2017 - 2018

Upper Elementary (Fourth and Fifth Grade)

General Studies

English Language Arts

Fourth and fifth grade English Language Arts inspires students to refine their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Students in the upper elementary grades are exposed to a variety of genres and are challenged to think critically about the themes and the author’s purpose. Students are encouraged to write realistic fiction, personal essays, persuasive essays, informational books, literary essays, poems, and mysteries.

Upper elementary students will:

* Critically analyze characters, text, plot, and setting.
* Write realistic fiction, personal essays, persuasive essays, informational books, literary essays, poems, and mysteries.
* Apply a variety of sentence structures to writing.
* Be able to use vivid verbs, compound words, adjectives, adverbs, synonyms, antonyms, and correct punctuation.
* Analyze author’s purpose, text structure, cause and effect, set a purpose, distinguish fact and opinion, and summarize and sequence stories.

Classroom Activities may include but are not limited to:

* Literary circles
* Reading groups
* Peer review
* Direct instruction
* Teacher as coach
* Research

What Can Parents Do?

Parents Can:

* Encourage their child to keep a journal.
* Provide a quiet place for your child to study.
* Encourage their child to read for a specified period of time each day.
* Ask your child to summarize a show or movie to improve critical thinking and increase comprehension.

Math

Math in the upper elementary grades is designed for all students to achieve mathematical proficiency through demonstration of math skills, concepts, and processes.

Upper elementary students will:

* Acquire and use multiplication and division facts, strategies, and concepts.
* Demonstrate knowledge of number basics, place value, comparing numbers, computing numbers, and ordering numbers.
* Manipulate and evaluate fractions, decimals, and percentages.
* Evaluate and describe data and graphs and other tools such as calendars and clocks.
* Develop an understanding of addition and subtraction.
* Explain the use of money, personal finance and personal financial literacy.
* Apply skills to solve a variety of problems.

Classroom Activities May Include But Are Not Limited To:

* Math fact challenges
* Use of manipulatives to understand concepts
* Cooperative learning
* Discussion
* Project based learning

What Can Parents Do?

* Discuss your child’s school day
* Encourage the use of numbers in daily life (baking, grocery shopping)
* Set high expectations for your child
* Provide a quiet place to study

Science

The Silver Academy prides itself on an innovative, creative, hands on science program that is designed to build on science concepts using real life experiences to enhance learning.

Fourth grade students will:

* Explore chemistry
* Observe and discover interactions between matter
* Learn and explore forms of energy
* Explore ecosystems and adaptation
* Examine nutrition and the body
* Examine matter with microscopes

Fifth grade students will:

* Examine light optics
* Evaluate the work of simple machines
* Examine earth’s forces
* Investigate heat
* Explore density

Classroom Activities May Include But Are Not Limited To:

* In class experiments
* Research and science projects
* Hands on cooperative sharing of ideas
* Writing and publishing scientific experiments and ideas

What Can Parents Do?

Parents Can:

* Provide a quiet place for their child to study.
* Take children to science museums and point out scientific discoveries.
* Ask students to explain the material they learned in Science class.
* Model curiosity about and an appreciation of the natural world.

Social Studies

Fourth grade social studies at The Silver Academy revolves around inquiry into developing questions about Pennsylvania’s past and present., the history of communities, the role technology plays in changing communities, and the rights and responsibilities of citizens.

Fifth grade social studies at The Silver Academy revolves around inquiry into developing questions about the United State’s past and present ranging from Native Americans in North America up to the United States in the 21st century.

Fourth grade students will:

* Examine the geography of Pennsylvania.
* Examine the natural regions of Pennsylvania early land and people.
* Learn about early exploration and settlement.
* Discover European colonies in Pennsylvania.
* Explore the events that led to the Revolutionary War, major turning points in the war and the effect the war had on Pennsylvania.
* Examine the effects World War II had on Pennsylvania.
* Explore Pennsylvania’s government today.

