

## Grade 5 ELA Unit 1

Dear Grade 5 ELA Families,

Welcome to the first 5th grade unit in English Language Arts! We would like to give you an overview of the unit and what your children will be working on as readers and writers.

In this unit, your children will be reading nonfiction texts and writing feature articles.

**In reading**, your children will be selecting a topic that interests them and reading articles and books to learn as much as they can about that topic. Topics include endangered species, ecosystems, robots, jobs, and natural disasters. Through these texts, your children will be studying:

- Main ideas
- Supporting details
- Text structure
- Topic-specific vocabulary

**To share** the expert knowledge your children will undoubtedly develop, they will teach a partner about their topic! Your children will prepare teaching points, organize their thinking about main ideas, details, text structure, and important vocabulary on notecards, and pair up with another student to teach them everything they learned. This will help your children to clarify their thinking, answer questions, and get ready to write about the topics that they know so well!

**In writing**, your children will be developing a feature article, similar to the types of articles published in magazines like Scholastic News and Time for Kids. Your children will take the information they learned through the writing process. This is the piece your children will plan, draft, revise, edit, and publish. Your children will also reflect on their growth as readers and writers.

### How to help your children at home:

- Talk to your child about what they are reading! Ask:
  - What topic are you studying? What are you learning about it? What are some big ideas and supporting details?
  - What vocabulary is important to understand your topic?
  - How are the books you are reading set up? What text structures are you noticing? How do those structures help you to understand your topic?
- Have your children share where they are in the writing process and what strategy(ies) they are working on as a writer.

Through your children's reading, teaching, and writing, they will help others to become experts just like them! We are looking forward to delving into this exciting reading and writing work!

Sincerely,

Grade 5 ELA Teachers