

Welcome to the 3rd quarter of 5th grade! I can't believe how quickly the year is flying by... Thanks to everyone for making sure your child gets to school at 8 A.M. We appreciate it because it allows us to start off our day smoothly & helps with state funding based on attendance percentages :) For the third quarter we will have **Drama on Mondays & Tuesdays. Wednesday-Art** Please be sure they have a sketchbook for this class. **GYM is on Thursdays and Fridays**-please be sure they wear **gym shoes**:) Here is an overview of the skills and concepts we will focus on during the next 10 weeks:

- **Reading:** We started the novel Restart, about a bully who gets a second chance at being a better person after an accident gives him amnesia. Throughout the novel we will be focusing on main ideas/details, character traits, figurative language, mood/tone, theme and plot. The students will use specific details from a text to compare and contrast characters or events. They will describe how a narrator's or speaker's point of view influences how events in a story are described. During February, we will be reading The Watsons Go To Birmingham for Black History Month. In March-April, the focus will be on the Holocaust while we read The Boy in the Striped Pajamas.
- **Writing:** Incorporating Lucy Caulkin's & ARC Writing techniques, your child will continue to work on **informational** writing pieces. We will research and write about a Wax Museum person we will be portraying (See Social Science class). We will also take a field trip to the Shedd Aquarium to correlate our informational writing skills with writing our own non-fiction book on a particular habitat, animals, predators, threats, etc... Through grammar, writing and discussion, they will develop high-level thinking skills, including regular chances to synthesize, analyze, and critique their own written pieces.
- **Math:** We will be completing **Ch. 7 Adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators**. In the next chapter, students will be **multiplying and dividing fractions**. **Math homework is given Monday-Thursday**. Please review it with your child to ensure understanding or added practice for the lesson we learned. If your child completes it in school, they are encouraged to work on the **Freckle Math** site or Happy Numbers. Their user name and password is in their planner/red folder. Please continue to practice **memorizing basic multiplication facts** with your child too:)
- **Social Science:** We will be working on researching a person for the Wax Museum while celebrating Black History Month, learning about the Presidents & Women's History Month. Exciting news, the annual **WAX MUSEUM will be in person this year on March 1. Save the date because all families are invited to attend**. A note with directions and a rubric will be going home next week with more details:)
- **Science:** Next week we will start our unit on the solar system. We will also be working on different types of erosion, water cycle, rock cycle, etc.. We will continue to work on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) projects and experiments following the NGSS standards with topics of The Role of Gravity, Earth's motion, Earth's place in Space, and Stars and Their Patterns. These units will include all the topics of brainstorming, designing, communicating, testing, reflecting and improving experiments.
- Please allow your child access to the internet at home, and encourage the use of Freckle and IXL (user name & password is inside your child's red folder and planner). It has been proven that 15 minutes a day will raise your child's score significantly on state tests for Reading and Math. Thanks for your support:)
- **Behavior:** I'm very proud of the students in Room 505 because they are choosing to make positive choices and be kind to each other!

Friendly reminders:

Reading daily is mandatory-30 min. of reading daily & IXL time on the ARC log due each Friday. Working together to ensure your child's success will help your child thrive in fifth grade:) Math Freckle time should be done every day too:)

Your child can bring in any thinking putty, play dough, small games to use during recess, stress balls, etc.... Clear Water bottles that are only filled with water can be left at their desk.

Thanks for your support and please contact us directly with any comments or concerns on the Remind App, or email at

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Mrs. Barb Damiani

Mrs. Chris Snyder (Support for Reading/Math)