



Washington Square Academy

Curriculum 2025-2026

Grade 5

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English

Objectives

Students will recognize and compose texts of differing types and purposes; understand literary elements and devices; understand the meanings of words in context; acquire and apply academic vocabulary; understand word roots; understand and apply the conventions of Standard English; identify the main idea in a text; cite supporting evidence from a text to support analysis; understand point of view; learn and apply conventions of oral discussion and presentation.

Texts & Reference Materials

Literature:

(Note that selections may vary by academic year.)

Novels & Plays:

- *Number the Stars*, Lois Lowry
- *Holes*, Louis Sachar
- *The Miracle Worker*, William Gibson

Selected Short Stories:

- *Grimm's Fairy Tales*
- *Selected Fairy Tales*, Hans Christian Andersen
- *In the Land of Happy Tears: Yiddish Tales for Modern Times*, David Stromberg

Selected Poems:

- "There Is No Frigate Like a Book," Emily Dickinson
- "Jabberwocky" Lewis Carroll
- "Oranges," Gary Soto

Selected Works of Non-Fiction:

- "Girls Who Rocked the World," Michelle McCann
- "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind," William Kamkwamba



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Language:

- *Wordly Wise* Vocabulary Study, Levels 5-8
- *The Rooted Mind*: Latin and Greek Roots Challenge
- Teacher-generated materials
- Selections from NoRedInk.com and IXL.com

Content

Literature:

- Identify and describe literary themes
- Understand plot structure
- Identify the writer's tone
- Analyze words and sentences as they support theme
- Understand and identify point of view
- Understand, analyze, create, and perform poetry (spoken word poetry; poetry slams)
- Cite textual evidence to support analysis

Language and Writing:

- Write argumentative, narrative, and informative essays
- Produce clear, coherent, well-developed passages of writing, with organization and style appropriate to task, purpose, and audience
- Strengthen writing through editing and revision; create multiple drafts
- Conduct research to support knowledge
- Engage in structured debate
- Understand how the use of various sentence types (simple, compound, complex, compound-complex) add variety to writing
- Be able to recognize and rearrange phrases and clauses in a sentence; identify and correct misplaced or dangling modifiers
- Demonstrate command of Standard English: punctuation; capitalization; spelling
- Acquire and use academic vocabulary
- Recognize, understand, and use figurative language
- Understand the meanings of words in context



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Mathematics

Texts & Reference Materials

- [Singapore Intensive Math](#)
- [Art of Problem Solving](#)
- Teacher-generated materials

Math 5 Pre-Algebra Honors

Number Sense:

- All operations of integers and fractions
- Fractions, decimals, and percent conversions

Algebraic Expressions:

- Order of operations
- Translating and evaluating expressions
- Distributive property
- All operations expressions

Equations & Inequalities:

- Solving one/two-step/multi-step equations and word problems
- Solving one/two step inequalities and word problems

Ration, Proportion, & Percent:

- Rates/unit rates and proportional versus non-proportional relationships
- Proportion word problems
- Scale drawings and models
- Similar figures
- Percent proportion and equation
- Discount, markup, tax, tip, commission



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- Percent of change

Math 5 Honors

- Fractions
- Geometry
- Long Division
- Long Multiplication
- Word Problems
- Percentage
- Decimals
- Perimeter and areas
- Factoring (GCF, LCM, LCD etc)
- Composite figures
- 3D figures
- Volume and Surface Area applications
- Tree Diagrams



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Science

WSA's Science Curriculum is informed by the [Next Generation Science Standards](#) (NGSS).

Objectives

Students will acquire foundational knowledge of the Scientific Method, systems of life on Earth, and human anatomy. Students will also understand, through theory and practice, how to collect, compile, and analyze data.

Texts & Reference Materials

- Marshall Cavendish Education, *Lower Secondary: Science Matters*
- Teacher-generated materials

Content

The Nature of Science:

- The Scientific Method
- Models of cells
- Structures and functions of plant and animal cells; similarities and differences
- The microbial world
- Viruses and bacteria (functions and replication)
- Lab: Swabbing for Microbes in Yogurt and on the Human Cheek

Life on Earth:

- Component of the Earth's systems
- Plate tectonics
- Effects of human activities
- Ecology
- Vertebrates and invertebrates
- Classification of animals
- Classification of plants
- Water, phosphorous, and nitrogen cycles



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- Lab: Self-Sustaining Terrarium

Human Anatomy:

- Basic human anatomy
- Systems: cardiovascular, respiratory, and muscular
- Lab: Biomedical Engineer: Make a Digestive System



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Social Studies: History and Belief Systems of the Ancient World

Objectives

Research and Inquiry:

- Students develop research skills by asking questions, gathering information from primary and secondary sources, and evaluating the reliability of sources.

Critical Thinking:

- Students analyze historical events and multiple perspectives to develop critical thinking skills; make reasoned judgments; compare and contrast the treatment of a topic in primary and secondary sources; analyze in detail a series of events as described in a text; cite specific textual evidence to support analysis; summarize points of agreements and disagreement; and demonstrate their ability to reevaluate their thinking after exposure to new evidence and lines of reasoning.

Communication:

- Students respond thoughtfully to diverse perspectives; practice communicating their ideas effectively through writing, speaking, and delivering visual presentations.

Texts & Reference Materials

Teacher-selected and -generated materials including historical periodicals and primary sources

Homo Sapiens During the Neolithic Revolution:

- Archeology
- Human adaptations and characteristics of early human society
- Research project: Ancestral Family Tree
- Ancient China and Asian philosophies:
 - Legalism
 - Confucianism
 - Daoism
- Hinduism: caste and identity
- Dynasties and achievements
- Political roles and systems



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- Geography and role of geography
- Terracotta warrior
- Silk Road
- Project: Mock Trial

Ancient Greece:

- Geography of the eastern Mediterranean
- Early Greek culture
- Classical Greek Myths
- Comparisons and contrasts between Athens and Sparta
- Research project: Greek Gods
- Project: Olympus Convention

Ancient Rome:

- The rise and fall of the Roman Empire
- The emperors
- Parallels with ancient Greece
- Roman Gods



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World Language: Introduction to Spanish

Texts & Reference Materials

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt: ¡Avancemos! Level 1
Teacher-generated materials

Content

Grammar & Vocabulary:

- Greetings
- Classroom
- Numbers, weekdays, and months
- Colors
- Body parts
- Feelings
- Verbs: Words as they express actions, states, or occurrences; the infinitive forms of verbs and their importance in Spanish
- Adjectives: Words as they modify or describe nouns; agreement in gender and number between adjectives and nouns; comparative and superlative
- Pronouns: Introduction to subject pronouns (yo, tú, él/ella, nosotros/as, vosotros/as, ellos/ellas) and their usage
- Nouns: Words that represent people, places, things, or ideas; the genders (masculine and feminine) and numbers (singular and plural) of nouns
- Commands
- Alphabet, accents, and conjugations

Spanish Culture & Daily Life

- Spanish holiday traditions
- School and work life
- Family and friends