



Elementary School

Grade 5

Curriculum Handbook

2019-2020

## **Table of Contents**

Our Educational Philosophy.....	3
An Introduction to Grade 5.....	4
Understanding by Design.....	5
The Gradual Release Model.....	6
Subject Specific Information:.....	7
Reading, Writing, Grammar and Spelling.....	7
Mathematics.....	8
Science .....	9
Social Studies .....	10
Mandarin.....	11
Character Education.....	11
Computers.....	13
Music .....	13
PE .....	14
The EFL programme in Grade 5 .....	15
Assessment in Grade 5 .....	15
Homework in Grade 5.....	15

## Our Educational Philosophy

The mission of TLC International School is to plant seeds of knowledge that can grow to equip students academically, socially, physically, and spiritually for temporal and eternal success.

Our vision is to provide the best in education, partnering with parents to prepare students for life with academic tools, character training, development of social skills and spiritual mentoring.

Education is more than intellectual development. True education develops the mind, body, spirit and social skills of the child. Children at TLC learn cooperation, integrity, respect, creativity, and self-discipline. Positive values and behavior are rewarded in an environment that provides a safe haven for children to attempt new challenges without fear of failure.



## An Introduction to Grade 5

The students in 5<sup>th</sup> grade range from 9 years old to 12 years old, but typically are 11. In our classes they can expect to arrive and unpack their bags to their own desks, tables and lockers. They will have 6 core classes including English Writing and Grammar, Math, Science, Social Studies, Reading and Mandarin. They have recess every day. We also have elective classes that will be once a week: Music, Computers, Library, Art, PE, and Character Education. On every other Friday morning we have an assembly with all of elementary to watch different classes perform and teach us about a character trait. On the other Fridays each class meets individually for Wolverine Time. There will also be a Star Student to honor someone who has done well with the character trait that week.

The students in 5<sup>th</sup> grade have 2 core teachers; Ms. Rachel for Writing and Grammar and Social Studies, and Ms. Michelle for Math and Science, so they will be expected to transfer to another classroom for the other classes. They are responsible for their own work and communication books, and they are expected to write down homework every day and complete it after school.

## Understanding by Design

“Our lessons, units, and courses should be logically inferred from the results sought, not derived from the methods, books, and activities with which we are most comfortable. Curriculum should lay out the most effective ways of achieving specific results... in short, the best designs derive backward from the learnings sought.”

- Grant Wiggins and Jay McTighe in their book Understanding by Design

UBD (Understanding by Design) is a technique of delivering content introduced by Grant Wiggins and Jay McTighe. The methods laid out in this educational technique offer a way of designing courses and delivering content through “Backward Design”. Students at TLC participate in units of study that cover standard driven topics determined by the AERO standards. TLC uses the UBD methods of teaching to ensure courses taught at TLC cover a series of standard based units. These units are designed in a way that ensures quality understanding is provided to all students enrolled in courses at TLC. Content delivery then includes a variety of quality teaching strategies and assessment techniques while keeping a standard based focus in every classroom. This unit-based planning approach follows a 3-stage process of Backward Design.

### **Stage 1 - Identify Desired Results**

In order to determine if our students are achieving our desired results, we must determine what the desired end result is. If we teach with this in mind, we make sure that everything that occurs in each course is bringing students closer to that goal.

### **Stage 2 – Determine Acceptable Evidence**

It is very important that before we teach, we determine what assessments and indicators we will use to determine if students are progressing to a understanding of each standard covered in the courses taught. Evidence may be gathered through projects, questioning, quizzes, papers, group projects, lab projects, written tests, discussions and more.

### **Stage 3 – Plan Learning experiences and Instruction**

After determining the end goal and identifying the evidence that will determine student achievement the daily lessons are determined. Daily lessons are carefully planned and carried out by teachers to support and reach those desired results. Each day students are given a clear objective that lines up and supports the mastery of the goals determined and indicated by the standards covered in each unit.

This approach ensures there are no gaps in the curriculum and all standards are covered in TLC International School’s courses. The aim is to ensure the best possible method of content delivery is given to all TLC students. The students’ learning and understanding is the focus in UBD’s “Backwards Design”. Through this method of “Backwards Design” we can ensure that the indicators of student learning are achieved in every single course offered at TLC.

