



“Lego” ~Loving Every Growth Opportunity
Room 506, Diverse Learners, Grades 3-5

Hello Parents and welcome to the 2nd Quarter for the 2023-24 school year in **Math & ELA**. Below is an overview of what we will be doing in class regularly for Math, Reading, and Writing.

Math

We will continue following the common core standards aligned to *Envision*. Students will be exposed to grade level material with this series, along with accommodations and modifications as needed. In order to achieve personal benchmark goals and to allow for extra practice, supplemental resources may be added.

The 3rd grade will continue with units 3 & 4 on properties of multiplication and using multiplication to divide, the 4th grade will continue with units 3 & 4 on multiplication and strategies/properties of multiplication, & the 5th graders will continue with: fluently multiplying multi digit whole numbers & using models/strategies to multiply decimals.

We will also engage regularly in small cooperative math talk groups. Math talks will allow for the students to collaboratively share strategies and learn from each another. This activity should deepen their engagement in math and promote social skills. **Homework** may not be given everyday in **Math**. But when assigned, it should serve as a refresher/extra practice for the skills learned that day. It shouldn't be lengthy. The students

should study their math facts at home daily starting with the 2's, then the 3's, and so on... (generally every 2-3 weeks, we move on to a new fact family).

The classes will also have opportunities for differentiated instruction and through computer based programs like Freckle, Splash Math, and Kahoot. These online resources will be used in addition to the weekly math units studied. The computer based math practice should provide personalized learning, while motivating them through challenges, competitions, and rewards. The students will be able to explore new topics while using interactive practice.

Reading & Writing

The reading period is broken up into 3 stations. The students will be placed into small groups to help diversify instruction and meet individual needs.

Reading lessons will include:

1) Word Study- our class will be using "Foundations" for phonics and Spelling practice. Spelling tests will be given every Friday for the words we studied that week. Weekly spelling lists will be passed out on Mondays.

2) Guided Reading Groups- reading warm up packets and Reading Milestones will be used for individual or small group lessons to help strengthen skills in fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

3) Independent Reading- The students will work on fluency and comprehension while reading material at his or her reading level. Most lessons come from computer lessons on Raz Kids or IXL. The students should read everyday silently (in school and at home) a book of choice that is appropriate for their independent

reading level. They will keep a weekly "Reading Log " to track any reading they do Monday through Thursday at home. A parent or guardian should initial the log after the reading is completed (at least 15 minutes daily). On Fridays, I will check their reading logs.

Homework

Students should be prepared daily with necessary supplies and completed homework. For **reading** homework they are required to:

A) Read every night for 15 minutes and log it onto a "Reading Log". a parent or guardian should initial the log verifying it was completed. Reading Logs are due on Fridays.

B) Complete a page in an assigned spelling packet, Monday-Thursday. They will have a test on their spelling words of the week on Fridays.

Writing:

Grammar, parts of speech study, and the mechanics of writing will be covered through a series called *Grammar Workshop*. We will be starting Unit 2 on Nouns and then move into verbs. The students have workbooks that they write in. Homework will be assigned from that book when appropriate. In addition to practicing proper mechanics and parts of speech for writing, we will transfer those skills into weekly paragraph writing assignments. Paragraph writing will be done and shared in class along with a writing rubric to assess. They can write or type their paragraphs. The students will become familiar with Google Docs and a tool called voice typing which will help them write their essays. They will also learn how to use an accessibility tool called

screen reader where their essays can be read back to them orally. That will help them proofread their work and make any necessary edits.

Feel free to email or send a note in your child's planner about any homework issues. I allow for late assignments with a deduction of 10 points per day for missing assignments. Absent work is not considered late.

**Weighting Items in Gradebook: Formative Assessment 40%,
Summative assessments 50%, Homework 10%**

I am available to talk should you have any questions or concerns during the year or you can email me: madonovan1@cps.edu .
Thank you in advance for your support!

Sincerely,

Maureen Kovac