

Welcome to 5th Grade!

The 2023-2024 school year will soon be here, and I'm excited about the year of learning and fun ahead. Here's an overview of some of our plans as well as classroom procedures:

- We use many hands-on materials and models to introduce **math** concepts as part of the Eureka math program. Expect math homework Monday through Thursday evenings. Please practice multiplication facts at home during the summer months if your child has not mastered them. The math standards are challenging for fifth graders; knowing those facts is essential!
- In **language arts**, fifth graders will read poems, short stories, and novels as part of the standards-based Wit and Wisdom curriculum. Students will also read books independently. Each Monday through Thursday evening, your child should read for at least thirty minutes from his or her independent reading book. We'll also be doing lots of writing this year, from journal responses to essays. Most often, students will edit and proofread writing assignments in class, but expect homework assignments that give practice in reading fluency, spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Finally, just as we did in fourth grade, your student will continue to learn spelling patterns, prefixes and suffixes, and Greek and Latin morphemes.
- Students in grades 3-8 use **chrome books** to enhance their learning in the academic subjects. Please send in earbuds or headphones for your child to use with his or her chrome book.
- In **social studies**, students will be learning about American History from Reconstruction to the present times. I plan to take field trips and have guest speakers to further our learning, such as a visit to Patriots Point as we learn about WWII.
- In **science** our major themes include matter, ocean and land forms, force and motion, and ecosystems.
- Please provide a healthy snack for your child to eat during a morning break each day. Also, students may have a reusable water bottle filled with water in the classroom. When packing lunches for your child, please try to limit the amount of trash that will need to be thrown away. As an environmental education school, we strive to have waste-free **lunches**.
- Expect your child to have **homework** each night, Monday-Thursday. Typically, no homework will be assigned on weekends. Students will record their homework and upcoming assignments in their daily planner. This planner is our daily communication tool! Please check the planner every day with your child and sign on the designated line.
If your child is missing a homework assignment, I will communicate this to you in the planner. Missed homework assignments will be done during recess or at home the following day for half credit.
Doing homework is very important; however, I do understand that unexpected things happen. If your child is unable to complete a homework assignment due to reasons beyond

his or her control, please send a note in the planner or send an email. We will work out a plan to make up the work.

- CREECS has developed a system to promote appropriate behaviors in the educational setting through a positive **behavior** model. Fifth grade uses a Class Dojo system where students earn points for good behavior and lose points for breaking rules. You can check your child's points daily from a smart phone or computer at home. Your child's Dojo points can be saved to purchase items students enjoy, such as extra recess, inexpensive toys, or treats.
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Fifth grade is a time to set high expectations for each student. We will be working very hard on educational goals, personal accountability, and social growth. I encourage you to contact me with any concerns or questions throughout the year, and I look forward to a successful school year with your child.

Christy Connelly Dawsey, M. Ed.

CREECS Fifth Grade Teacher

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