



## FIFTH GRADE

### Classroom Overview

#### ❖ General Information:

- Rancho Santa Margarita Christian School (RSMCS) Fifth Graders begin each day in their classroom with their teacher leading them in pledges, prayers, and worship. Homeroom teachers instruct the students on the core subjects of math, science, language arts, social science, and Bible. The enrichment subjects of physical education, technology, music, Spanish, Art of the Master, Composer Countdown, and library are taught by teachers who specialize in those areas. All subjects are taught to meet or exceed the California State Standards. RSM Christian School is fully accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). All teachers are Christians and have valid teaching credentials.

### Spiritual & Social

#### ❖ Bible:

- 30 minutes, 4 days per week
- Emphasis on Christian character traits demonstrated by the lives of Old and New Testament Bible characters and how they apply to students' daily lives.
- Emphasis on encouraging Bible reading, memorization, and application. Students memorize and recite Bible memory verses and write reflections on their memory verses in their journals.
- Textbook: *The Fullness of Time, Living in God's Love* (BJU Press), *The Student Bible, New International Version* (Zondervan)

#### ❖ Chapel:

- Chapel each week with worship and message. Once a year, fifth grade students lead chapel service.

#### ❖ Social:

- Emphasis on Christian character development and biblical conflict resolution. Students are encouraged to incorporate this character trait into their daily lives and to acknowledge it in others.
- Focus on further developing students' group and independent study habits, organizational skills, as well as instilling academic and social responsibilities that will serve students throughout their school years and beyond.

### Academic

#### ❖ Mathematics:

- 50 minutes, 5 days per week
- Emphasis on computing and solving mathematical problems and developing reasoning skills. Areas of instruction include addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers, decimals, and fractions; ratios and proportions; and geometry.
- Special Activities: ACSI Math Olympics and annual school celebration of Pi Day
- Textbook: *My Math Grade 5* (McGraw-Hill), *Mad Dog Math*

## Academic Continued

### ❖ Language Arts & Reading:

- 100 minutes, 5 days per week
- Emphasis on reading, comprehending, and responding to historically and culturally significant works of literature, equipping students to analyze literature from a Biblical worldview.
- Emphasis on writing personal narratives with dialogue, persuasive essays, and responses to literature using 6 + 1 traits and *Write Reflections* techniques.
- Development of written and oral responses to literature. Students read novels such as *My Side of the Mountain*, *Wonder*, *The Lion*, *The Witch*, and *the Wardrobe* and a variety of other stories. Each book is accompanied by a project and an oral presentation.
- Weekly reading log and reflections on reading
- Accelerated Reader Program and Kids A-Z
- Special Activities: ACSI Creative Writing Festival, ACSI Speech Meet, ACSI Math Olympics, and ACSI Spelling Bee
- Textbooks: *Grammar* (Sadlier), *Vocabulary* (Sadlier), *Spelling* (Super Teacher Worksheets)

### ❖ Science & Health:

- 50 minutes, 3 days per week
- Emphasis on exploring a variety of areas within the field of science including life, physical, and earth sciences through the use of reading, research, discussion, participation in group and individual projects, and utilization of the scientific method and experiments.
- Special Activities: Labs
- Textbook: *Science 5* (BJU Press)
- Field Trip: Laguna Hills Community Center

### ❖ History & Geography:

- 35 minutes, 5 days per week
- Emphasis is on the history of the United States. Students study American Indians and early settlers, exploring when, why, and from where they came. They learn about the colonial government and its formation based on Christian principles. Students learn about the American Revolution, land conflicts, slavery, and westward expansion. They study the causes and effects of the War for Independence and study the people and events associated with the development of the U.S. Constitution while analyzing the Constitution's significance as the foundation of the American republic. Each student writes an in-depth state report, and each student brings a food item native to that state for a state dinner.
- Textbook: *Heritage Studies* (BJU Press), *Studies Weekly - United States*
- Field Trip: Riley's Farm for re-enactment of Revolutionary War

## Enrichment

### ❖ Physical Education:

- Two days per week students dress in their school-provided P.E. uniforms and participate in a variety of cardiovascular and strength-building exercises. Throughout the year students learn athletic fundamentals and play the following: flag football, volleyball, basketball, hockey, pickleball, badminton, and handball. In addition, fitness testing is conducted at the beginning and end of the school year.
- After-school sports programs are available to all fifth- through eighth-grade students. RSMCS competes against schools in the Christian Athletic League of Orange County, whose major emphasis is on maintaining a Christian attitude of sportsmanship, honesty, respect, teamwork, and responsibility. Sports programs are available for the following: girls and boys volleyball, boys flag football, girls and boys basketball, co-ed soccer, girls softball, and girls and boys track.

## Enrichment Continued

- All RSM Christian School students in fourth through eighth grade receive hands-on computer learning instruction from the classroom teacher as well as educational testing and assessments on a Chromebook through our one-to-one technology initiative. Emphasis for fifth grade is on more independent work using the various programs. Technology is integrated across fifth-grade curriculum, particularly in math, state reports, essay writing, and science.
- Applications taught: Google Docs, Google Sheets, Google Slides, Adobe Spark, Google Chrome
- Other Applications used: IXL, Prodigy Math, MAP by NWEA, Freckle, Vocabulary A-Z, TypingClub, Google Classroom
- ❖ **Music:**
  - Emphasis on choral singing, breathing, vocal exercises and rhythm. The students will learn the value of worship as a part of their daily lives and will have opportunities to lead worship at different points throughout the school year.
  - Special Activities: Perform at Grandparents Day, Christmas Chapel, and various other venues during the school year. There are two auditioned annual musical productions.
- ❖ **Spanish:**
  - Emphasis on teaching students how to speak in Spanish, including how to say the alphabet and vowels, colors, numbers, days of the week, months of the year, words related to the family, Bible verses and prayers, as well as basic commands and phrases. Students are taught songs in Spanish that reinforce their learning.
- ❖ **Art:**
  - A hands-on program that introduces students to the great artists and their work. Students engage in creative expression by painting their own masterpieces using the techniques of the masters.
- ❖ **Library:**
  - Emphasis on teaching students how to use the library as a resource to find age-appropriate books that match their interests for pleasure reading, as well as helping students develop research skills for integrated, cross-curricular projects.

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