New York State learning standards outline what a student should know and be able to do by the end of the grade level or band. There are also additional skills that a well-rounded student should possess. Listed below are examples of Buffalo Public Schools’ academic expectations for fifth grade students. These should be viewed holistically and are not meant to determine promotion or retention; a student may demonstrate or be on track for proficiency without having mastered every skill. Teachers intervene as appropriate to support skills development.

**READING**
- Use combined knowledge of letter-sound correspondences, syllable types, & morphology (e.g., roots and affixes) to read unfamiliar multisyllabic words
- Read grade-level text with accuracy, appropriate rate, and expression
- Provide relevant & specific details from texts to support answers, inferences
- Determine a main idea, theme or central idea & explain how it is supported by key details; summarize a text
- Compare/contrast two or more texts, including overall structure
- Explain how a chapter or scene fits together to provide story structure
- Describe how point of view influences the description of events
- Explain how claims in a text are supported by relevant reasons and evidence, identifying which reasons and evidence support which claims
- Read and comprehend grade 5 literature and informational texts

**WRITING & LANGUAGE**
- Demonstrate grade-appropriate use of spelling, grammar, usage, mechanics
- Write an opinion/argument to support claims with relevant evidence
- Write informative/explanatory texts to convey ideas and relevant information
- Write narratives using effective technique, descriptive details, sequencing
- Use transition words to help develop key ideas
- Conduct research projects using several sources
- Take notes and create outlines using appropriate strategies

**VOCABULARY**
- Use context clues and knowledge of common Greek and Latin roots, prefixes and suffixes to determine word meaning
- Interpret figurative language, including similes and metaphors
- Explain the meaning of common idioms, adages, and proverbs

**LISTENING & SPEAKING**
- Engage in collaborative discussions, give oral reports, share information and/or recount an experience
- Express ideas clearly and build on those of others
- Come to discussions prepared, having read or studied required material
TIPS FOR PARENTS

Set aside quiet time every day for reading. Ask students questions about the book they have chosen. Read the book yourself to foster better conversation.

Encourage students to select books about science, history, art, music, and famous people. Building background knowledge is important for comprehension.

Expect students to write daily using the strategies learned in school. Writing about what they have read improves their comprehension.

Play word games like Scrabble. Keep a “word log” for new words students discover.

Practice basic facts by posing problems to solve mentally; expect a quick response.

Involv...