

STEM SCHOOL HIGHLANDS RANCH FIFTH GRADE QUICK START PARENT GUIDE

5th Grade Vision: We are a community of real-world problem solvers who believe in fostering innovation, independence, time management, and organization skills for students' success in middle school and the future.

Fifth Grade Team

Mrs. Amos, Ms. Harper, Mrs. Elliot, and Ms. O'Toole

Schedule

Students are divided into four Homerooms. Classes start at 7:40am with morning announcements followed by the Classroom Meeting/Community Time. Students arriving after 7:40 are marked tardy.

7:30am-7:40am	Soft Start
7:40am-8:00am	Classroom meeting/Community Time
8:00am-9:30am	Math
9:30am-10:20am	Specials
10:20am-12:00pm	Literacy
12:00pm-12:25pm	Flex Time
12:25pm-1:15pm	Lunch and Recess
1:15pm-2:30pm	M/W/F: Science and Engineering Tu/Th/F: Social Studies
2:35pm	Dismissal

Specials Rotation

Students at STEM are given the opportunity to engage in learning Music, Art, Physical Education, and Chinese Language and Culture. The Specials classes rotate every 2 weeks.

Instructional Assistants

STEM School Highlands Ranch is proud to provide a full time Instructional Assistant in 5th grade classrooms to offer support to the students each and every day. Having an instructional assistant in the classroom provides consistency for the teachers and students. Instructional assistants work with small groups, one-on-one support as needed and work to develop rapport with the students. The teachers create a schedule for the IA to ensure that students receive the guidance and support they need to grow. Our assistants are extremely valued and we expect that they are respected as any other adult on campus.

Lunch Numbers

Each student is assigned a DCSD identification number that stays with them throughout their DCSD career. This number is used at lunch time to access their lunch account funds and must be memorized to keep the lunch line moving at a steady pace.

Recess & Lunch

Students have this free time to talk with their friends and play on the elementary playground. All students are expected to have weather appropriate clothing as we only stay inside for recess if the weather is unusually harsh. The students enter the cafeteria in the Hot Lunch line or find their designated seat to eat their cold lunch and have 20 minutes to eat. They are expected to chat in an inside voice as the cafeteria gets loud quickly. We ask that the students' primary focus be on eating rather than socializing as lunch time is limited and we want each student to get the nutrition they need to learn.

Field Trips

Field trips are thoughtfully planned to give unique, hands-on educational experiences.

Snow Mountain Ranch

Snow Mountain Ranch (YMCA of the Rockies) is near Winter Park and is a highlight for the students in 5th grade. This mandatory trip combines learning, nature, outdoor activities and fun to expose students to subject matters they may not have seen before. This trip is from Wednesday to Friday in January and gives the students the independence they grow from.

Students are divided into groups to take daily classes such as rock climbing, archery, forest ecology, winter survival, snowshoeing and cross

country skiing and are expected to capture the learning highlights in their journal. All students eat their meals in the dining hall and enjoy sitting with friends and chatting about their experiences. In the evening they participate in night-time activities such as sledding, ice skating, roller skating, table tennis and basketball, and inside pool time. At the end of a long, fun day, the students unwind with their groups before heading to bed in their assigned sleeping room. When the students return to STEM in the afternoon on Friday, they are exhausted but filled with a new sense of independence and personal growth.

Revolutionary War Reenactment

5th grade has also an opportunity to understand history and characters portrayed surrounding the Revolutionary War, organized every year in Chatfield State Park.

Williamsburg

The yearly trip to Williamsburg, Virginia, is an optional week long trip with students and teachers. The focus of this trip is the rich history of the United States and the daily schedule is packed with fun, educational experiences.

Museum of Nature & Science

Water Bottles

Students must carry water in leak proof bottles in order to stay hydrated. All water bottles need to be clearly labeled in order to stay out of the ever-growing Lost and Found.

School Supplies/Technology

Personal laptop computers are required for 5th grade along with a protective case. Parents are required to sign a contract at the beginning of the school year around using computers in an appropriate manner and not touching other students' computers. A list of recommended computers/operating systems is given to parents. Small earbuds are also required for iReady instruction and other audio instruction. Individual teachers will also give families a list of other needed supplies.

Snacks

Snacks are encouraged either during math class or morning recess. Snacks may not be eaten while using a computer. Please plan on only sending 1-2 healthy snacks with your student each day.

Library

The STEM library consists of white book shelves around the elementary hallways with books divided by age appropriate reading levels. This system ensures books are readily available for students to use and place in baskets when they are done. Individual classrooms also have a collection of books for students to use and return when done.

Birthday Celebrations

We love to celebrate your students' birthday at STEM, but also value instructional time. Birthdays will be shared on the morning announcements and they are given a birthday pencil. With advance notice to the classroom teacher, your child also may bring in an edible, preferably healthy treat or goodie bag to share with the class but this is not required. Please reach out to your child's homeroom teacher to find out about any dietary or allergy concerns.

Bathroom Expectations

All classrooms require students to "sign out" before they leave the class for the restrooms. Students are expected to keep voices down in the halls and restrooms, to wash hands and to return to class promptly.

Volunteering

Volunteering in the classroom is a great way to help the teacher and to be involved and informed of what your student is learning in the classroom. There are limited opportunities to volunteer in the classroom so please remember to allow other parents to sign up for volunteer opportunities as well. Many times, your student's teacher will plan a special activity for you to do with the class during your scheduled volunteer time. If for some reason you cannot make it for a scheduled volunteer time, please remember to be courteous and give the classroom teacher sufficient notice. This will ensure that they may have time to prepare an alternate lesson for the class.

**5th Grade Spartans,
Yes We Are!
We are looking forward to a great year in 5th grade!**