

5th Grade Monthly Update

February 2019

Upcoming Dates to watch for:
February

14: Valentine's Day Party @ 3:00 **Red, White, and Pink Spirit Day**
20 : Showcase of Learning
28: Showcase of Learning



Transition to middle school:

Then school counselors from Butler Middle School were in to meet with the students and give them a taste of what life at Butler is like. It is the first transition activity that will help them begin to prepare for their move to middle school. We will also continue to give them organization strategies that will ease this transition. We will continue to clamp down more on the regular and COMPLETE use of their assignment notebooks on a daily basis. Please reinforce this each night by actually asking to see their work that is listed in their notebook. This will also give you a chance to monitor **the work quality**. **Checking this against the [5th grade Homework Website](#) to help you verify** that they are getting all of the work done that they are expected to do.

Lockers are coming in May: We will empty the kids desks into boxes in the hall that will serve as their “lockers” for the last 6 weeks of the year. This will help them start organizing themselves in a new way and will ultimately ease the transition for next fall.

Reading Update:

Historical Fiction is the theme!! We are learning about history throughout the novels and picture books that we are exploring. The books include a host of eras in our history and revolve around a lot of different aspects of history. Students are reading about the Civil War, WWI and WW2, the Civil Rights era, Alcatraz, Philadelphia 1793, the Great Depression, Immigration to America. They are studying how authors present history through authentic stories about realistic characters from different moments in time. What can we learn about the past by reading these stories. They are really gaining some historical perspective in a way that will hopefully make sense to them. Rather than memorizing rote dates, the literature should help them understand the life of the people from history as well as the themes that were present in the past.

Math:

In math class, we will be working on our multiplication and division of fractions unit. In this unit,

we are going to be solving fractions problems using area models, and standard algorithm. While the standard algorithm method is faster and more efficient, the area model helps us explain why the other method works. We will be having a quiz on Thursday the 12th on the multiplication portion of our unit. I wanted to give a quick reminder about Tenmarks. We receive two to three Tenmarks assignments each week. The students have twenty minutes per class, four days per week to complete those assignments. For the most part, Tenmarks shouldn't be coming home as homework, but there could be the rare occasion that something wasn't finished up and needs a little time at home. I use those Tenmarks scores as formative grades for the students before we take our final summative assessment. Tenmark assignments are due one week from when they are assigned.

Science:

In two weeks, we will be taking a great trip to the updated Planetarium. All of the upgrades make a huge difference to the Planetarium experience, and I highly recommend checking it out for yourself with a very reasonable weekend program. Our field trip will be the perfect segway into our new unit about the Sun, Moon, and Planets. The students will be working on an inquiry project with a partner to explain something they are interested in that involves our space program, or celestial bodies within our solar system. We have a little more studying to do before we introduce this project.