



Welcome to 5th

Grade!

2015-2016

Mrs. Acker, Mrs. Ellis,
Mrs. Dykhoff, and Mrs. Klassen

Newsletter: Weekly Scoop

- We give a brief snapshot of some of the things we are doing during that week.
- The activities on the newsletter are subject to change!!!
- You can view the newsletter by clicking on each of our webpages.
- We will upload the newsletter each Tuesday.

Schedule

- 7:55 - 8:40 Specials
- 8:45 - 10:15 Block 1
- 10:15 - 10:45 AI
- 10:45 - 12:15 Block 2
- 12:15 - 12:45 Block 3
- 12:45 - 1:15 Lunch
- 1:15 - 1:35 Recess/Study Hall
- 1:40 - 2:35 Block 3
- 2:35 - 3:00 AI

ACE

- ACE day will be on Wednesdays!
- The GT students will spend their day with Mrs. Weger on Wednesdays.
- This day will be a day that we focus on projects and other types of higher level thinking activities. We will integrate multiple subjects with the projects.
- The general 5th grade curriculum will be compacted and taught during the other four school days. This is why the ACE load is heavier than the regular class.
- If your child is indicating that they are overwhelmed, please contact your homeroom teacher.

The Nutshell

- Students will use their Nutshell as a tool for what they have for homework.
- Our daily Nutshell can be found on our webpages.
- This is an important communication tool. Please read and sign the assignment book each day!
- We check for signatures daily.

Language Arts

- The students are required to read daily for a total of 100 minutes of reading each week. Students will have a weekly reading log.
- Istation: Students are currently being assessed on their individual reading comprehension, fluency and accuracy. Students will discuss their results with you at our student led conferences in November.
- Students will read with book clubs, read independently, and read class novels. Students in this class will have a reading project each 9 weeks. (Book Bash, Living Museum, Wear it - Share it, and The Roaming Book Tour)
- Students will write daily, as well as create themed compositions, respond to literature, and make connections to every day life. Writing will be integrated across subject areas. Writing is where students will apply and practice grammar lessons that are taught.
- Students will also be creating blog entries and commenting on posts. They will practice writing using technology on a regular basis.
- Students will have spelling lists each week. Spelling in 5th grade has a heavy Greek and Latin root focus.

Math

- Fifth grade math is a building year where students transition from skill and drill into applying knowledge and going deeper into application.
- Students will do a daily problem solving.
- Students must know their multiplication and division facts. Extra practice at home will be expected if they are not passing their weekly multiplication tests.
- Math homework will be sent home in the Thursday folder for the following week.
- The Pearson Math adoption is available online. Students have their log-in information.

Social Studies

- This year in Social Studies we will be focusing on the history of the United States.
- Students will learn all 50 states and capitals.
- Projects: Some may include Industrial Revolution Project, and Decades Project.
- Our goal is to make history come alive! We will incorporate more hands-on activities as we venture through the curriculum.

Science

- 5th grade science is a fun and challenging experience. We will incorporate many hands-on explorations for the concepts that we will cover this year. In fact, our goal this year is to have 60% of our learning take place in a laboratory investigation or other hands-on activity.
- Students are expected to conduct investigations practicing safety throughout all of our activities. We will also be requiring students to write about their ideas, observations, and discoveries, and to apply new knowledge to the world around them.

Leader in Me

- Goal - to establish a culture of leadership by teaching students about the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People
 - Be Proactive
 - Begin with the End in Mind
 - Put First Things First
 - Think Win Win
 - Seek First to Understand, then to be Understood
 - Synergize
 - Sharpen the Saw
- We want to recognize the leadership qualities in all of our students.
- 5th Graders had the opportunity to apply for Student Council and the Green Team. They have the opportunity to be peer tutors, buddies to pre-k/kinder, assist in the library, and specials assistants. We give them opportunity to shine as leaders at WSES.
- Our school-wide behavior and work habits responsibility system is called Positive Behavior Support, or PBS.
- Target Behaviors include being respectful, responsible, cooperative, and safe with yourself, others and property.
- We chart missing work and behavior issues in the student Nutshell. This serves not only as a communication tool with home, but also as documentation to better help us redirect and guide students toward independence and success.

