



Grade Level Introduction: Fifth Grade 2016-2017

Teacher Contact Information

Mrs. Brenda Woody

BFA Vocal Music from Southern Illinois University

M.A. in Education from Northern Arizona U

A.C.S.I. Certified

Reading Endorsement and Early Childhood certification as of 2006

Teacher Coach for Branching Out educational Consultants

Teaching experience: 24 years

Years at CCS: 16 years

Email: brendaw@casaschristianschool.com

Classroom voicemail: 878-1304

Mr. John Gross

B.A. in Spanish & Psychology from Eastern Illinois University

M.A. in English Language/Linguistics from the University of Arizona

A.C.S.I. certified

Teaching experience: 10 years

Years at CCS: 2 years

Email: john@gross@casaschristianschool.com

Classroom voicemail: 878-1303

Grade Level Description

We view fifth grade at CCS as quite a pivotal year as we prepare our students for the exciting opportunities and responsibilities of middle school. In many ways, it is a rite of passage into the next chapter of their learning. We aspire to see each student reach academic excellence, so we strive to nurture an environment of respect, acceptance, servanthood, and love. When students feel loved and safe to take risks, we see tremendous growth, while an intrinsic love for learning is being cultivated. Although academic rigor requires a degree of sacrifice and hard work, we firmly believe that learning should be fun and engaging to be most beneficial. That is the aim of our fifth grade team.

Instructionally, we use a variety of approaches ranging from traditional paper/pencil work to 21st Century skills, which employ experiential activities such as problem-based and cooperative learning projects. Jesus truly was a Master teacher who used a variety of approaches to reach his audiences. Our lesson plans take into account the various learning styles that our students possess. The use of multiple instructional and evaluative tools broadens everyone's learning opportunities. These activities teach teamwork, delegation, organization, and self-regulation skills, just to name a few. This is all done from a biblical worldview.

Bible is taught and graded as an independent subject, although we constantly explore how all of our topics align with the character and nature of God and biblical truth. We use the Purposeful Design curriculum which covers Old Testament figures including: Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Joshua, many prophets, Samuel, Saul, David, Elijah, and Elisha. During Christmas and Easter, we look at how Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled by the coming of Christ. Each week, students are asked to memorize a scripture that corresponds with that week's lesson. In the fourth quarter we do a study on Joyce Meyer's The Battlefield of the Mind, which has some very practical and powerful lessons for application.

Having a school-wide math block allows us the luxury of doing some very specialized ability grouping for mathematics. Students are evaluated and placed in the section that best meets their needs with the option of those placements being adjusted if more acceleration or remediation is deemed necessary.

We enjoy the benefits of a daily, uninterrupted language arts block that includes several novel and author studies along with extension activities that students do independently. Exposure to a breadth of rich literature is a high

value at CCS. The Six Traits of Writing model is used as a foundation for our writing instruction. Because we want to see growth in all aspects of literacy, we connect our writing to our learning in every possible way. Process is emphasized as well as product in our writing instruction, but students produce a rather large volume of edited pieces throughout the year. They are given opportunities to read and write across genres including poetry, narrative, fiction, research, summary, journalistic writing, letters, brochures, and Internet blogs. We also require at least one oral recitation per semester.

Students visit our Mac lab at least once each week to meet numerous technology standards. Students use a variety of programs and websites to understand cybersafety, computer basics (vocabulary and functions), research skills, and software applications (PowerPoint, Word, Excel). They are also given instruction in keyboarding.

In our classroom, we also model the benefits and various applications of technology throughout our day. Some examples are smart board applications, document camera, YouTube demonstrations, worship videos with lyrics, science and math tutorials, and many more.

Fifth grade unit topics in science and social studies include: cells, human body systems, matter, force, motion, astronomy, European movement westward, Colonial life, American Revolution, early America, and the Civil War.

Grade Level Resources

Bible: Purposeful Design/*Battlefield of the Mind*

Novels: *Magician's Nephew; The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe; Where the Red Fern Grows; Holes; Island of the Blue Dolphin; Witch of Blackbird Pond; Bridge to Terabithia; Tuck Everlasting; Johnny Tremain; My Brother Sam Is Dead...*(many more)

Word Study: Greek & Latin Roots by Scholastic

Grammar: Easy Grammar/ Daily Paragraph Editing by Evan-Moor

Math: Saxon / Math Connects Course 1

Science: Harcourt

Spelling: Individualized lists using word family patterns and content vocabulary

Social Studies: Harcourt

Special Events & Field Trips

Halle Heart Center (Tempe, AZ)
Kitt Peak National Observatory
Camp (3 days in Prescott, AZ)
Missions' projects (varies each year)
Centennial Hall Drama presentation (if applicable to our content)

Grade Level Weighting

Grammar

Classwork	25%
Tests/Quizzes	45%
Homework	30%

Total	100%
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Spelling

Tests	60%
Homework	40%

Total	100%
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Math

Classwork	15%
Tests	50%
Homework	20%
Quizzes	15%

Total	100%
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Bible

Memory Verse	50%
Unit Test	50%

Total	100%
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Reading

Book projects/recitations	30%
Classwork	10%
Reading log	30%
Tests	30%

Total	100%
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Science

Classwork/Quizzes	25%
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Labs and Lab Sheets	25%
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Tests	50%
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Total	100%
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Social Studies

Classwork	40%
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Tests	60%
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Total	100%
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Elementary Report Card Weighting

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Bible	1.0
Math	1.0
Math Facts	.33
Reading	1.0
Grammar	1.0
Spelling	.4
Science	1.0
Social Studies	1.0
Art	.2
Music	.2
Physical Education	.4
Spanish	.4