## The Gradual Release Model

The Gradual Release model, developed by Doug Fisher and Nancy Frey, is a broadly recognized approach for moving classroom instruction from teacher-centered to student-centered. This model includes 4 steps: “I do it”, “We do it”, “You do it together”, and “You do it independently”.

During the “I do it” step, the teacher plays an important role in the delivery of the content. Explicit teaching, modeling, and ‘think alouds’ are common strategies used by the teacher during this step.

As the students begin to acquire the new skill or information, the responsibility of learning begins to shift from teacher-directed instruction to student-centered activities. During the “We do it” stage, the teacher uses strategic questions, prompts, and cues to guide students towards mastery of an objective.

“You do it together” is where students collaborate and depend on other classmates to meet objectives. During this time of instruction, the teacher will move among groups to clarify any misconceptions.

Finally, the full responsibility of learning shifts to the student during the “You do it alone” step. During this independent practice, students rely on their notes and classroom activities to work alone. This is a great opportunity for teachers to evaluate student work and provide further feedback.



## Subject Specific Information:

### Reading, Writing and Grammar

#### Reading

In reading class, the 5<sup>th</sup> graders are developing their ability to comprehend, read fluently, and analyse a variety of types of literature. The students are growing as readers through a series of units focusing on skills that align to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade AERO standards. The units / topics covered are:

- Fiction Comprehension Skills
- Summarizing Through a Variety of Methods
- Understanding Nonfiction Texts
- Characters in Fictional Writing
- Poetry (Mood, Tone, Literary Elements)
- Figurative Language
- Readers Theatre and Production

#### Language Arts (Writing and Grammar)

Language arts class focuses on students improving their English language and writing abilities. Students will complete a series of units designed to strengthen them and push them to set and achieve goals as a writer. The students are developing their writing skills through studying and practicing grade level appropriate grammar, proper mechanics, and following the writing process to produce a number of writing topics. The students will participate in writing conferences, peer reviews, research topics, and set individual writing goals. Students will alternate between grammar studies and writing units.

##### The grammar units to be studied include:

Sentences – Structure and Mechanics

Nouns – Common, Proper, Singular, Plural, Possessive Singular and Possessive Plural

Verbs – Actions, Linking, Objects, Helping, Verb Tenses and Irregular Verbs

Pronouns – Singular, Plural, Object Pronouns, Possessive Pronouns and Reflexive Pronouns

Adjectives/ Adverbs – Adjectives, Adverbs, Comparing with Adjectives and Special Forms of Adjectives

Prepositions – Objects of the Preposition and Prepositional Phrases

##### The writing units to be studied include:

Compare and Contrast Essays

Business Letters

Narratives

Book Reviews

Research Reports

Imaginative Instructions

## Mathematics

In math class, our goal is to create an understanding of how and why we use numbers in real life situations. We use real world problems to create interest and use materials we can manipulate to increase our understanding of how math works. We try to change our thinking to not just memorizing facts but understanding what a problem is really representing and what the answer then means. We have a focus on cooperative learning and encourage each other to succeed.

We use authentic assessments in addition to the traditional tests and quizzes in order to truly see if the students understand how to use the information they have learned in a real world situation. These authentic assessments are more than just memorizing the information, but actually using real world problems and solutions. They often times use manipulatives and extra materials instead of solving math problems on a page.

We also encourage the use of Khan Academy online. This wonderful tool helps us to assign extra practice to the students that need it.

### Units Studied:

Unit 1: Place Value and Decimal Fractions

Unit 2: Multi-Digit Whole Number and Decimal Fraction Operations

Unit 3: Addition and Subtraction of Fractions

Unit 4: Multiplication and Division of Fractions and Decimal Fractions

Unit 5: Addition and Multiplication with Volume and Area

Unit 6: Problem Solving with the Coordinate Plane



## Science

At TLC 5th grade science students are learning to discover the world through the eyes of a scientist. The students in this course will participate in conducting research, conduct experiments that follow the scientific process, record data, analyse data and collaborate to grow in their scientific knowledge in accordance with the topics studied. This course is based on 5<sup>th</sup> grade AERO standards. During this course students will become familiar with the concepts listed below and complete units of study on the listed topics below. Each unit consists of 4-6 weeks of instruction, activities, experiments, and assessments. Students are expected to show understanding of the topics explored through a variety of evidences.