Fifth grade students will:

* Learn about Native Americans of North America.
* Examine explorers and their discoveries.
* Discover and locate original Colonies.
* Explore the events that led to the French and Indian War, major turning points in the war and the effect the war had on the United States.
* Explore the events that led to the Revolutionary War, major turning points in the war and the effect the war had on the United States.
* Examine the process of creating America's new government.
* Discover reforms in the 19th.
* Explore the events that led to the Revolutionary, major turning points in the war and the effect the war had on the United States.
* Explore the events that led to both World Wars, major turning points in the war and the effect the war had on the United States.
* Examine and explain events that brought the United States into the 21st Century.

Classroom Activities May Include But Are Not Limited To:

* Reading and writing about historical figures, places, or events.
* Creating and presenting individual and group projects.
* Viewing instructional videos.
* Participating in simulations and games that reinforce concepts learned.

What Can Parents Do?

Parents Can:

* Provide a quiet place for your child to study.
* Explore historical sites in the region and state.
* Discuss age appropriate community events and projects.

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Upper Elementary (Fourth and Fifth Grade)

Hebrew & Judaic Studies

Fourth grade students analyze and discuss the holidays and weekly Torah portion through the lens of The United Classroom [Hakita Hameuchedet] curriculum. Class discussions promote cooperation and successful learning and link good manners to Jewish sources and selected proverbs of Chazal (the Jewish sages).

Fifth grade students evaluate and discuss the holidays and the weekly Torah portion through the lens of The Thinking and Active Classroom [Hakita Hachoshevet v’Hapeilah] curriculum. Students learn problem solving and critical thinking skills which help them to make positive choices for themselves and their community.

The Holidays (Tal AM)

Upper elementary students will:

* Link holiday units to the Mishna (Oral Law) through the proverbs and commentaries of our sages. (For example, Yom Kippur is connected to the book of Yonah, Purim to Megillat Esther, Pesach to the Haggadah and Shavuot to Megillat Ruth.)
* Present and explain key concepts of the holidays. In the High Holidays unit, trace and illustrate the concept of Repentance (Tshuva) through the seven stages outlined by Rabbi Moses ben Maimon (Rambam). Students analyze the psychological consequences of mistakes and how mistakes affect others.

Weekly Torah Reading (Parashat Hashavua – Tal AM)

Upper elementary students will:

* Study and analyze a variety of commentaries on selected verses, introducing the concept of multiple answers and possibilities, which is fundamental to Jewish thought, scholarship, and tradition.
* Choose and interpret a commentary that best reflects their opinion.
* Explain and apply the meaning of the Parsha to one’s life, sharing it as a D’var Torah with family.

Prayer (Tefillah)

Upper elementary students will:

Torah

* Study the last portions of Sefer Breishit (Genesis).
* Learn traditional commentaries, asking questions about the text.

Prophets (Navi)

Students will:

* Begin study of the book of Joshua (Yehoshua).
* Focus on the themes of leadership and entering of the Land of Israel.

Building Positive Character (Konei Olam)

Students will:

* Virtually experience the sights and sounds of eight countries while learning good character traits (middot).
* Create a personal passport stressing ethical values applicable to their lives.
* Evaluate theme-based scenarios emphasizing traits of alacrity, truth, kindness, patience, thinking about others, being happy with what one has, honoring parents and teachers, and appreciation.

Prayer (Tefilah)

Fifth grade students will:

* Develop familiarity and fluency with daily prayers.
* Appreciate the purposes of prayer.
* Begin a lifelong quest for a deeper connection with G-d.
* Develop a growing comprehension of the content of the prayer.
* Learn to lead prayers in a synagogue.

Prophets (Navi)

Fifth grade students will:

* Study, comprehend, and retain the narrative of the book of Shoftim (judges).
* Apply ethical concepts to daily life.

Ethical Speech and Behavior (Yesodei Halashon)

Fourth and fifth grade students will:

* Develop positive communication skills through engaging stories, activities, and role-playing.
* Develop appropriate social skills and speech emphasizing empathy, respect, and privacy.

Torah

Together, fourth and fifth grade students will:

* Study the first four portions of Sefer Shmot (Exodus).
* Comprehend the narrative with Rashi commentary.
* Develop analytical skills.
* Apply ethical concepts from the Torah to daily life.
* Develop translation skills through expansion of Hebrew root, prefix, and suffix vocabulary.