

Grade 4/5 Class Overview | 2026–2027

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Oyster Pond Academy

Welcome! This overview is about sharing our goals, routines, and how we will work together to support your child's academic and social growth this year. Grades 4 and 5 are pivotal years for building independence, critical thinking, and advanced learning habits aligned with the [Nova Scotia Curriculum](#). What follows is an outline of the themes and topics we will be covering this year. The specific outcomes and details can be found on the

Government of Nova Scotia's Education and Early Childhood Development website. I will send home regular emails to keep you updated about what the students are learning.

Welcome to our Grade 4/5 classroom community! This year is an exciting transition period as students move deeper into upper elementary, taking on more independence, critical thinking, and collaborative project work.

Below is an overview of what your child will be learning and exploring this year, along with tips on how we can work together to support them.

English Language Arts (ELA)

Students will engage in Reader's and Writer's Workshops to cultivate strong literacy skills:

- **Reading & Viewing:** Independently selecting and analyzing a variety of genres (fiction, non-fiction, media). We will heavily emphasize comprehension strategies like inferencing, summarizing, and identifying main ideas.
- **Writing & Representing:** Developing personal narratives, research reports, and persuasive writing. Focus areas include expanding vocabulary, utilizing grammar features (prefixes, suffixes, sentence structures), and writing for specific audiences.

Mathematics

Math is taught through hands-on discovery, daily problem-solving, and regular mental math practice.

- **Grade 4 Focus:** Whole numbers to 10,000; multi-digit addition and subtraction; multiplication and division facts up to 9x9; basic fractions and decimals; area/symmetry; and standard bar/pictographs.
- **Grade 5 Focus:** Whole numbers to 1,000,000; 2-digit by 2-digit multiplication; division with remainders; equivalent fractions and 3-place decimals; perimeter and volume; and double-bar graphs.

Science

Science learning encourages students to utilize the scientific method through experiments and observations.

- **Grade 4 Units:** Habitats & Communities, Light, Sound, and Rocks & Minerals
- **Grade 5 Units:** Weather, Properties and Changes in Matter, Forces Acting on Structures and Human Body Organ Systems (respiratory, digestive, circulatory).

Social Studies

Our social studies units examine both Canadian history and global citizenship:

- **Grade 4 Units:** Exploration of Canadian geography and landscapes; how people interact with the local environment; and structural exploration of community.
 - **Grade 5 Units:** Investigating early societies; interactions between Indigenous societies and European explorers/traders (such as the Fur Trade); and an introduction to how decisions and governance are structured.
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Classroom Expectations & Assessment

- **Assessment:** Students are evaluated on their ability to apply skills to new situations. I utilize a blend of observations, conversations, daily work notebook, performance tasks and assessments to give students multiple opportunities to demonstrate their learning.

- **Independence:** Upper elementary students are expected to take ownership of organizing their materials, tracking their assignments, and arriving to class on time.
 - **Home-School Communication:** Keep an eye out for regular updates via email from the school as well as from me. I will email regularly as part of our homework plan. I usually assign homework on a Monday and it is due back the following week by Friday.
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Supporting Learning at Home

- **Read Every Night:** The absolute best thing you can do is encourage 20 to 30 minutes of daily reading. Ask open-ended questions about the book to stretch their comprehension skills.
- **Real-World Math:** Play card or dice games. Have your child calculate total costs or measure ingredients while cooking to build intuitive math fluency.
- **Healthy Habits:** Please ensure your child comes to school with a refillable water bottle, a change of clothes for wet weather, and nutritious snacks to stay alert throughout the day.

Specialist Times

Physical Education – Tuesday, Wednesday (Wk 1)

Tuesday, Thursday (Wk 2)

Music – Thursday and Friday (Wk. 1)

Wednesday and Friday (Wk. 2)

Library - Tuesday

French - Monday, Wednesday, Friday (Wk1)

Tuesday, Thursday (Wk 2)

Looking Forward to a Wonderful Year!

Thank you for taking the time to review our classroom curriculum and expectations. Please feel free to reach out anytime via email or a quick note if you ever have questions, or if there's anything you'd like to share about how your child is doing. I'm so excited to get to know your family and make this a fun, memorable year for our Grade 4/5 students!

Sincerely,

Janice Smith