Welcome to Fifth Grade!





**5th Grade Classroom Information**

**2016-2017**

Dear Parents,

It’s a great pleasure to welcome you to fifth grade! To start our year together, we’ve prepared a Classroom Information Packet. It has been assembled to help you understand important information that will ensure a positive and rewarding school year. Please keep it in a safe place for reference throughout the year.

 We believe open communication between parent(s), student, and teacher is one key to creating an educational climate that most benefits our shared goals. So, in addition to the information in this packet, you will be updated throughout the year via a bi-monthly classroom newsletter (e-mailed), additional quick reminder emails, your students’ planner and an occasional note or phone call. Please feel free to contact me at any time with any questions or concerns.

 We each look forward to building great positive relationships with you and your student as well as providing the best learning environment and educational experience possible. It’s going to be a fantastic year!

Sincerely,

The 5th Grade Teaching Team

Our goal as your child’s teacher is to create an environment which:

* fosters a love for learning
* promotes academic excellence
* promotes the development of good study and work habits that will serve as a foundation for life-long learning
* encourages a sense of community and family
* allows students to strive for and achieve their personal best

# In order for each student to reach his/her potential there must be expectations. PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention Services) provides students with common language and expectations throughout the school and playground. Students will be recognized and acknowledged for ROARing behaviors throughout the year via whole school, classroom and individual celebrations. We’re sure to have much to celebrate!

**Preparation and Organization (T.I.G.E.R. Binder)**

Organizational skills are extremely important in helping prepare your child for a successful year in fifth grade. As fifth graders, students are the role models for their younger peers, and should strive to serve as responsible, organized students.

**T.I.G.E.R. (Taking Initiative Getting Everything Ready) Binders** are a way for fifth graders to prepare for organizational requirements of fifth grade, middle school, and beyond. These binders will hold the student’s planner, take-home folder and homework. Any correspondence from the school, teacher or parent will be found in this binder in their take-home folder.

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**Please check and sign your child’s planner nightly to help**

**ensure all assignments are completed.**

**Planner Guidelines:**

1. Students are expected to take their planner home each afternoon and bring it back to school each morning.
2. Students will write down daily assignments and homework, upcoming tests, and important dates in their planner. We will do this everyday together, as a class.
3. Test grades will be recorded in planners.
4. Parents or guardians need to sign planners every evening, indicating their observance of any important information. **Here is where the teacher may communicate information to parents on a *daily* basis**.

**Homework**

Is homework what fifth grade is all about? Absolutely not! However, some homework is important because it aids in helping each student make the most out of their experience in fifth grade. Students should expect to work at home in the areas of word work (spelling), math and reading. Students should plan to read at least 20 minutes each night. Reading at home will foster growth of strategies and skills worked on each day at school. Students might also have math homework to extend and reinforce concepts taught in class. Studentswill most likely have opportunities during math class to complete their work. If students do not take advantage of in-class work time, it will become homework. Students should also expect to practice word work (spelling) patterns 10-15 minutes a night. They will be provided with a variety of tasks to choose from to help explore the patterns and words they are working on. Students should also expect to study for unit assessments in math, science, and social studies. Throughout the year, we will work on developing positive and worthwhile study habits.

If homework is not turned in, students may miss recess to complete it. When illness occurs and homework or assignments are missed, parents may call to pick up the work anytime. Please allow your teacher appropriate time to prepare and gather needed materials.

**You can help your child succeed in completing homework by:**
\* Providing a quiet study area.

**Grading Scale**

**A = 93-100%**

**A- = 90-92%**

**B+ = 87-89%**

**B = 83-86%**

**B- = 80-82%**

**C+ = 77-79%**

**C = 73-76%**

**C- = 70-72%**

**D+ = 67-69%**

**D = 63-66%**

**D- = 60-62%**

**F = 50-59 %**

**I = 0-49%**

\* Establishing a daily homework time or routine.

\* Providing positive support and encouragement.

\* Keeping homework in a special place.

\* Reminding to return homework on time.

**Grades**

There are many components to a student’s grade. Student progress and growth will be observed each day, and many different pieces make up a final grade in a subject. These pieces include, but are not limited to: observation of class work, small & large group discussion, participation in daily activities, unit assessments, and homework.

