

AREAS OF STUDY

The Language Arts program includes instruction in reading, writing, grammar, and spelling. Fifth graders will experience the following themes this year in language arts: Cooperation and Competition, Astronomy, Heritage, Making a New Nation, Going West, and Journeys and Quests.

In addition to this language arts program, students will be working in a reading group at their reading level to improve reading comprehension and fluency. We will also participate in Writer's Workshop. Not every piece is turned into a final draft. Some final drafts are done in class and some at home. Students will participate in a variety of writing styles including narrative, descriptive, persuasive, and expository writing. The five-paragraph essay is introduced this year (we will begin with a review of one to three paragraphs). We will have pen pals from George McParland School in Manteca, CA and a primary school in Orleans, France (we will be teaching them English and they will teach us French).

Monthly Book Projects are required from each student. These are assigned at the beginning of the month and are due the last school day of the month. A different genre of book is selected for each month. Students may read their book project books in class during silent reading and at home. Then, students may take their book project books home over the weekends to work on their book projects when they don't have any other homework.

Our district has adopted a new math curriculum titled, My Math. Students will have both physical materials as well as online access. The math program for fifth grade includes the following topics: Place Value, Multiplication and Division, Number Theory and Fraction Concepts, Fraction Operations, Decimals Operations, Algebra and Percent, Geometry, Measurement, Data and Graphing. Our district has adopted a new math curriculum titled, My Math. Students will have both physical materials as well as online access.

The Social Studies program for fifth grade centers around U.S. History. In addition, fifth graders will research and write a state report and participate in an interactive unit called The Dig (archeology).

The science program for fifth grade will cover the Human Body's Systems, Plants, Weather, Space, Matter, Oceanography, and Energy. For health, we will continue to teach an optional family life unit. We will send home permission slips before this unit is taught. Students participate in group rotations for science. Your child will have three different science teachers (one for every

eight-week rotation). Fifth graders are state tested on BOTH fourth and fifth grade science standards. Below are the concepts that were covered in the fourth grade. Please help by reviewing these concepts throughout the year with your child (reading books, projects at home, family discussions, etc). *The Science program for fourth grade will cover Plants and Sunlight, Microorganisms, Ecosystems, Rocks and Minerals, Slow Changes on Earth (erosion, landforms), Natural Disasters, Weather, Electricity, and Magnetism. You can view these standards and more on the California Department of Education's website (www.cde.gov).*

Room 7 Schedule

8:45-9:05 Independent Work, small group instruction time

9:05-9:55 Social Studies / Science

9:55-10:05 Recess

10:05-10:25 D.E.A.R. Time (silent reading and journal writing)

10:25-12:05 Language Arts

12:05-12:55 Recess first, then lunch.

12:55-1:55 Math

1:55-2:05 Recess

2:05-2:40 Study Skills / Review (Mondays:Music)

2:40-3:10 P.E.

3:10 Dismissal

In addition, students will attend music (Mondays from 2:05-2:40), library (Wednesdays from 10:05-10:50), and the computer lab (Wednesday from 11:05-12:05). Science is taught in three 8-week rotations on Thursdays from 10am-12pm. *I would love to have parents come in to teach art, run a small group, help teach language rotations (Spanish, Latin, French), challenge math groups, or teach any other special lessons. Please contact me and let me know what you have in mind!*

Students wishing to participate in instrumental music, DARE Dance, and other activities: information will be handed out at Back to School Night (or sent home once the program is ready to begin).

HOMEWORK

Homework is assigned Monday through Thursday. In addition, students must read at least 20 minutes each evening and record what they've read on their reading log form (Otter Reading Club). Parents, please initial next to each entry. This confirms that your child did read for that amount of time on that particular day. The reading logs are due the last day of each month. This independent reading earns your child special privileges and is also a part of their reading grade. *200 pages per month is the minimum requirement for the fifth grade.

On Thursday evenings, students will need to study for their spelling and vocabulary tests which are given on Friday. Students will also need to pace themselves to complete their book projects at home by the end of the month. If a student does not turn in completed homework, he/she will either miss recess to complete it or not receive credit for that assignment. You will be notified that your child did not turn in a homework assignment on their weekly progress report.

