**Welcome to Miss Erb’s 5th Grade Class**

Hello! Welcome back to another school year! As we begin this wonderful year in the life of your child I would like to let you know that I am looking forward to an exciting educational journey. I am pleased that your child has been chose to be one of my students and warmly welcome your child into my class. This year will be filled with rewarding academic and social experiences for your student. Below is a basic outline of the classroom rules and discipline procedures as well as the curriculum being taught this year. Your child should master these topics by the end of the school year.

**Attendance**

It is important to understand that this mastery is based on proper school attendance. Many of the activities and learning opportunities done in class cannot be replicated at home. We begin working as soon as the bell rings until the end of the day. If you know your child will be absent, please let me know at least one day in advance so I can gather the work they will be missing. I understand that advance notice cannot be given for illnesses so I will make sure that the work your child misses is on his/her desk when they return to school. Your child will be responsible to take the missed work home, complete it there, and return it to school.

**Daily Folder**

Each day your child will bring home a homework folder. One side is for things that can be kept at home and one side is for items that need to be returned to school. Please check this folder daily and take out the appropriate items.

**Skyward**

You will be able to check all of your child’s grades at home using Skyward. Please notify the office if you are unable to access your child’s account.

**Homework:**

Most homework will consist of assignments that were not completed during class time. There will be several special projects throughout the school year that parents will need to help out with at home. The directions and details will be on my class weebly and/or in a weekly e-mail.

In addition, weekly homework will consist of studying spelling patterns, vocabulary words,20-30 minutes of reading each night and 20-30 minutes of math homework. I only require them to read 5 of the 7 nights, however, I strongly encourage them to read DAILY! Dedication and perseverance with home reading will **dramatically** improve your child’s reading. They should be filling out a reading log each night in correlation to the reading book of their choice. Reading minutes should be recorded on their reading calendar and turned in with the reading log at the end of each month.

Additionally they will have weekly reading questions where they will need to get online and post comments on the class Edmodo site. The questions will be in correlation to the assigned reading topic. This format is to help students talk about books they are reading and to get new thoughts and ideas from other students. It’s important for children to talk about what they are reading.

**Grading Policy**

Fifth graders are ready to show responsibility. If a student is absent, they are responsible to find out about work they have missed, how they can get it, and how to do it. They will have 1 additional day to turn in absent work with no penalty. **I do not accept any late work!** Please see attached late work policy for more information.

**Report Card**

Report cards are now mastery based. Your child will be tested on each concept to see if they have gained mastery. To have mastery, the students will need to receive 80% or higher at least three times. Students will have a chance to gain mastery throughout the year.

**Curriculum at a Glance:**

**Reading**

The Reading Program we use is Reading Street. We will focus on helping students understand, interpret, and analyze narrative and informational texts this year. We will use a variety of materials to do this. We will be working as whole-class and in small groups. Some key components include: Shared Reading, Guided Reading, and Independent Reading

**Spelling and Vocabulary**

Reading Streets focuses on the mastery of spelling patterns and skills and not memorization of words. They will be given a pre-test of 10 words on Monday that model the specific skill for the week. On Friday they will be given a test with new words to show the mastery of the skill. **There will not be a spelling list that comes home.**

Vocabulary words are also given weekly. Students will be expected to study these words. They will be tested weekly on properly defining, using the words in a sentence, and giving synonyms and antonyms for the words. Each student is responsible for making a vocabulary card, with the class, for each word. They will need to bring these cards home each day to study.

**Writing**

Students will be publishing writing pieces in various forms. Examples of writing pieces are: biography, personal narrative, and poetry. Keep in mind that writer’s workshop is very student centered. During the different writing processes, students are sharing their work with others and receiving feedback during these meetings.

**Math**

The math program that we will be following is called Envision Math. One of the benefits of this program is the ability for students/parents to access the math curriculum at home via internet. Students will be rotating to different classes based on student needs. 5th grade covers: Operations and Algebraic Thinking, Number and Operations in Base Ten, Number and Operations-Fractions, Measurement and Data, and Geometry.

**Social Studies**

There isn’t a more exciting time in history to study than our own country’s history! Students will spend the year researching, studying, and understanding units concentrating on the USA!

**Science**

Students will be rotating to different teachers during science time. The specific units covered this year are: scientific method, Matter, Earth’s changing surfaces, Magnetism, Electricity, and Heredity. They will also be required to participate in the 5th grade science fair.

**Technology**

Students will be completing projects in school and at home using a variety of technology. Some of these things include: weekly Edmodo posts, Weebly practice, stop motion animation, and learning how to do internet based research projects.

**Classroom Expectations and Procedures**

Since life-long success depends, in part, on self-discipline, the 5th grade team has developed a classroom discipline plan, which gives students guidance in making good decisions about his/her behavior. This plan provides an opportunity to learn in a positive, nurturing environment and ensures that your child has a classroom where learning can and does take place. I will do my best to encourage students to make good behavior choices and will let them know when they are doing so.

**Classroom Expectations**:

* Follow directions the first time given
* Keep hands, feet, mouth, and objects to yourself
* Be in the proper place at all times
* Be prepared and stay on task
* Speak in turn
* Show respect for teachers, classmates, and property

**Positive Consequences:**

* Improved self-esteem
* Verbal praise
* Positive notes home
* Class/individual points
* Prize box privileges
* Special activities

**Negative consequences**:

* 1st: Verbal warning
* 2nd: Lose a Dojo Point
* 3rd: Discipline Essay
* 4th: parent contact (phone call or note home)
* 5th: principal/parent contact (meeting or phone call)

**Daily Schedule**

8:55-9:10 Bell Work

9:10-10:00 Literacy

10:00-11:00 Small Groups

11:00-11:50 Math Rotations

11:50-12:15 Math Small Groups

12:15-12:55 Lunch

12:55-1:30 Writing

1:30-2:00 Content Integration

2:00-2:30 Specials

2:30-2:45 Recess

2:45-3:20 Science/Social Studies

3:20-3:35 Daily Review/Clean Up/ Pack Up

**Specials**

Monday- Computers

Wednesday-P.E (please send your student with good P.E. shoes)

Thursday- Library

Hopefully this has given you an idea of what your 5th grader will

be learning this year. I am happy to discuss any questions or concerns that you may have about this overview. Please feel free to call or email me! I am available from 8:00-8:40 and 3:30-3:40 each day. I look forward to getting to know each of you as we help direct your student this year!

Sincerely,

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