we continue to use a balanced literacy approach to provide a solid framework of integration between all language arts skills. Comprehension and vocabulary skills are continued priorities to help in the growth of our students as readers. Supplemental core stories also allow integration of biblical principles, science, social studies, health, art, and other subjects. Students continue using computer keyboards for instruction and practice in typing for speed and accuracy.

We use "process writing" in which students brainstorm to organize prewriting ideas, draft their writing, obtain teacher or peer response to the draft, revise, edit, and then "publish" selected pieces. Spelling and usage skills are developed through context.

McGraw Hill's *My Math* textbook is the primary resource for math practice and homework.

Harcourt *Science* and Pearson *My World Social Studies Building Our Country* provide inquiry-based learning in those areas. Early US history is the topic of the year in social studies.

We encourage children to use their personal *The International Children's Bible*, provided by Morrison Academy for use in Grades 2-5, for both home and school reading.

Specialists teach your child Mandarin, visual arts, performing arts, physical education, and library media skills. Each has a vital part in your child's week.

The vision of the Morrison Academy educators is that a maturing Morrison student will be a(n),

**Moral and ethical citizen,**

- make ethical decisions from a Biblical perspective
- respect persons of other ages, races, cultures, faiths, and values
- demonstrate self-control in attitude and behavior

**Spiritual discerner**

- appreciate who God is and His provision for reconciliation through Jesus Christ
- apply Biblical principles and values into life situations
- accept his/her self-worth as God's creation

**Critical thinker and Creative Thinker**

- analyze, interpret, evaluate, and synthesize concepts within various contexts
- utilize mathematics to problem-solve effectively
- create original products and works with high standards

**Life-long learner**

- maintain intellectual curiosity
- utilize the scientific inquiry method
- utilize technology appropriately

**Effective communicator**

- read and write skillfully and purposefully
- demonstrate competence in speaking and listening
- contribute to groups collaboratively with interpersonal skills

**Wise and Responsible Steward**

- serve others generously and compassionately
- maintain disciplined health habits
- appreciate the performing and visual arts

## Language Arts

*Students are created in God's image with the unique ability to communicate, create, and express ideas. The language arts develop these abilities to understand and influence God's world for His glory. Therefore, Morrison offers a balanced language arts approach that teaches students to read with fluency and comprehension, evaluate text and media with discernment, listen with understanding and compassion, speak with conviction and effect, and write with clarity and persuasion. (O'Malley 1999)*

Fifth grade is the last year in elementary school and the language arts experience shows that transition by allowing more and more opportunities for students to use their skills in authentic and independent ways. Students will read, write, and research about topics related to their content areas and present information to other students while evaluating the product and processes involved. Students will use technology in a variety of ways, including continued instruction in keyboarding and different formats of publications.



## *Reading*

New vocabulary: use of online resources

Use all the reading strategies

Non-fiction: explain cause & effect

Fiction: compare story elements & theme

## *Writing*

Imaginative story (500-1,000 wds)

Personal narrative (200-400 wds)

Expository: 3 paragraphs with 1 topic

Research project using Big 6 (2-3 minute presentation)

Traits of Writing

## *Speaking/Listening*

Recite, narrate, explain using

Gestures

Use listening comprehension strategies

(summarize)

## Math

*Morrison Academy strives to develop students who obtain a mastery of, and appreciation for, the content and processes of mathematics, as well as an understanding of how mathematics relates to other domains in life. While the study of mathematics occurs mostly within finite creation, it points us towards the character of an infinite God who values logic, order and consistency. Therefore, the purpose of mathematical instruction at Morrison is to develop students whose mastery of content includes insight into logical processes that will enable students to make meaningful connections to a world of order and help them transfer math concepts to other domains consistent to life. Such tangible engagement with math will help Morrison's students dynamically impact their world for Christ.*

Fifth grade continues to focus on fractions, multiplying, and dividing. Students begin exclusively using the standard algorithm for multiplication, but continue using a variety of conceptual strategies for division. Instructional time focuses on three critical areas: (1) developing fluency with addition and subtraction of fractions, and developing understanding of the multiplication of fractions and of division of fractions in limited cases (unit fractions divided by whole numbers and whole numbers divided by unit fractions); (2) extending division to 2-digit divisors, integrating decimal fractions into the place value system and developing understanding of operations with decimals to hundredths, and developing fluency with whole number and decimal operations; and (3) developing understanding of volume.



