



## Curriculum Guide

The Meridian School's mission is at the forefront of the planning and development of the school's educational program. In promoting a balance of mind and heart, Meridian's four core curricular subjects—math, science, social studies, and literacy and language arts— and six specialist subjects make up the foundation of the program. Each content area focuses on the acquisition of a set of given outcomes at each grade level in order to provide a scaffolded sequence of skills that result in fifth grade students who are well-prepared for middle school and beyond. Students balance their time between individual and collaborative work, reflecting on progress, and taking actions to further their academic skills.

Meridian has carefully considered and chosen the standards included in the curriculum. These standards reflect the skills and competencies our educators have deemed characteristic of students who are well-rounded critical thinkers and problem-solvers. These standards include Common Core Standards, Next Generation Science Standards, National Core Arts Standards, International Society for Technology Education standards, and others. Although Meridian's curriculum is aligned to these standards, teachers have the flexibility to approach the curriculum using techniques they feel most effectively fulfill Meridian's mission and philosophy.

Meridian's curriculum guide is an evolving document; as demands for skills and competencies change, so does Meridian's curriculum. Meridian's adaptations to these changes reflect the school's commitment to helping students emerge as contemplative, contributing, and empathetic members of their local and global communities.

For a more detailed version of our current curriculum map, please visit <https://meridianschool-public.rubiconatlas.org/Atlas/Public/View/Default>

# Fifth Grade

Fifth grade emphasizes both group and individual responsibility, in preparation for the transition from Meridian to middle school. 5th Grade students strive to communicate effectively and responsibly with others as they work alone and cooperatively. By setting goals, evaluating progress, and managing their time, fifth graders develop the study skills needed for secondary education. Thematic studies wrap specific subject areas into big-picture learning. Students practice good citizenship through social responsibilities such as volunteering at a food bank, serving as “buddy classes” for second graders, and taking leadership roles in school projects.

	FALL	WINTER	SPRING
<p><i>Literacy &amp; Language Arts</i></p> <p><i>Reading</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making good book choices</li> <li>• Thinking and talking about reading</li> <li>• Book genres</li> <li>• Readers Workshop routines</li> <li>• Written responses to reading</li> <li>• Checking understanding</li> <li>• Solving unknown words</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying main and supporting characters (protagonists, antagonists)</li> <li>• Thinking and talking about characters</li> <li>• Developing and revising a theory about characters</li> <li>• Making comparisons</li> <li>• Making inferences</li> <li>• Making connections across texts</li> <li>• Character analysis</li> <li>• Character point of view</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify story elements</li> <li>• Retell story orally in sequence</li> <li>• Gather evidence to support ideas</li> <li>• Make inferences about characters motives for their actions</li> <li>• Develop and express ideas and theories</li> <li>• Thinking around the reading</li> <li>• Rereading to check for understanding</li> <li>• How to listen and share with a partner</li> <li>• How to ask “questions” while reading to self-monitor for comprehension</li> <li>• Working in partnerships to aid in comprehension</li> </ul>
<p><i>Writing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writers Workshop routines</li> <li>• Responsibilities of teacher and student</li> <li>• Responsibilities of teachers and students during lessons, peer conferences</li> <li>• Use of the writer’s notebook</li> <li>• Deepening understanding of writing process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect entries about personal experiences</li> <li>• Choosing a topic of personal significance</li> <li>• Generating subordinate ideas</li> <li>• Learning the structure of essay</li> <li>• Finding evidence to support a thesis</li> <li>• Elaborating the stem of a the thesis</li> <li>• Crafting the essay: powerful leads, revision strategies, satisfying ending/conclusion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify themes in literature</li> <li>• Developing a thesis</li> <li>• Find evidence to support a thesis</li> <li>• Structuring a literary essay</li> <li>• How to expand on one theme</li> <li>• Defining a “truth” learned</li> </ul>
<p><i>Mathematics</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knows multiplication facts through 10 x 10, and can easily solve related division facts through 100 ÷ 10</li> <li>• Writes and evaluates numerical expressions with parentheses, and understands that parentheses indicate the order in which</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understands that in a multi-digit number each digit represents 10 times what it represents in the place to its right, and one tenth what it represents in the place to the left</li> <li>• Explain patterns in the number of zeroes in the answer when multiplying by powers of 10</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generates two number patterns given two different rules, and graphs both of them</li> <li>• Uses models and strategies to divide 2-, 3-, or 4- digit numbers by 2-digit numbers, with and without remainders</li> </ul>