Occasionally, there will be special assignments that will need to be done on the weekend. Homework is intended to develop self-discipline and efficient study habits, as well as reinforcing daily class skills and critical thinking. Any class assignment not completed becomes homework responsibility.

BINDERS: Binders are to be taken home every night. Your student should be showing you his/her binder each night. Parents should help their child clear out their binder as necessary (sometimes they can get quite cluttered). Please be sure to look at your child's agenda (homework planner). We record homework together everyday. If for some reason, your child does not have anything recorded on their planner, please go to the classroom website: www.mrspechan.com Assignments are posted daily and you can download spelling words, vocabulary words, book project instructions, watch math pencasts for the week, etc.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

As your child advances to higher grade levels, they will be given more responsibility in regards to their homework and assignments. **I do not accept late assignments**; therefore, you may want to emphasize the importance of completing work in a timely manner.

Students are given a H.O.M.E. pass (Have One More Evening) at the beginning of each trimester. A student may use this pass if they should need an additional day to turn an assignment in. The H.O.M.E. pass may only be used once (per trimester).

If you know your child is going to be absent, please ask for the assignments in advance. **If there is an unexpected absence, it is the student's responsibility to get any missed work.** They have as many days to make up the assignments as they were absent.

GRADES

All work is graded on a percentage basis:

90-100 = A Advanced—Exceeds standards

The student is consistently working at or above grade level standards. He/She consistently scores above a 90% on classroom work and assessments.

80-89 = B Above grade level standards

The student is consistently working at or above grade level standards. He/She consistently scores above an 80% on classroom work and assessments.

70-79 = C Proficient—Meets standards

The student is consistently working at the grade level standard. His/Her average score on classroom work and assessments are between 70%-80%.

60-69 = D Working Towards Proficiency—Not yet meeting standards

The student is consistently working below the grade level standard. His/Her average score on classroom work and assessments are between 60% and 69%.

60-0 = F Not Proficient—Unable to meet standards

The student is not working at the grade level standard. He/She consistently scores below 60% on classroom work and assessments.

Report cards are distributed at the end of each trimester. Students take part in conferences as I believe in the student-led conference approach. Students keep a portfolio with pieces of work that act as evidence of standards met. Students choose these goals at the beginning of the trimester and compile evidence to show at conference time.

ATTENDANCE

The areas of study for the fifth grade are fast paced. We will often cover a new topic each day. To be successful, students will need to be at school each day on time, unless they are ill. Please schedule appointments for before and after school whenever possible. If you know that your child will be out of school ahead of time please let me know, so that I can put together the work they will miss. Also, if your child is out sick

and you would like to pick up the work they have missed, please let me know ahead of time when you will be picking it up.

CLASSROOM RULES

The students created the following rules and they all signed our Constitution pledging to follow these rules.

1. Treat others as you would like to be treated.
2. Be respectful and responsible.
3. Be considerate of others and their property.
4. Be safe and have fun.
5. Always strive to do your best.

CONSEQUENCES

Each student keeps track of his/her individual behavior with Class Dojo. Students can earn both positive points as well as negative points. Everything is detailed in the Class Dojo behavior report. The behavior report will be emailed to you each Friday (*this is a separate report automatically generated by Class Dojo and is not to be confused with my Weekly Progress Report, which details both academics AND citizenship*). Please refer to the Class Dojo parent note emailed to you when you and your child were originally signed up for Class Dojo. If you have any questions, please contact me. Students who are consistently not adhering to district, school, and classroom policies will require parent contact and a conference.

REWARDS

1. Students are rewarded individually with class dollars & class dojo points, which they can spend in the class store once a month. Groups are awarded with group points. The group with the most points at the end of the week earns a small reward, a trophy for their group, and they get to sit on the beanbags during silent reading the following week.
2. The class is rewarded for good behavior with marbles. Once the marble jar is full they have earned a class marble treat. I also use a P.A.T. (preferred activity time) chart where the class may earn free time throughout the week to be utilized on Fridays.
3. The ultimate reward is success!

If at any time during the school year you have any questions or concerns, please call me at 646-6540, ext. 107 to set up a conference. You may also email me at spechan@pgusd.org or send a note with your child.