Homework

- When homework is assigned, it is always due the next day unless the teacher specifies differently.
- If an assignment is not turned in on time, this challenge is recorded on the student Nutshell and the student is assigned to attend Study Hall. Zeroes may be recorded for assignments on an interim report, but must be replaced by a gradable assignment before the final report card is issued.
- We hope that all students stay on top of their assignments. If missing or late work becomes a pattern, please know that parent contact will be made.
- For habitual late homework, students, as well as parents, are subject to academic recovery. We will share information on an as-needed basis.

Absences

- Please refer to the student handbook for information regarding excused and unexcused absences.
- Send doctor notes, etc. within five days of your child's return to school.

Make-Up Work

- Students should make up work missed due to absences within the same number of days that they were absent.
- It is the student's responsibility to ask for missing work.
- Some assignments will have to be made up in study hall.
- If a student is absent for more than 2 days, the parent may request that missed assignments be sent to the office. Parents must call or email no later than 7:30 a.m. of the second day in order to have assignments ready to be picked up at 3:30 p.m.
- Teachers shall not prepare assignments in advance to accommodate students who miss school for a family trip. The work missed during a family trip shall be made up after the student returns to school. (DSISD policy)

Grading

- We will be recording two types of grades for students. Grades will be calculated based on a combination of summative and formative assessments, with weight emphasis on summative assessment grades (60% summative; 40% formative).
- Formative grades are carried out while learning is in progress (quizzes, homework, etc.)
- Summative grades are carried out after a student has had adequate instruction and practice to be responsible for the material (tests, projects, etc.).
- Summative assessments:
 - Re-assessment shall be offered for any summative assessment below 70%.
 - Re-assessment of summative assignments or assessments are limited to one after additional practice or tutoring.
 - The re-assessment may be a different assessment than the original assessment.

Camp Champions

- Camp Champions will be October 28th - 30th
- Money from the Jog-a-thon is due September 22nd - all money raised is divided evenly among the entire 5th grade.
- We especially need DAD chaperones!! If you are interested, please email Mrs. Dykhoff or Klassen. Please note the following:
 - You will spend the night at camp!
 - You will help with activities at camp. The teachers and chaperones share responsibility of the students while at camp.
 - We will need your help with transporting luggage. (If you have a trailer to share, please let us know!)
 - You will help with loading and unloading luggage.
 - You will pay the same amount as the students.
 - If there are too many volunteers to chaperone, we will draw names.
- If you would like to come out and spend the day with your student, you will need to complete the background check.
- Only medications with a doctor's note will be allowed at camp. All medications with a doctor's note/prescription are due October 15th.

Special Dates

- This year we will have student-led conferences on November 5th.
- Please look for more information about this fun event!
- Please see weekly newsletter for important upcoming dates!
- The WSES website will also have dates to remember!