	<p>operations are to be carried out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Writes expressions to record calculations; interprets expressions without evaluating them</li> <li>Uses models and strategies to divide 2- and 3- digit numbers by 2- digit numbers with and without remainders</li> <li>Adds and subtracts fractions with unlike denominators by rewriting the fractions so that they have the same denominator</li> <li>Estimates the answers to story problems that involve adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators, solves the problems, and assesses the reasonableness of the answers</li> <li>Understands that a fraction <math>a/b</math> means <math>a \div b</math></li> <li>Uses models and strategies to multiply a whole number by a fraction</li> <li>Understands that volume has to do with the amount of space taken up by a three-dimensional object, and is measured in cubic units</li> <li>Understands that a solid figure which can be packed using “n” unit cubes has a volume of “n” cubic units</li> <li>Measures the volume of a solid figure by counting the cubes it takes to fill it, with no gaps or overlaps</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explains patterns in the placement of the decimal point when multiplying or dividing by powers of 10</li> <li>Reads and writes decimals to thousandths using numbers, words, and expanded notation.</li> <li>Compares pairs of decimal numbers and uses <math>&gt;</math>, <math>=</math>, and <math>&lt;</math> symbols to record the comparison</li> <li>Rounds decimals to the nearest ten, one, tenth, or hundredth</li> <li>Uses standard algorithm to multiply multi-digit whole numbers</li> <li>Uses models and strategies to divide 2-, 3-, or 4-digit numbers by 2-digit numbers with and without remainders</li> <li>Uses models and strategies to add and subtract decimals to hundredths</li> <li>Multiplies fractional side lengths to find areas of rectangles, and represents fraction by fraction multiplication as rectangular areas</li> <li>Can explain why a given number multiplied by a fraction less than 1 results in a product smaller than the given number and why a given number multiplied by a fraction greater than 1 results in a product greater than the given number</li> <li>Solves story problems that involve dividing a unit fraction by a whole number and vice versa</li> <li>Converts among different sized measurement units within a given measurement system, and solves related word problems</li> <li>Make a line plot to a data set of measurements in fractions of a unit, and solves related problem</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adds and subtracts fractions with unlike denominators</li> <li>Uses models and strategies to multiply a whole number by a fraction and a fraction by another fraction</li> <li>Multiplies fractional side lengths to find areas of rectangles, and represents fraction by fraction multiplication as rectangular areas</li> <li>Solves story problems involving multiplication of fractions and mixed numbers</li> <li>Uses the formulas <math>V= l \times w \times h</math>, and <math>V= b \times h \times t</math> to find volume of rectangular prisms</li> <li>Finds the volume of a solid figure composed of two or more non-overlapping rectangular prisms by calculating the volume of each prism and adding the results</li> <li>Locates a point on a coordinate plane based on its ordered pair of coordinates. Identifies the x- and y- coordinates of a given point in a coordinate plane.</li> <li>Graphs points in the first quadrant of the coordinate plane to represent a problem. Describes the meaning of the values of coordinate points based on the context of a problem.</li> <li>Understands that the attributes of a category of two-dimensional shapes belong to all the subcategories of that category.</li> <li>Classifies two-dimensional shapes on the basis of their properties</li> </ul>
<p><b>Social Studies</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain Jefferson’s role in the Louisiana Purchase.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and describe the contributions of key individuals in shaping their country/culture</li> <li>Explain how key individuals help influence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilize research skills to identify specific details of a single historical event</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Explain how Lewis and Clark helped to form the Corps.</li> <li>● Give examples how the journey impacted Native Americans.</li> <li>● Identify the characteristics of successful team.</li> <li>● Explain the impact of the expedition on the expansion of the United States.</li> <li>● Utilize research skills to learn about members of the Corps or topics related to the Corps</li> <li>● Gather information and summarize informational text</li> </ul>	<p>modern day life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Depict daily in life in each country before and after the contributions of each individual</li> <li>● Draw a map of continent of study</li> <li>● Describe key historical figures and their contributions to the founding of the thirteen colonies</li> <li>● Retell motivations and reasons for the founding of the original colonies</li> <li>● Identify historical events that foreshadowed the Revolutionary War</li> <li>● Gather and summarize informational text</li> <li>● Connect American history with present-day American identities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Identify the values that were important to colonists and continue to shape American identity</li> <li>● Gather information and summarize informational text</li> <li>● Connect American history with present-day American identities</li> <li>● Draw and depict life during the colonial times</li> <li>● Explore the relationship between Manifest Destiny and Westward Expansion.</li> <li>● Identify the cause-and-effect relationship between Manifest Destiny and Westward Expansion.</li> <li>● Understand and experience how the pioneers recorded their history</li> </ul>
<p><i>Science</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Identify the steps in the scientific process.</li> <li>● Formulate measurable questions &amp; make predictions.</li> <li>● Define and inquiry and give examples as it relates to Lewis and Clark.</li> <li>● Develop an experiment that incorporates the steps and explain how you would set it up.</li> <li>● Observe and record data</li> <li>● Conduct experiments using the chosen variables</li> <li>● Maintain a record keeping journal of observations and data</li> <li>● Manipulate variables</li> <li>● Pollinate flowers using a bee stick</li> <li>● Organize and Analyze data from the experiment to create a presentation to share with the class.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Conduct experiments with Bromothymol Blue (BTB), ammonia, and vinegar to determine the reaction of an acid and a base on the indicator.</li> <li>● Determine the ph of a gas using BTB.</li> <li>● Determine whether the gases are heavier or lighter than air, an acid or a base, and whether it is an accelerant or and extinguisher of flame.</li> <li>● Compare and contrast three gases.</li> <li>● Describe the physical, emotional and social changes of puberty.</li> <li>● Explain that puberty is triggered by the endocrine system, specifically the pituitary gland.</li> <li>● Distinguish among definitions of erection, menstruation, nocturnal emission, ovum, puberty, and sperm.</li> <li>● Distinguish puberty facts from myths.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Using stream table materials to investigate the interactions between water and land.</li> <li>● Analyzing the materials that make up land and describing these materials on the basis of their properties.</li> <li>● Communicating the results of an investigation through record sheets, oral and written observations, and drawings.</li> <li>● Investigating the effects of slope, flow and natural land formations on erosion and deposition.</li> <li>● Designing and building models of landscapes, predicting how a landscape will affect the flow of water, and relating these modeled effects to land and water interactions on earth.</li> <li>● Accepting that humans can attempt to control and affect the interactions between land and water.</li> </ul>