

Curriculum

Reading

We will be using the McGraw Hill Literature Series provided by the school district. This is an excellent series that offers a wide variety of activities. In addition to the reading series, 5th graders will also be expected to complete a weekly Scholastic News assignment. The only way to become better at something, whether it is sports or reading, is to **practice**. We expect students to take this time seriously and be engaged in some type of reading material so we can build their reading stamina.

Math

We have the Addison-Wesley Mathematics textbook for math instruction. Since the state of Michigan has adopted the Common Core Standards we use a variety of supplemental materials to ensure we are meeting the common core standards. The focus in Fifth grade Operations and Algebraic Thinking, Numbers and Operations in Base Ten, Numbers and Operations-Fractions, Measurement and Data, and Geometry. Math manipulatives will be used with new concepts. Students will work in small groups having math conversations that apply to the real world. We also supplement with manipulatives and use literature to enhance learning.

Science

Fifth Grade Science will focus on a variety of scientific concepts including, Newton's Three Laws of Motion, Earth Systems, Space and Time, Heredity, Cells, Living Things, Body Systems, Evolution, and Fossils. Many of the activities we do will be hands-on and group based. We will be using Discovery Education to supplement our learning throughout the year. There is an additional link to access this site on our website as well.

Writing

Process writing is an integral part of fifth grade program. Our goal is to create situations where children will want to write. They will have many opportunities to use new skills in writing notes, letters, recording personal thoughts in journals, writing poetry, and writing and publishing their own stories. We will be using the writing from the McGraw Hill Literature Series along with Writer's Workshop. Students will be writing Autobiographical

sketches, Personal Narratives, Opinion Pieces, Literary Essays, Poetry, and Research papers.

Writing across the curriculum has become essential with all the standardized testing in later grades. Writing is a wonderful way for students to organize what they really know and begin thinking more deeply about subjects

Social Studies

Students will learn about the history of the United States. The textbook students we will be using is The United States : Adventures in Time and Place. Instructional practices vary depending on the curriculum taught. Please see the daily agenda for any tests/projects.

Grading Policy

All graded assignments will be put into Power School. As stated earlier, please see the office if you do not have an account. This will make it easy to send home updates as to how your child is doing. Expecting all A's and 1's for citizenship and work habits is unrealistic for most students. Please look the card over carefully and notice that 1, 2, and 3 are all indications that your child is doing what is expected of them in class. Daily work will keep you aware of their letter grades and the quality of their work. PLEASE CHECK POWER SCHOOL OFTEN!!!! It is unfair 3 days before the marking period to be asked if your child can complete work that has been missing for weeks. We appreciate your support.

Any assignment that falls below a 75% may be redone. We will only increase the grade to a 75%. One week is the deadline for redos.

Children will not be allowed to retake any tests.

Please note that **YOUR CHILD'S GRADE WILL BE REDUCED IF AN ASSIGNMENT IS LATE OR MISSING**. If there is a pattern of late or missing work, we will request a conference with your child to work on organization or time management skills. If that doesn't work, we will request a parent conference to see if we can find a solution to the problem together.

Homework

The studies do show that homework will help connect the home with the school and teach both responsibility and organizational skills. Homework is best assigned when it has meaning and purpose. It should support and expand the skills and concepts that are presented in the classroom. It should be supplemental to what has gone on in the classroom that day. It

may be something we were unable to finish at school because of lack of time or materials. When homework is assigned it should be turned in by the due date.

Something we expect fifth graders to do almost every night is **read, read, read!** Your child should be reading a variety of materials on a regular basis.

Since you are the first and most important teacher in your child's life, the best homework is the time you spend with your child reading, answering and posing questions, and investigating areas and concepts that will generate a sense of purpose and value.

Unless it's an extended absence, we usually do not provide homework ahead of time (in the case of vacations, etc.).

" Alone we can do so little, together so much." Helen Keller