## Science

***Morrison's science program seeks to help students gain knowledge of God through the study of His creation. This is accomplished with an activity-oriented program where teachers and students think analytically and logically, solve problems creatively, and use technology as a tool. Morrison endeavors to help students acquire developmentally appropriate concepts and science skills to make positive contributions as Christians in an increasingly scientific and technological society.***

Students will consider how elements and their combinations account for all the varied types of matter in the world. They will also study plant and animal structures for respiration, digestion, waste disposal, and transporting materials and examine how water on Earth moves between the oceans and land through the processes of evaporation and condensation. As they learn about the Solar System, students will keep in mind that the Sun's uneven heating of the earth causes air movements which result in changing weather patterns and will see that the solar system consists of planets and other bodies that orbit the Sun in predictable paths. Students will engage in the scientific process by asking meaningful questions and conducting careful investigations.

## Guidance

**The program provides a biblically-based program that is available to all students, teachers/staff and parents helping them to recognize their uniqueness as individuals in Christ. Morrison seeks to provide a primarily proactive and preventative program which enables students to fulfill God's purpose in their lives by maturing spiritually, emotionally, academically, physically and socially.**

Students will continue to learn that it is necessary to take responsibility for their school work and learning. They will continue to apply skills learned in the classroom to explore their own interests and abilities. Students will learn more about how to deal with stress and peer pressure by looking at the influences and pressures of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. Students will explore how their school work prepares them for future careers. Discussion will continue on the process of transition and change.

## Mandarin Chinese

*God has given us the gift of language to communicate with Him, ourselves, and others. Morrison's Mandarin Chinese program is a foreign language program that equips all students to communicate more effectively in a global context to better impact their world as Christians. This is done through a unit-driven curricular program that teaches all students the four basic tenets (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) of communication as well as Chinese culture and Christian concepts.*

*Teachers use high yield instructional strategies, a variety of materials, teaching styles, and enriching activities that are age-appropriate, promote higher order thinking, relevant, and integrate technology and faith.*

## Library Media Skills

Morrison Academy recognizes that people are gifted by God with the ability to inquire, gain knowledge, and delight in the creativity of others. Morrison Academy library program strives to equip students to enjoy information by teaching them how to use information effectively. The Library Media Center will support students by providing opportunities to become critical thinkers, life-long learners, enthusiastic readers, skillful researchers, and ethical users of information.

The fifth grade library media class focuses on classic literature and nonfiction resources. Students will use library terminology, such as glossary, index, and guidewords, to access information. They will learn methods to analyze and cite sources using MLA format. When dealing with technology, students will learn how to respond to cyber bullies.



## Physical Education

*All people are creations of God designed to know and glorify Him through their lives and action. Therefore, Morrison's physical education program recognizes that our bodies are temples of God to be appropriately cared for and used in developing a mentally, physically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually balanced life.*

Students will continue to develop their motor skills by using games and age-appropriate movement drills. As they participate in structured "team oriented" sports such as soccer, softball, and basketball, students will experience and discuss issues related to participation, personal fitness, and a appreciation of a healthy and active lifestyle. The skills they worked on at this stage are further developed and reinforced when they advance to the middle school levels. PE at grade 3-5 also aims to develop a biblical understanding exercise and playing in a team sport.

## Health

*Morrison Academy is committed to following Christ's example of a balanced life. Therefore we desire growth in four areas: wisdom (mental/emotional), stature (physical), favor with God (spiritual), and favor with man (social). Consistent with our integrated-based philosophy of education, we strive to incorporate instruction for life-long wellness throughout the curriculum.*





## Bible

God is the source of all truth, and the Bible is God's special revelation for all humanity. Through it we are introduced to the life of faith and the redemption offered to all in Christ Jesus. We comprehensively teach the Bible to foster biblical literacy, develop spiritual discernment, and equip students with a Christian worldview resulting in students who are transformed by the Holy Spirit and willing to be obedient to God's truth. Bible education aims to encourage each student to love God and to serve others.

### **The Morrison Academy Bible Curriculum: 5 strands**

- *Biblical Literacy*-Students will know basic content of the Bible: stories about Old and New Testament characters, chronology, cultural and historical background, recurring themes and topics.
- *Spiritual Discernment*-Students will be able to appreciate who God is and accept one's self worth as God's creation, while distinguishing right from wrong.
- *Biblical Worldview*-Bible classes not only impart biblical and theological knowledge but use it as the basis of a biblical worldview which is used to explore the world.
- *Christian Character*-Through the teaching of the Bible we desire to see the love of God perfected in our students so that they know God, obey God's commands and love others.
- *Christian Service*-Beginning in middle school, intentional, hands-on service to local and global communities enhances students' academic learning, a natural outworking of biblical truth.

