



## Grade Level Introduction: Fifth Grade 2021-22

### Teacher Contact Information/Credentials

#### **Mrs. Brenda Woody**

*B.F.A. 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: 29 years  
Years at CCS: 26 years  
Email: [brendaw@casaschristianschool.com](mailto:brendaw@casaschristianschool.com)  
Classroom voicemail: 878-1303*

#### **Mrs. Sonja Roll**

*B.S. Special Education and Rehabilitation from the  
University of Arizona  
Teaching experience: 4 years  
Years at CCS: First year here  
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### 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills, which employ experiential activities such as problem-based and cooperative learning projects. These activities teach teamwork, delegation, organization, and self-regulation skills, just to name a few. Jesus truly was the Master Teacher who used a variety of approaches to reach his audiences where they were. Our lesson plans take into account the various learning styles and readiness levels of our students. Throughout the week, we have student support experts who push in and pull students out for additional assistance or learning extensions. The use of multiple instructional and evaluative tools broadens everyone's learning opportunities.

**Bible** is taught 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.

Our **mathematics** instruction employs a gradual release approach, accompanied by small group guided practice. We design centers to provide spiral review, higher order extensions, and hands-on activities to meet the students where they are. Several times a week, we use Reflex math. This individualized and adaptive computer program is designed to help students learn and master basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts. All learners also have a subscription to another technology tool called Freckle which differentiates standard-based skills intuitively.

**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 through the use of **Thinking Maps**. 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, and brochures. 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; 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:** Go Math/Reagan Tunstall Guided Math/Meaningful Math

**Science:** Harcourt

**Spelling:** Individualized lists using word family patterns and content vocabulary

**Social Studies:** Harcourt

**Geography:** Evan-Moor

## Special Events & Field Trips

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%

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Total	100%
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### Spelling

Homework	30%
Tests	70%

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Total	100%
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### Math

Classwork/Homework	20%
Quizzes	30%
Tests	50%

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Total	100%
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### Bible

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

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Total	100%
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### Reading

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

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Total	100%
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### Science

Classwork/Labs/Homework	40%
Tests/Projects	60%

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Total	100%
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### Social Studies

Classwork/Homework	40%
Tests/Projects	60%

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Total	100%
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