September 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the fifth grade experience. We’re looking forward to working with your children and watching them learn and grow throughout the year. Some of our goals are:

• To provide a safe and secure environment for learning

• To improve organization, study skills, and work habits

• To develop a sense of responsibility for one’s work and actions

• To foster a sense of social awareness and sensitivity to others’ feelings and

needs

• To develop the knowledge and skills which will provide a foundation for future education

Village School

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Our program consists of language arts, math, science, and social studies. We often integrate several subjects into a unit of study. We support the curriculum with related field trips, enrichment programs, educational games, media, and art activities. In addition, there are four half-day parent conference opportunities.

This year we will continue to participate in our **Community Read** program by reading *The Julian Chapter*, which is a continuation of the book Wonder. If you would like to share this as a family, you may purchase this short book online. This book will continue to explore the themes of kindness and friendship.

**Language Arts**

In language arts, students draft, confer with each other and with the teacher, revise, and edit for publication. Students learn various kinds of writing: narrative, persuasive, informative and poetry. The main goal is that each student improves his or her ability to communicate effectively. Our objectives reflect the Common Core State Standards.

The reading program includes independent reading, book discussion groups, reading response logs, and whole-class discussions. Children are expected to read from many different genres. Students learn about story elements, elements of style, and ways to respond to books. They also learn strategies for decoding words, reading for fluency, and reading for understanding. All students read Hatchet and Fighting Ground. Students are required to read 30 minutes nightly. We will also focus on word study.

**Math**

Marblehead School District’s math program is GO Math. Materials and assessment results for this program can be found on the Think Central website. The website can be accessed using their student ID number at <https://www-k6.thinkcentral.com/ePC/start.do> This program aligns with the Common Core State Standards and Massachusetts Mathematics Frameworks.

Mathematics includes numeration, computation, measurement, geometry, fractions, decimals, and practical applications emphasized through problem-solving, graphing, and estimation. Individual growth is stressed through skill building, which uses success to motivate students to reach their individual potential.

**Science**

The fifth grade science curriculum covers physical science, life science, and earth science. Our curriculum includes two units from Science and Technology for Children (STC): Floating and Sinking and Ecosystems. The major emphases of fifth grade science are to focus, explore, create, and apply. The science units are based on the scientific method, which encourages students to make observations, predict outcomes, and draw final conclusions. Students utilize a hands-on approach to engage in the world of science.

**Social Studies**

The core of the fifth grade social studies program is the understanding of our American heritage. We study the early American history experience. The geography of the United States, including economics, agriculture and industry, is interwoven throughout. We emphasize the importance of study skills. Our overriding intent is to help students see how the past influences the present and the future by making connections to the world in which we live.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Allen

Natalie Belli

Lindsay Burke

Lora Clark

Jade Csizmesia

Dawna Deiana

Valerie DeGeorge

Jennifer DiGiammarino

Hannah Hood

Mary Kane

Emily Knight

MaryEllen (Hart) Kraft

Ashlee Leibman

Maura McDermott

Rena Mello

Rene Puopolo

Kate Rossinni

Janet Rumson

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Jane Sullivan

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