### Units Studied:

Unit 1: Minerals and Rocks

Unit 2: Fossils and Dinosaurs

Unit 3: Matter

Unit 4: Energy and Heat

Unit 5: Weather

Unit 6: Biomes

Unit 7: Interactions in an Ecosystem

Unit 8: Changes in an Ecosystem

Unit 9: Sound

Unit 10: Light



## Social Studies

At TLC 5th grade social studies students are learning to discover the world through the eyes of a historian. The students in this course will participate in conducting research, writing papers, creating projects, and collaborating to grow in their historic knowledge in accordance with the topics studied. This course is based on 5<sup>th</sup> grade AERO standards. During this course students will become familiar with the concepts listed below and complete units of study on the listed topics below. Each unit consists of 4-6 weeks of instruction, activities, projects, and assessments. Students are expected to show understanding of the topics explored through a variety of evidences.

### Units Studied:

Introduction: Review of Geography

Unit 1: The World and Early People

- The World's Geography
- Early People

Unit 2: Early Centers of Civilization

- The Tigris and Euphrates Valley
- The Nile Valley
- Asia and the Americas

Unit 3: Eastern Civilizations

- Southwest Asian Civilizations
- Asia's Classical Age

Unit 4: Western Civilizations

- The Ancient Greeks
- The Ancient Romans

Unit 5: The Rise of Later Civilizations

- Europe After the Romans
- Africa and Asia
- The Americas

Unit 6: The Spread of Civilizations

- New Empires
- The Growth of Trade

Unit 7: The Early Modern World

- Europe and the Western Hemisphere
- The Eastern Hemisphere

Unit 8: Toward the Present Day

- Times of Rapid Change
- Times of War and Times of Peace
- Global Challenges

## Mandarin

### Mandarin Class of G5

Curriculum: FL-G5 《Chinese for G5》

SL-YB3 《Easy steps to Chinese3》

**Class:** Students in G5 will be put into three different classes. If the student speaks Mandarin at home, he/she will be put into the first language Mandarin class (FL-G5). If the student speaks other languages at home, he/she will be put into a second language Mandarin class SL-YB3. But we do have some exceptions: if the student's Mandarin level is lower than his/her normal level, we will put him/her in the lower level Mandarin class. If a first language Mandarin student has low Mandarin comprehension, he/she will be put into the second language Mandarin class. If a second language Mandarin student has very good Mandarin comprehension, he/she will be put into the first language Mandarin class.

**Assessment:** Assessments will be given for each unit/chapter. We make our own Mandarin assessment papers.

**Homework:** The students in G5 have Mandarin homework about 20 minutes per day.

**Class Frequency:** Students in G5 have a 40-minute Mandarin class every day.

### G5 中文班

教材: FL-G5 《语文（五年级）》

SL-YB3 《轻松学中文3》

**分班:** G5 的学生被划分为三种不同类型的中文班。如果一个学生在家说的是中文, 他/她将被分在第一语言中文班 (FL-G5)。如果一个学生在家说的是其他语言, 他/她将被分在第二语言中文班 SL-YB3。当然, 我们也有一些特例: 如果一个学生的中文水平低于他/她的正常年级水平, 他/她将被分在一个较低水平的中文班。如果一个第一语言的学生的中文理解力较差, 他/她将被分在第二语言中文班。如果一个学生的中文理解力很好, 他/她将被分在第一语言中文班。

**测试:** 根据每个单元/章节的内容给出相应的测试。我们使用的是自己做的测试卷。

**家庭作业:** G5 的学生每周有大约 20 分钟的家庭作业。

**上课频率:** G5 的学生每天有 40 分钟的中文课时间。

## Character Education

Students have one character education lesson per week which lasts for 40 minutes. This lesson is given by a specialist character education teacher. The lessons will focus on one character trait per month and will follow the following schedule for the year:

<b>Month</b>	<b>Character Trait</b>
August (19-30)	Intro/Dream Theme
September (2-27)	Boldness
October (Oct 7-Nov 1)	Trust
November (5-27)	Forgiveness
December (2-20)	Justice
February (Feb 3-28)	Ingenuity
March (2-27)	Humility
April (Mar 30-Apr 30)	Diversity
May (4-29)	Unity
June (1-24)	Review traits

Students will normally listen to a story in the lesson that illustrates the character trait. They will discuss the meaning of the word and think about how that character trait can be applied to themselves and their families. The character trait is also the theme of the weekly assemblies where songs, presentations, and certificates will be about the character trait that is the theme of the month.



