



# Cobb County School District Parent's Guide to LEARNING in 5th Grade



## LEARNING

The Cobb County School District is committed to providing your child an academic experience that will develop his or her knowledge and skills at every grade level and to ensuring a strong foundation is established for your child to reach his or her greatest potential. Our teaching is aligned with content standards and our teachers bring those standards to life for your child through various strategies designed to meet your child's learning strengths and needs.

In Cobb County classrooms, students are immersed every day in learning experiences based on exploration, problem-solving, and critical thinking in all content areas including the core areas of Reading and English Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science; and in specialized content including Health, Physical Education, Visual Arts, Music, and Technology. Excellence in teaching guides your child's educational experience from Kindergarten to graduation and into life. Below is an overview of what your child will be learning this year.

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Fifth grade students are immersed in reading, writing, listening, and speaking throughout their day. Students delve deeply into a variety of literary and informational texts. They explore themes, ideas, and make connections to real-life. They read to understand using grade-level appropriate vocabulary, context, accuracy, and fluency. Students express opinions about what they're reading and writing through discussions with peers and adults. Technical texts, new media, and technology-based learning are used. Writing is informative and engaging, and peer conferencing and editing expands student knowledge of collaboration.

### MATHEMATICS

Fifth grade students extend their understanding of computation of rational numbers to include all operations with fractions and decimals. Application of the computation of rational numbers include converting measurements, as well as finding volume of rectangular prisms. Students begin their exploration of algebra with the coordinate plane in fifth grade. Critical thinking, math reasoning, algebraic thinking and real-world problem-solving support fifth graders in deepening their mathematical understanding and communication.

### SCIENCE

Science in 5th grade centers on a hands-on, student-centered exploration of our world. Earth, Life and Physical Science are studied throughout the year, giving students opportunities to build their understanding of core ideas while developing scientific skills. Students study important topics including an exploration of how the surface features of the earth are caused by constructive and destructive forces. Cells, microbes, and the classification of living things are also investigated. Finally, students explore chemical changes and the nature of electricity and magnetism. Technology plays a role in student learning, too. Students display data in programs that create graphs and charts, as well as through group and independent projects.

### SOCIAL STUDIES

Students become aware of causes and effects of conflict, including the Civil War. Fifth graders examine the U.S. Bill of Rights and the Constitution to understand how laws are made and influence the nation. Economic concepts and major economic events throughout history give perspective on current events. Key events, places and people in the U.S., as well as citizens' responsibilities ensure understanding of community and society. Maps and globes are used to connect standards about geography with a focus on generalization about information and geographical context.

## PARENT TIPS: Reading

Daily reading as a family is an enjoyable and important way to grow a love of learning. Share in the reading time by joining your student in quiet reading time. Students love to self-select books on topics and subjects they enjoy such as novels, informational (non-fiction) texts, magazines, and even online books. Talk with your child about their reading choices and encourage discussion about the book's themes, lessons, or ideas.

### SPECIALS

Observation and technical skills are supported through the creative arts at 5th grade. In Visual Arts, students plan for the creation of expressive artwork, use diverse media and techniques and engage in art critique and aesthetic exploration. In Music, students increase their individual skills by applying musical concepts to many genres and styles of music. Students focus on expressive qualities (phrasing, dynamics, and interpretation) in preparation for continued musical instruction in the middle grades and enjoyment for life. In Health, personal health is the focus. In PE, movement that emphasizes pattern and sequence is explored. Goal-setting and fitness assessment supports learning.





## Cobb County School District Parent's Guide to ASSESSING in 5th Grade



### ASSESSING

Your child will have a variety of classroom assessments that will aid his or her teacher in knowing how to provide the best possible instruction for your child. These assessments will also help you know how well your child is learning and what extra support may be needed. In addition, your child will participate in some standardized assessments that are used to gauge how well your child is doing in his or her grade level.

In the fall, 5th graders take the IOWA assessment. The IOWA is a standardized, norm-referenced assessment that measures academic achievement.

The state of Georgia requires that students in grades 3-5 participate in the annual administration of state assessments. The state assessment is called the Georgia Milestones Assessment System. Georgia Milestones measures how well students have learned the knowledge and skills in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. Students in grades 3 through 5 will take an End of Grade (EOG) assessment as part of the Georgia Milestones. In math and language arts, the EOG will include multiple choice and short answer questions. The language arts EOG has a third section, which focuses on writing. The science and social studies sections will include multiple-choice only.

All students in grades K-9 participate in the universal screening process for reading and math using a digital math inventory and a digital reading inventory. Your fifth grader's progress in reading and math will be measured three times a year using the reading inventory and math inventory online.

### TESTING IN 5TH GRADE

**MARK THE CALENDAR:** IOWA: October  
5th grade End of Grade (EOG) Assessment: April

**QUESTION TYPES:** Multiple-choice questions (called selected-response); Short answers (called constructed response); Extended response: The EOG has a writing section during which students write an extended response to a question derived from paired-passages students read.

### PARENT TIPS: Assessment

Parents can support students in easing any concern or anxiety about assessment:

- Talk with your child about any tests or assessments.
- Explain that assessment is a natural and important part of any learning. Tests help students understand their thinking better and make improvements for better performance in the future.
- Remind your child to pay attention to the directions and to listen carefully as they are read. Encourage your child to take time to understand the questions before selecting an answer.
- A good night's rest is the best way to arrive focused on test day!

Remember that assessment is an important and helpful part of learning for students of all ages. Your support and involvement in your child's education is critical to success in school and in life. Research shows when parents play a key role in their child's learning, their child's achievement excels.