

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MCFARLAND

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Fifth Grade

2025 - 2026

(Last updated May 2025)

This overview is designed to provide information to parents about what is taught in the School District of McFarland. It does not list everything students are taught or all things which students experience. Instead, for each content area, it highlights some state standards and major skills or units that students are taught. For a more in-depth overview, please contact your child's classroom teacher(s).

The McFarland School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, religion, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, sex, including transgender status, change of sex or gender identity, English language proficiency, age, military status, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability in any of its student programs and activities.

READING
Units of Study

Students will:

- Read with accuracy and fluency (see Word Study section)
- Comprehend at grade level
 - Narrative: Summarize portions of the text including characters, big events and/or problem/solution
 - Information: Identify a main topic or central idea and key details in an informational text
 - Explain how visual and multimedia elements contribute to a text
- Demonstrate deep understanding and analysis of text
 - Notice changes in character(s) across the story and what causes the changes.
 - Compare or contrast two or more characters (traits, motivations &/or feelings), settings, or events using evidence from the text
 - Make logical inferences (predictions and conclusions) based on the text
 - Determine the theme or central ideas and identify evidence from within the text
 - Compare and contrast the structure of two or more informational texts (sequence, comparison, cause/effect, and problem/solution)
 - Discuss points of view (e.g. how might the reader's point of view or perspective differ from that of the author, narrator or characters across two texts and how does a point of view impact how events are described)
- Select and read good fit books independently with adequate stamina
- Engage in meaningful conversation about text

WORD STUDY & VOCABULARY
95 Phonics Core

Students will:

- Apply current phonics learning in reading and writing
 - Read multiple syllable words by blending sounds
 - Apply common reading and spelling patterns - short and long vowels, vowel teams, syllables, morphology (prefixes, suffixes and roots)
- Read with fluency
 - Pause at punctuation
 - Read with expression
- Determine the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases in grade-level reading and content using context clues (using sentences around word), and meaningful word parts.

WRITING
Units of Study

Students will:

- Engage in writing process (rehearses, drafts, revises, edits, publishes) with a variety of text types (narrative/story, opinion, informational)
- Use effective writing structures (lead, transitions, ending, organization)
 - Narrative: beginning, middle, end; Use transitions to signal order
 - Informational/Opinion: intro, facts/details/reason, conclusion; Use transitions to connect and develop ideas
- Continue to develop writing skills
 - Narrative: Use dialogue, description and pacing of actions
 - Informational/opinion: intro, facts/details/reason, conclusion; Use facts, details, formatting (e.g., headings), illustrations, and multimedia to develop and support writing
- Use appropriate language conventions in writing
 - Capitalization
 - Punctuation (end punctuation, apostrophes, quotation marks)
 - Complete simple and compound sentences with conjunctions (and, but, or)
 - Commas
 - Verb tenses
 - Italics, underlining, quotes with titles
- Write independently with adequate stamina

MATH

Bridges & Number Corner

Students will:

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
- Write and interpret numerical expressions
- Understand concepts of volume and relate volume to multiplication and addition
- Use a variety of strategies to add and subtract fractions
- Apply and extend what they know about multiplication and division of whole numbers to fractions
- Understand the place value system
- Perform operations with multi-digit whole numbers and with decimals to the hundredths place (0.01)
- Analyze patterns and relationships
- Represent and interpret data
- Understand concepts of volume and relate volume to multiplication and addition

SOCIAL STUDIES

Topics:

- Geography
- Explorers
- American Colonies
- Revolutionary War
- Constitution and Government
- Civil War

Students will:

- Construct maps using appropriate elements
- Analyze individuals, groups, and events to understand why their contributions are important to historical change and/or continuity
- Identify different historical perspectives.
- Classify the basic structures, functions and powers of governments.
- Use evidence to draw conclusions about probable causes and effects of historical events, issues, and problems.

SCIENCE

Topics:

- Ecosystems
- Weather and Water
- Earth and Space
- Properties of Matter
- Forces and Motion/Engineering

Students will:

- Use a model to show how energy moves through an ecosystem.
- Use a model to describe what causes observable patterns of changes in the sky or in space (moon phases, seasons, day and night).
- Research and communicate how communities can use science to protect ecosystems
- Describe where saltwater and freshwater is located on Earth.
- Explain how various factors affect the weather patterns in a location.
- Explain why the sun appears larger and brighter than other stars.
- Determine whether the mixing of substances creates a new substance.
- Provide evidence that when a change occurs to matter, the weight of the matter stays the same.
- Explain that gravity pulls objects toward Earth's center.
- Plan and carry out tests with constraints, and identify how a model can be improved.