



Grade Level Introduction: Fifth Grade 2019-2020

Teacher Contact Information/Credentials

Mrs. Brenda Woody

*BFA Vocal Music from Southern Illinois University
M.A. in Education from Northern Arizona University
A.C.S.I. Certified
Reading Endorsement and Early Childhood certification
as of 2006
Cognitive Coach and Trainer for Branching Out
Educational Consultants
Teaching experience: 26 years
Years at CCS: 23 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: 12 years
Years at CCS: 4 years
Email: john@g@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 various practices 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 the Master Teacher who used a variety of approaches to reach his audiences. Our lesson plans take into account the various learning styles and readiness levels of our students. 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.

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 Scripture that corresponds with that week's lesson.

We enjoy the benefits of a school-wide math block, which 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.

Language Arts 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. To promote growth in all aspects of literacy, we connect our writing to our learning in every possible way. Process is emphasized, as well as product. Still, 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.

To address the digital literacy needs of our students, we utilize Learning.com. This is an adaptive, online program that is engaging for learners regardless of readiness level while meeting nationwide International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) standards.

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

Grade Level Resources

Bible: Purposeful Design

Novels: *Magician's Nephew; The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe; Island of the Blue Dolphins; Sign of the Beaver; Chains; Behind Rebel Lines; George Washington's Socks*

Word Study: Greek & Latin Roots by Scholastic

Grammar: God's Gift of Language/ 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

Geography: Evan-Moor

Special Events & Field Trips

Halle Heart Center (Tempe, AZ)
Tucson Liberty Festival
Prescott Pines Camp (3 days in Prescott, AZ)
Mission projects (vary each year)

Grade Level Weighting

Grammar

Classwork	25%
Homework	20%
Tests/Quizzes	55%

Total	100%
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Spelling

Homework	30%
Tests	70%

Total	100%
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Math

Classwork/Homework	20%
Quizzes	30%
Tests	50%

Total	100%
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Bible

Classwork/Journal	10%
Memory Verses	50%
Unit Tests	40%

Total	100%
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Reading

Reading Log	20%
Classwork/Homework	30%
Assessments/Book Projects/Recitations	50%

Total	100%
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Science

Classwork/Labs/Homework	30%
Tests/Projects	70%

Total	100%
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Social Studies

Classwork/Homework	30%
Tests/Projects	70%

Total	100%
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