Welcome to 5th Grade!

 Hello! Welcome back to another school year! I love teaching 5th grade and warmly welcome your child into my class. This year will be filled with rewarding academic and social experiences for your student. Below is a basic outline of the curriculum being taught this year as well as an overview of our classroom rules and discipline procedures. Your child should master these topics by the end of the school year. It is important to understand that this mastery is based on proper school attendance, homework completion, and obedience to classroom rules. My goal is to give each of my students the essential tools and strategies to make their school experience a positive and rewarding one. I would appreciate support from each of you as parents in working as a team---student, parent, and teacher. Thank you in advance for your efforts!

**Discipline:**

 School Rules:

1. Listen and follow directions.
2. Use appropriate language and voice level.
3. Keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
4. No fighting or teasing, EVER.
5. Take good care of school and personal property.

I use a website called Class Dojo to keep track of behavior in my class. You will be able to log in with your students and see their behavior throughout the day.

I will do my best to encourage students to make good behavior choices and will let them know when they are doing so. Certainly, there are special circumstances that arise when the discipline plan is not working for a student. Therefore, special plans may be devised to help the student be a cooperative, productive member of our class.

**Homework:**

 Most homework will consist of assignments that were not completed during class time. Class work not finished will be placed in the student’s Homework Folder. Please check these and planners every night, as they will contain important information. There will be some special projects throughout the school year that parents will need to help out with at home. In addition, weekly homework will consist of studying spelling words and independent reading each night. A total of 100 hours of reading is encouraged throughout the school year.

**Planners:**

 Each student has been given a planner that will be used everyday this year. This is key to the communication between school and home and it is important that your child remembers to bring his/her planner each day. Please make it a habit to check your child’s planner everyday so that you will know what he or she is responsible for and what we have done each day. Please sign it each day so that I know you understand what your child is doing. Feel free to write me a note in their planner if ever a question arises. Please note that I will be stamping planners each day and at the end of the week, each child with a full week of parent signatures receives a reward!

**Grading Policy:**

 Fifth graders are ready to show responsibility. If a student is absent, they are responsible for going to their “absent buddy” and find out about work they have missed. Ultimately, there will be assignments that were done through class discussion or hands-on projects that will be impossible to make up. Students will be excused from those. They are required, however, to make up whatever assignments are possible for them to do. Unless it is because of an absence, late work will not receive full credit!

**Curriculum at a Glance:**

**Reading:**

The components of our reading program are:

* Read alouds: this will include picture books, novels, and non-fiction
* Shared reading: whole class literature instruction using novels sets (each child will have their own copy), the Basal reader, poetry, science and social studies books, magazine and newspaper articles.
* Power Hour: small group instruction based on the reading needs of each student. This will include strategies for reading success and more individualized instruction.
* Independent Reading: This component is essential for student to move at their own rate and improve in reading

**Writer’s Workshop:**

 Participation in Writer’s Workshop is a requirement in my class. Students will be publishing a monthly writing piece in various forms. Examples of writing pieces are: biography, personal narrative, and poetry. Our Writer’s Workshop will include: language skills, learning habits of good writers, use of graphic organizers, the 6 writing traits, and the following the writing process.

**Math:**

Math in 5th Grade is very challenging. Fractions, number operations, and measurement are a major part of the curriculum. Jordan School District will be following the Utah Common Core. I am excited for this because it promotes deeper understanding of the topics. The 5th graders will have a great amount of opportunity to have hands-on experiences and develop a love of math. Here is a list of some of the topics that we will be studying:

* **Operations and Algebraic Thinking**: writing to interpret numerical expressions and analyzing patterns and relationships.
* **Number and Operations in Base Ten**: understanding the place value system and performing operations with multi-digit whole numbers and with decimals to the hundredths place.
* **Number and Operations---fractions:** using equivalent fractions as a strategy to add and subtract fractions and applying previous understanding of multiplication and division to multiply and divide fractions.
* **Measurement and Data:** Converting like measurement units within a given measurement system. Representing and interpreting data and understanding concepts of volume.
* **Geometry**: graphing points on the coordinate plane to solve real-world and mathematical problems and classifying two-dimensional figures in to categories based on their properties.

**American History:**

 There isn’t a more exciting time in history to study than our own country’s history! Students will spend the year researching, studying, and understanding units concentrating on the USA! Topics covered are: Geography, Native Americans, Colonization, Explorers, Revolutionary War, Civil War, Constitution, Westward Expansion, Citizenship, World Wars, and the 20th Century.

**Science:**

 The specific units covered this year are: Scientific Method, Matter, Earth’s Changing Surfaces, Magnetism, Electricity, and Heredity. The main emphasis for science will be to build thinking skills and scientific knowledge. We will be reading, discussing, and doing hands-on experiments to accomplish this. We will also participate in the Science Fair- more info to come.

In 5th grade, we are so lucky to have many special and exciting activities in our classroom. Students will participate in Biztown- a field trip in which students are “hired” by real Utah companies and participate in a day of work. This is a student favorite—we will be attending in January, and more info will come!

 We also get to participate in the D.A.R.E program. Students will learn about being drug and violence free, as well as good decision making skills.

 Hopefully this has given you an idea of what your 5th grader will be learning this year. I am happy to discuss any questions or concerns that you may have about this overview. Please feel free to call or email me anytime! (I’m better at e-mail ☺) I am at the school from 8:00-4:00 each day. You may also look at my class website to keep up to date: www.ormsbyclass.weebly.com. I look forward to getting to know each of you as we help encourage and guide your student this year!

Sincerely,

Sara Ormsby

sara.ormsby@jordandistrict.org

801-254-8000