**Fifth graders** use the examples of Old Testament characters to study spiritual growth and decision making. Characters include Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Joshua and Caleb, Achan, Deborah, Gideon, Jephthah, Samson, Ruth, Samuel, David, Absalom, Solomon, Ahab and Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Ezra, and Nehemiah.

## Social Studies

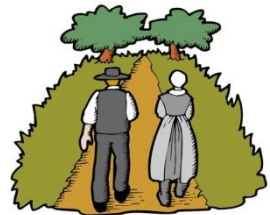
*Social studies instruction at Morrison unites two important elements:*

- *Acquiring a solid knowledge base of historical, geographical, civic, economic, and cultural concepts.*
- *Acquiring a social studies skill set to apply knowledge to situations using a global Christian perspective.*

*Morrison's social studies program seeks to develop students who can influence the kingdoms of mankind as critically-thinking citizens of the Kingdom of God. We provide developmentally appropriate instruction through a balance of inquiry learning and direct teaching. Though implementing a United States based curriculum, we recognize the importance of a global approach to social studies curricula to meet the needs of our diverse population.*

### *U.S. History: Colonial to Civil War*

Students in grade 5 will get their first concentrated study of the formative years of U.S. history. They will explore the early history of the United States and understand the ideas and events that shaped the nation. In this course, students examine the history of the United States from the earliest settlements of Colonial America through the Civil War. They also study the growth of democratic ideas and institutions that led to the independence of the original thirteen colonies and the formation of a national government under the U.S. Constitution. Students will continue to learn fundamental concepts common to all nations in civics, culture, economics, and geography as they study the history of the United States.



## Visual and Performing Arts

Morrison Academy recognizes that students are made in the image of their Creator and that God has endowed them with His creativity and individual gifts. Because training in visual and performing arts is an essential component of educating the whole person, students must be given the opportunity to explore, develop, and enjoy their God-given artistic abilities. Students will learn to express their creativity by experiencing, appreciating and discerning the arts from historical, contemporary and multi-cultural perspectives. Morrison Academy's arts programs endeavor to use the arts to glorify and worship God, equip students to serve His church, and impact their world in a relevant and dynamic way.

### Performing Arts

All elementary students receive general music instruction. Emphasis is placed on performance (playing various instruments, singing, improvisation, concert etiquette), notation (melody, rhythm, music symbols, reading music), and music appreciation (history of instruments and composers, folk dance, music of other cultures).

In the 5th grade students will be able to add I, IV, and V chords to their compositions. They will use minor scales and learn how to read the bass clef. The study of famous composers will continue, and students will also study the origin of the modern orchestra and concert band, ensembles they will become a part of in Middle School as they leave elementary school behind.

Co-Curricular courses



## Visual Arts

Children who complete the six grade levels of elementary art at Morrison Academy will be able to *create* art using a variety of art mediums in both the second and third dimensions and identify and use the common elements and principles of art. With confidence, they will *create* art that *communicates* their own thinking, tells stories, shares ideas, or evokes emotions. They will be led to *appreciate* the work of their peers, the art handed down through history, art from other cultures, and the place of art and artists in their world today.

Fifth Grade art is a hands-on class. Fifth grade art students will further develop skills in drawing, design, watercolors, printing, sculpting and/or pottery. The students will apply advanced principles and elements of art such as value, emphasis, perspective drawing, and gradation. They may create presentations using a variety of art tools, including digital tools. They will interpret the art of artists from other cultures, other time periods, and of their own peers. They will begin to appreciate the positive role of art and artists in the community.



# How Parents Can Help

## Activities That Support Your Child's Learning

- Listen to your child
- Read to and with your child, asking questions about what is being read
- Praise your child's reading
- Encourage older children to read to their younger siblings
- Model the importance of reading by being a reader yourself
- Talk with your child rather than at him/her
- Help your child keep a writing notebook or journal
- Provide a quiet place for homework and study
- Encourage early completion of homework while allowing the child to incur the natural consequences of lapses
- Help your child capitalize on his learning style
- Allow your child as much independence as he proves he can handle
- Encourage your child to ask questions and seek answers
- Celebrate successes
- Create special times to be alone with your child to participate in activities (cooking dinner, working in the shop, etc.)
- Take your child to places and talk about the visits
- Limit time spent on computer games
- Tell your child family stories, especially events that happened when you were his/her age
- Watch television with your child and discuss the programs together; limit viewing time; choose programs with care
- Play memory and math games, vocabulary games, physical games
- Talk with your child about the school work he/she brings home
- Give your child responsibilities
- Communicate your expectations regarding his/her behavior and performance at school

*"Fathers, do not make your children angry, but raise them with the training and teaching of the Lord."* Ephesians 6:4 (ICB)