#  A Day in the Life of a Fifth Grader

**Reading Workshop with Guided & Independent Reading**

Fifth graders engage in reading experiences in our classroom reader’s workshop.  Active, thoughtful reading takes place.  As students think about their reading, they stop to record their thinking, discussing these ideas in their conversations and their writing.  Students have the opportunity to listen, to read, and respond to a rich variety of literature.  They will also participate in thoughtful and deep discussions about what they are reading in their guided reading groups. Guided reading groups will focus on reading strategies and selected texts to fit students’ needs.

Mini-lessons are given each day at the beginning of reader’s workshop. These lessons focus on reading strategies and are based on students' needs.  We model reading processes and share reading practices as we think aloud and demonstrate the use of strategies.

Students will be accountable for silent independent reading. Independent reading books will be recorded in a reading contract/log. Students will also select many books based on their interests and what is "just right" for them.  Reading different genres will be expected and encouraged. Independent reading books will be an integral part of their fifth grade experience as well as books read aloud.

Reading conferences and guided reading discussions provide ongoing assessment.  Students’ writing about their reading (personal thoughts and connections) to the text will also be assessed. Students will write and respond back and forth with the teacher in a reading response journal.. This allows both teachers and students to gain insight to their thinking and understanding. It will also provide a deep on-going conversation between teacher and student throughout the year.

**Writing Workshop**

 We write with a purpose and for an audience. Writing comes from the head and the heart. It involves brainstorming, planning, rereading, and changing. The writing process takes time.  Fifth graders use a writer's notebook to record ideas, observations, and memories.  They keep everything they learn about writing genres, principles, and the conventions of writing in their writing folder. Each writing workshop begins with a mini-lesson. Students then write independently using the techniques presented to them and conference with the teacher about their writing.  Word study (spelling) is also integral parts of language arts.  Fifth graders, immersed in language and literature, make it their own.  They write and revise using the lessons they have been taught.  Some final pieces will be published and shared**.**

Students will be expected to complete final drafts within a given time frame. The expectations and due dates will be set at the beginning of the writing study. Everyone should have plenty of time to complete the final draft in class. Students needing more time may be expected to finish at home.

**Math**

 Our math curriculum aligns to the common core. In order to support our meeting of those standards, the district uses Go! Math as a resource. This particular resource provides students with individual textbooks that are meant to be written in. It provides examples for students, places to take or fill in notes, as well as plenty of problems for practice. Students may need (or choose) to take the text home to help support them in completing homework. However, **it is imperative that they have the text at school EACH day – please help them remember to bring it back to school**. They are also expected to take home their math notebooks each and every time they have math homework. Student notes are extremely important, they provide multiple examples and will provide students practice in using their notes. Go! Math also includes individual “workbooks” which contain homework and other practice pieces. Students will most likely tear out each day’s assignment, but it’s possible they will occasionally take home the entire workbook – **these are also important to have at school EACH day**.  Thanks in advance for your help in building responsibility with these materials.

Areas of study include but are not limited to:

* Basic facts are the foundation of all we do in 5th grade…keep practicing!
* Numbers, Number Sense, & Operations
* Measurement and Fractions
* Decimals
* Geometry and Spatial Sense
* Patterns, Functions, & Algebra

**Science & Social Studies**

The 5th graders focus on two main sciences: physical and life. Physical science includes light, sound, heat, magnetism, and electricity. Life science’s emphasis is on the body system, how they interact together, and how to keep our bodies healthy. We are excited to dig into our new *National Geographic Science Curriculum* and experiment using our new *FOSS Science Kits.* Both of these will allow us to explore with multiple hands-on experiences to help grasp some abstract concepts. We will also be incorporating technology to expand our learning even further.

Social Studies is comprised of learning about the history and formation of the United States, starting with the first settlements in North America. Throughout the year we will focus on units comprised of the settlements and life in the Thirteen Colonies, along with the struggle for Independence. As we begin to explore each unit in Science and Social Studies, essential learnings (or rubric outlines) and important information will be sent home with students.

**Together as a Student/Parent/Teacher team, we can help make the fifth grade year successful and the transition to middle school effortless!**

**We look forward to a memorable year with your child!**

**Thanks in advance for all your support!**