BYOD

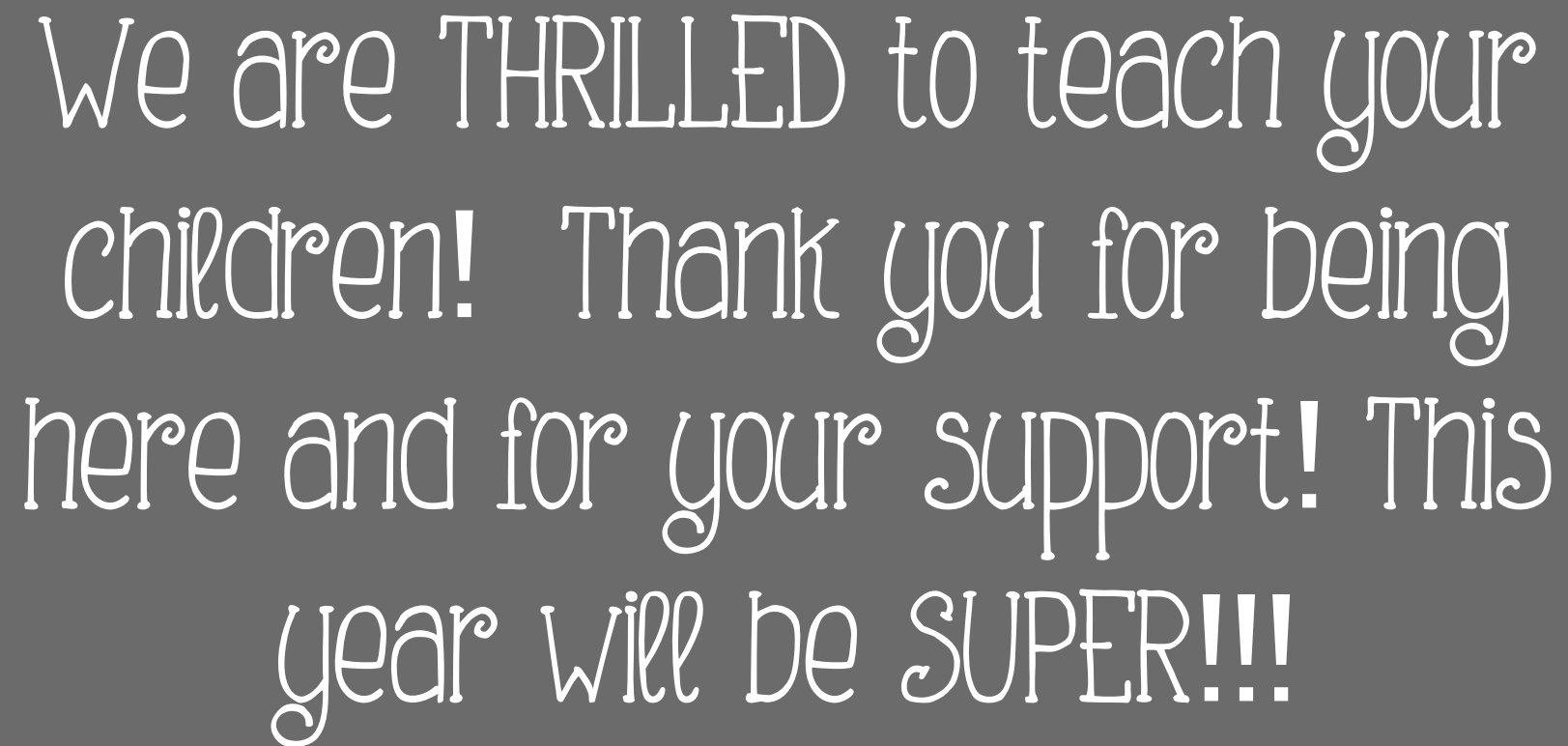
- Students have all been instructed on what it's like to be a digital citizen. We have reminded them that it is a privilege and not a right. Students may lose BYOD privileges if they are not following our expectations.
- Students may bring their own device. They are responsible for their own device. We have instructed them to keep their device in the device parking area of our classrooms.
- They will use Tigernet when using their device.
- Their device is to remain off unless a teacher invites them to use it.
- Texting is not allowed. If a student needs to contact a parent, they are always allowed to use our classroom phones.
- BYOD Goals for 5th Grade include:
 - Using a device to take notes.
 - Using a device to read.
 - Using a device to research.
 - Using an approved app (downloaded at home with parent permission).
 - Creating a product for an assignments.
 - Using a device to take pictures for an assignment (not of classmates).
 - Turning in assignments using their Google account.

Other Important Information

- Please send a water bottle (preferably reusable) each day with your child.
- Please send HEALTHY snacks to school with your child. Our lunch time is 12:45, so please make sure you send a snack each day.
- Please review Thursday Folder contents and return on Friday.
- All students need to have ear buds at school.
- PTA does collect Box Tops for Education.
- It would be awesome if the students had markers, crayons and map colors at home!
- Deodorant - It is ok to have a non-spray deodorant here at school in backpacks.
- Dress Code- Please revisit the student handbook regarding dress code.

Contact Us!

- We feel strongly that we are a team! Please feel free to contact us at anytime if you have any questions or concerns. An open line of communication will benefit all of us!
- Robin.acker@dsisdtx.us
- Angie.ellis@dsisdtx
- Melanie.dykhoff@dsisdtx.us
- Gay.klassen@dsisdtx.us
- Our conference period is from 7:55 to 8:40



We are THRILLED to teach your children! Thank you for being here and for your support! This year will be SUPER!!!