



## L.(Loving) E.(Every) G.(Growth) O.(Opportunity)

Dear Parents/Guardians of Room 505,

8/21/2023

**Welcome to 5<sup>th</sup> grade! I'm super excited to be your child's teacher.** This year, the school's focus is

"L.(Loving) E.(Every) G.(Growth) O.(Opportunity)" focusing on Growth Mindset & learning the power of not knowing something "yet". I am very excited to get this year started, and work with the students to meet their emotional, social & academic needs!

The students will have many wonderful experiences in 5th grade and learn a variety of new skills. I will strive to meet the needs of all the students by offering a combination of whole class, small group and independent learning opportunities. The goal is to help your child be a happy, well-adjusted learner:) Remember to encourage and motivate your child to do his/her best. I appreciate your support in your child's academic and social development. As in years past, we are focusing on student attendance and asking for your help. Please be sure **your child arrives on time @ 7:55am & will enter the building at 8am** (Breakfast 7:45-8am), and keeps absences to a minimum (if possible).

**Homework Policy:** I know that after 3pm, many homes have busy schedules with other activities, sports practices/games, visiting family/friends, etc...I don't want anyone to feel overwhelmed. Reading homework is: **"Read for 30 min. each day" and document it on the ARC Reading Log.** It can be a magazine or any book of your child's choosing. The goal is to build up your child's stamina so that he/she can read, comprehend and focus on literature for a minimum of 30 minutes. A Reading Log will go home at the end of the week & your child must document reading **5 times per week**. I will **check the log on Fridays & give a Homework grade** for completing this assignment weekly.

In each Math workbook, there is a page labeled "Homework" at the end of each lesson. In the past, I have assigned it to be done at home, but some children struggle with remembering how to complete the problems, or just don't finish. So now everyone begins the homework assignment in class to allow for clarification or to ask any questions. If your child is focused and understands the concepts, he/she may actually finish the Math homework by the end of the period. **Memorizing multiplication facts** are also important...flashcards & using free web sites can be done to support memorization. IXL math activities will also be assigned later on in the year to reinforce concepts taught.

**Projects** are given throughout different subjects during the year. Sometimes your child will be working independently, with a partner, or group of three. They will be given time in class and at home to work on these assignments. Some examples are making a Cell model, Native American replica, Video taped commercial, Wax Museum in February, Coffee House Poetry in April, etc...Working with others helps boost self esteem, encourages problem solving, consideration of others, team-work and much more. I love seeing creativity shine through projects:)

**Reading:** The first novel we will be reading is **Freak the Mighty** starting on Monday of next week. After that we will read & compare **My Teacher is an Alien** and **Mysteries of Alien Visitors & Abductions** focusing on characterization, inference, plot diagrams, vocabulary and figurative language from the ARC unit. Also, every child is expected to read a book of their choice for 30 min. at least 5 days a week. Building reading fluency and stamina helps to be successful in all classes. The ARC reading log is where your child will document the title, date, amount of time and an adult signature. This will be handed in for a reading homework grade for Aspen. Please **keep the form in your child's Red Folder** so that it will travel to/from school daily and will be there to be **checked for a homework grade on Fridays**.

**Writing:** We love writing! Using Lucy Caulkin's writing units, ARC writing components and our Grammar Workshop books, we will write friendly letters, narrative & persuasive essays, Ecosystem expository books & "How To" speeches.

**Science:** We will be learning about the Scientific Method, our body systems, cells and Matter. STEM projects, Mystery Science, Generation Genius videos & tasks, and demonstrations will make this an interesting class :)

**Social Science:** This quarter we will work on Geography, map skills, virtual field trips, countries, Native Americans, and Early Explorers included in the **My World** workbook.

**Tests:** Reading tests are administered as stories and skill lessons are completed. Grammar, Social Studies & Science tests will conclude each unit of study. Math tests will be administered at the middle & end of each chapter. Multiplication tests will be given weekly once we begin to target that skill.

### **Discipline Policy:**

In order to promote a positive and safe learning environment, each student is expected to adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Be ready for school! (homework completed/returned in RED folder, ample supplies, first & last name

on paper with proper school heading, in uniform, etc.)



2. Listen and follow directions.
3. Respect yourself and others.
4. Do your best!
5. Choose to be kind:)

Positive behaviors will be rewarded throughout the day by giving hole punches on a punch card. Your child will earn prizes with accumulated hole punch cards such as, "sit at the teacher's desk for a class", "Zen time", candy, etc.. If negative behaviors are exhibited, the following consequences will come into play:

1<sup>st</sup> time - verbal warning

2<sup>nd</sup> time - brief talk with your child privately & loss of a hole punch

3<sup>rd</sup> time - missed class activity or detention

\*Since your child will be in junior high next year, I believe we need to practice & increase our independence now. I encourage everyone to reflect upon their individual behavior, being empathetic to their classmates, "doing the right thing when no one is watching", etc... If after many attempts I need your help, I will contact you to ask for your assistance.

**Grading Scale:** A =90%-100% B =80%-89% C =70%-79% D =60%-69% F =59% & below

**Grading Categories:** Homework 10% Assignments/Groupwork 50% Assessments 40% \*test score at 59% or below allows for one retake that will raise your grade (maximum new score-70%)

**Special Schedule:**

Enrichment 8:10-9:10	MONDAY Gym *gym shoes & gym uniform needed	TUESDAY Gym	WEDNESDAY Drama	THURSDAY Art	FRIDAY Art *sketchbook needed
Lunch/Recess					
11:20-12:05					

**Friendly Reminders:**

- **Sports Water bottle** filled w/only water at his/her desk is allowed
- **Thinking putty** and/or **stress ball** can be used throughout the day to alleviate anxiety/stress or help with focus (as long as it does not distract your child or others :)
- **Scholastic Book Order forms** will be going home soon. If orders are placed, we earn points to get free books for our class library. Thanks, in advance, for your support!
- **Flashlight Fridays are every Friday.** We will read in our dark classroom using a flashlight or headlamp. I believe they sell them at the Dollar Store if you do not have one at home to share:) This will increase our love to read!
- You're always welcome to check your child's grades on Aspen & write notes/questions in Planners.

If you have any questions, please feel free to write a note or email.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Barb Damiani ([BADamiani@cps.edu](mailto:BADamiani@cps.edu))

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By signing this sheet, I am aware of the policies implemented for the 2023-2024 school year.\*\*\*Please return this the next school day. Thanks!\*\*\*\*\*

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Does your child have any food allergies I need to know about? or Is there anything you want to tell me about your child?