## Computers

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students have computer class once a week for 40 minutes in the elementary computer lab. Each lesson objectives are based on 2017 National Educational Technology Standards for Students (NETS) initiated by the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE). There is a variety of resources/materials used for instruction. They will learn how to produce quality work, and use technology as a tool for problem solving, decision making and research.

Unit 1: Technology Operations and Concepts
Unit 2: Typing
Unit 3: Digital Citizenship & Safety
Unit 4: Internet Navigation
Unit 5: Communication and Collaboration
Unit 6: Research and Information Fluency
Unit 7: Multimedia & Presentation Tools
Unit 8: Computational skills

## Music

In the music lessons, students learn to appreciate music and the different ways one can create sound. They will sing, play and learn the theory of percussion and string instruments. They will study composers and dance movements. They will have quizzes and practical tests for purposes of evaluation and assessment.

Being creative in music gives students the opportunity to learn to think both creatively and critically. Critical thinking includes the ability to understand, respond to and talk about various musical compositions. By teaching students to perform, notate and appreciate music, we can enhance their skills related to creativity and critical thought.

## PE

In the PE lessons, students have the opportunity to grow in their fitness and athletic abilities. They will acquire the knowledge, processes, skills and confidence needed to engage in meaningful physical activity both now and in the future.

The learning goals for PE are as follows:

- Students will be taught a variety of exercises and skills that will develop their agility, flexibility, strength, reaction time, balance and coordination.
- Students will learn how to work as a member of team in a variety of games such as: soccer, volleyball, basketball, dodgeball, American football, team races, gymnastics and acrobatic movements.
- Students will understand the value of health and good hygiene.

The requirements for the Physical Education lessons are as follows:

- Tennis shoes, trainers or sneakers.
- Appropriate clothes.
- Cooperation.
- Communication.
- Teamwork and sportsmanship!



## The EFL programme in Grade 5

When students enroll at TLC, they take an entrance exam. The results of this exam help administration determine if a student needs EFL classes. These students are two or three grade levels behind in English. An EFL student spends an hour and a half in a specialized EFL class each morning. These classes give more focused attention on building these crucial beginning English skills:

### **EFL 3-Grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>**

EFL 3 focuses on helping students build vocabulary, strengthen oral grammar skills, increase reading comprehension and fluency, and improve their writing skills and idea development. Students in EFL 3 still need development of these skills before being able to mainstream. EFL 3 student will use the textbook *On Our Way to English* which sets up a strong structure. These are available in each of the grade levels. In EFL 3, students are expected to complete EFL homework focused on reading, grammar, writing, and vocabulary as well as the homework assigned in their core classes. EFL homework is a tool to help students grow and understand English more.

### **Exiting EFL**

TLC has criteria for mainstreaming students that outlines specific requirements when they can join their grade level classes. This needs recommendation from the EFL and Core teacher. Parental permission is also a requirement that needs to be followed. The student needs to have demonstrated a growth in reading as shown on the F&P assessment, the MAP RIT score, the core and EFL class grades. It is expected that a student should ideally be within one grade level of their peers in reading.

## Assessment in Grade 5

Assessments in 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be reflected by the Aero standard that is taught throughout the unit. Teachers have pre-planned tests and quizzes to determine whether or not the students are proficient in the area. There will be about one quiz, one test and a possible authentic assessment for every unit taught. Students will be notified in advance of all tests.

## Homework in Grade 5

Homework is only given to students as reinforcement of a topic discussed, taught and practiced at school. Teachers give time in class for students to at least begin homework and ask questions while in class. Reading should happen every night for 30 minutes and be recorded in a reading log notebook. Math and language arts have worksheets almost daily, but much can be finished in class and should not take more than a half hour to finish at home. Social studies and science will have only occasional homework.