

September Newsletter

Dear Families,

It has been a pleasure getting to know your children these past couple of weeks. I am very excited about their enthusiasm to learn and their positive attitudes about returning to school after summer vacation. I can already tell that we are going to have a wonderful year together!

Here is a general outline of a typical day in fifth grade:

9:15-11:15

Each morning your children start their day in room 31 with me. We start with reading and then do a writing lesson. Our reading and writing lessons follow a workshop model where the kids will learn a particular strategy during a mini lesson, then we practice together or with a partner, and then the kids go off to work independently. During this independent work, I will meet with small groups or have individual conferences with students. Ms. Savi, a special educator, is also in the classroom during this block of time. She and I will co-teach lessons and work together to provide the most effective instruction to address all of the children's learning needs.

11:15-12:00

The class goes to lunch and then recess. The students have enjoyed the new playground equipment which has provided many more options during recess time.

12:00-1:55

After recess, the kids get their things and switch to Ms. Hurley's class for math, science or social studies. They will have a math block every day, but science and social studies will switch off as they progress through the various units.

1:55-2:55

Fifth grade specials are a little different than other years. Students have been grouped from three classes based on their instrument for those that play band. Our specials are Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday and they will be in those specials with students from three different classes. This approach will help prepare the students for the middle school model next year. We also have a health block on Wednesday mornings and library/media time on Thursdays.

3:05 - Dismissal.

Homework:

Your children will have homework every night. One of my goals every year is for my students to fall in love with reading. Therefore, reading homework will most often be reading. I will work with students on establishing reading habits at home and will share ideas with families

throughout the year about how we can make this happen (if it isn't already). Writing homework will be assigned occasionally. Ms. Hurley and I will both discuss homework during our Curriculum Night presentations. Homework will be posted on our classroom websites at the end of the school day. Here is a link to the homework [page](#). My website is fairly new and I will be adding to it throughout the year. Ms. Hurley is working with the office of technology to get her webpage operational. Stay tuned!

There is so much to share with you about fifth grade, but this newsletter would go on forever! Curriculum Night for grades 3-5 is scheduled for Thursday, September 20th from 6:30-7:45. Ms. Hurley and I will provide you with an overview of the curriculum and other initiatives happening in fifth grade. Please make every effort to attend! We look forward to meeting you!

Sincerely,
Michael Pearson