



CLASS OVERVIEW & OVERARCHING GOALS

The Klickitat class is the bridge between upper elementary grades and the middle grades. The learning in this fifth and sixth grade class is both hands-on and at the same time increasingly dealing with abstract concepts. Fifth and sixth grade is a place where students learn to think about the relationship between ideas and concepts. Developing social emotional intelligence, interpersonal and intrapersonal people smarts, and improving study skills is a primary focus of the Klickitat classroom.

MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES

In the Klickitat classroom, learning activities and overall curriculum are planned with the multiple intelligences in mind. The objective is to make every lesson rich with texture and accessible to different kinds of minds. At the fifth and sixth grade level, students are increasingly self-aware and analytical. Using the vocabulary of multiple intelligences gives these young minds an additional tool to think about themselves and the world.



LITERACY

Reading and writing are embedded into all areas of the curriculum and are crucial to Gardner's fifth and sixth grade students. They read texts in a variety of forms, such as books, newspaper articles, articles on the Internet, and their own writing. Students are asked to think about topics such as theme, literary devices and meter in poetry and fiction. In nonfiction, students focus on efficient and accurate note taking, and distinguishing nuances of fact and opinion.



Writing in Klickitat is as varied as the reading. Klickitat students write, revise, critique and share their own fiction and poetry in a writer's workshop style setting. Students create both research papers and persuasive essays. In fifth and sixth grade, spelling and grammar lessons are designed to target the needs of writers in their age group. As these students attempt to express increasingly nuanced and abstract thoughts in more complex language, grammar, vocabulary and spelling lessons are designed to support new levels of depth and precision.



MATHEMATICS

In the fifth and sixth grades, the focus of math becomes less on numbers as representing objects and more to numbers as representing relationships to other numbers. Topics typically covered in fifth and sixth grade include ratios, adding, subtracting, dividing and multiplying fractions and decimals, data analysis, and beginning algebraic equations. Students show evidence of their learning in a variety of ways: solving and creating problems in groups and individually; solving real world problems (such as figuring the tax and tip from items on a menu); and showing conceptual models in a variety of ways (for example showing a number in fraction, decimal, percentage and diagram form).



THEMATICS

Each term Klickitat students study a topic from science or world culture in an in-depth and thematically integrated way. Students investigate a unit of study for weeks, immersing themselves in their inquiry through exposure to literature, art, field trips, artifacts, hands-on investigations, and exploration. Students typically produce writings and projects that demonstrate learning in an aspect of their study. Students then present their work at a celebration of learning event where parents and community are invited. Projects presented at this event have included plays, skits, historical reenactments, classroom museum displays, interactive science fairs, slideshow presentations, living history museums, and more. Topics explored in Klickitat have included the Revolutionary War, Cell Biology, Ancient Greece, Poetry, Civics, and more.



FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are an integral component of the Klickitat curriculum. Examples include outdoor school, OMSI, Clark College, The Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Rice Museum of Rocks and Minerals, camping trips, and many more.

SPECIALISTS

Our fifth and sixth grade students participate in a variety of specialists classes, including PE, Health, Science, Art, Spanish, and Music. Specialists integrate the thematic studies into their curriculum as well, reinforcing the deep learning happening in the classroom. By providing our students with opportunities to use their bodies and brains in a variety of ways, we celebrate the multiple intelligences approach to learning.