

September 5th Grade News

Daily Homework Link: Please follow this link all year to check on the daily homework assignments. This is your way to verify homework and upcoming announcements all week. Please bookmark this site for your reference.

LINK: 5th Grade Parent Guide

Please click on this link and review the 5th grade expectations and policies. We are inspiring independent learners in 5th grade in preparation for middle school. PLEASE READ THROUGH THIS DOCUMENT!

Reading Workshop:

We have been working on rebuilding our reading stamina back up to 45 minutes per day in class. This allows us to focus and get lost in our books. We visualize as we read and then we have been writing 2-3 sentence summaries of the key events that happened in our stories during that reading period. The kids have been doing this each day in class and had to budget their home time over the course of the past week to complete 4 additional summary comments at home after the nightly 30 minutes of reading. Yes, that means that your child will be actively reading 60 minutes per day!! That is the best thing a person can do for building their skill and endurance for reading.

Another element in our reading class includes a mini-lesson that focuses on specific reading skills that I model in our Workshop classes. After seeing the model of the skill, they must work with their personal reading books to practice the skills. Our summary logs this week are an example of one of the skills that we have done so far. Other upcoming skills include Character trait analysis and evidence collecting from the text, Story elements, theme identification and conflict in literature. Our “Word Splash” project is a culmination of these mini lessons and practice activities.

Writing Workshop: Students have been creating large posters about themselves. All About Me projects are wrapped up this week. We presented projects last week and learned about each other's interests, skills and learning styles. We completed 2 different learning styles surveys to help the kids figure out how they learn best. We have an impressive group of artists, athletes, musicians, dancers, skiers, book readers and movie lovers! The students’ posters are decorating our hallway!

Language Workshop:

We started our language study with our mentor text “Hatchet” by Gary Paulsen. We will be learning about how authors use language to tell stories and convey meaning. By studying different text and themes, we can learn how to write better as well as how we can appreciate how different authors can teach us about life throughout history and around the world. Our grammar program Patterns of Power as well as the online class “No Red Ink” will give a strong grammar foundation for our students.

Math

We are working on place value and decimals in class. With decimals, we are developing the skills of comparing and rounding. Scientific notation will be coming soon. Any opportunity to reinforce these skills at home is appreciated. Ten Marks activities on the iPad will be starting next week. They will be expected to complete assignments in Ten Marks each week.

Social Studies: We will be starting our social studies unit on geography in the next couple of weeks. The students will be learning about the different regions of the United States, and about the different types of maps and how they're used. We will be making salt maps and there will be a fun writing component to our final project.

Science: The students started studying the Water unit during our first week of school, but unfortunately we will not be traveling to the Fox River Sanctuary this year. We will continue to learn about Waukesha's water issues in the coming weeks and how water can be protected by our actions. We will also be discussing how water plays an important role in how our environment changes.

AVID:

Meadowbrook has made a commitment to pilot the AVID program this year along with a few other Waukesha elementary schools. This is a program that has been implemented at the high schools over the past decade. South is going on their 11th year of AVID. The basis of the program is to help organize student materials, and note taking. One of the main focuses is to create notes that can be continually utilized throughout the year. We are excited to see what results this program might yield for our students over the next few years.