

Welcome to 5th Grade!
Your guide to success! 2016 - 2017
Welcome to the Dresden Elementary School!

This information packet was made to help guide you through the 5th grade program. The fifth graders who are in Mrs. Finkel's, Mrs. Whitenight's and Mrs. Kavanaugh's homeroom will be rotating between three teachers for science (Finkel), math (Kavanaugh) & writing/grammar (Whitenight). Reading, spelling and social studies will be taught by the homeroom teacher. We believe that by working with you, we can make this a happy, exciting and rewarding year for our children. If you have any questions about our program or if there is anything we can do to help your child succeed at Dresden, please feel free to contact us.

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Fifth Grade Curriculum

Written Communication - The essence of the ELA program is to help each student become a better writer. The curriculum includes reinforcement of skills learned in previous years and introduces new concepts such as writing to texts. Students will be responsible for a variety of written work including: narrative, opinion, and informative essays, poetry, and letters. Grammar lessons will focus on using correct grammar, sentence structure and punctuation.

Math (Mrs. Kavanaugh) - Mathematics is a vital curriculum that reaches across several subjects. The overall goal for the mathematics curriculum is to build upon previously learned topics, maintain a strong understanding of number sense, and introduce new concepts that will create a base for the sixth grade mathematics curriculum and beyond. Some of the units of study that will be covered include: factors of numbers, finding the sum and difference of whole numbers and decimals, multiplying and dividing multi-digit numbers, converting between fractions, decimals, and percentages, finding common denominators and equivalent fractions, identifying geometric solids, and using formulas to find the area of geometric shapes. **It is important for your child to have his/her basic multiplication facts memorized.** I encourage the students to practice with flashcards and computer programs.

Due to the nature of this curriculum, with previously taught concepts being built upon, LATE WORK is unacceptable. (Please see academic expectations for late work policies.) It is important that students complete the mathematics assignments daily! We will continuously be building upon concepts, and homework is used to gauge a student's understanding. If a student receives a 70% or lower, they will have 2-3 days to redo the assignment for an averaged grade. It is the **student's** responsibility to turn in a corrected assignment by the assigned date.

Students will maintain a mathematics notebook throughout the year. Students will take notes and complete classwork on a daily basis. Each quarter they will fill in the score sheet. This is a running record of their grades from assignments, quizzes, and tests. It is a way for them to record their growth and encourages student responsibility of grade tracking. A parent signature will be required on the score sheet before the end of the quarter.

Social Studies: The major theme for 5th grade social studies is early American History. It is important for the children to understand how this country was founded and what the principles are that this country was founded on. We will be learning about the Core Values of a Constitutional Democracy. The students will also be learning about the roles of government on the local, state and federal level.

Reading (Homeroom Teacher) We use the McGraw-Hill, **Wonders** reading series, which includes literary selections and related skill building activities. We will also be reading a variety of novels together as a class and as small groups (literature circles and guided reading). In addition, students will be expected to read independently throughout the year.

Science Overview (Mrs. Finkel) Students will engage in a variety of activities to develop their understanding of the scientific concepts presented in class. Tasks will include maintaining a notebook, viewing digital content, close and critical reading assignments, reading material, worksheets, stations, labs, and projects. Learning to gather information, participate in a discussion, develop one's understanding and responding to others is critical to becoming a "deep thinker". Therefore, actively participating in class is essential. The Discovery Education program materials are accessible online for families via the Utica Learning Interchange for students to broaden their knowledge base. The fifth grade Science curriculum will include the following areas of study:

- Structure and Properties of Matter
- Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystem
- Earth's Systems
- Space Systems: Stars and the Solar System
- Engineering and Design

Word Study/ Spelling (Homeroom Teacher) This weekly program reinforces the rules behind why words are spelled the way they are. Knowing the rules allows the student to incorporate what they have learned into their writing and reading. Weekly tests and informal observations verify the mastery of the spelling rules.

Leader in Me

If you are new to Dresden, you may not know that we are a Leader in Me school! You can visit <http://www.theleaderinme.org/> to learn more! You will be hearing more about LIM through newsletters and communication with your child. Dresden continues to strive to teach students to make the 7 Habits standards to live by. This year we will participate in a school-wide "Lead Time" each Wednesday of the month. Two of these will be with our homeroom classes to have the opportunity to dive deeper into each habit. One Wednesday will be for students to meet with their mentor teacher. Each mentor teacher will have multi-aged groups from 1st-6th within their group. Students will keep the same mentor teacher during their time at Dresden. Our last Wednesday will be used for students to meet within their leadership teams. Leadership teams are not mandatory, but encouraged. Not to worry if your child isn't on a team, they will have another amazing habit activity to complete with a supervising teacher.

Leadership Teams

This year students will have to opportunity to apply to join a leadership team. These teams will meet during the school day and are intended to create a positive environment at Dresden. More teams will be added as the year continues. Students must apply for leadership teams. Some teams even require an interview for selection.

Clubs

As in the past, a variety of clubs that meet after school will be available to students. Some of the clubs include 4H, Chess Club, ATG, NEHS, Running Club and Science Olympiad. Most of the clubs have specific guidelines for who is eligible to join.

Other Important Information Students in 5th Grade

Daily Agenda

All 5th grade students are required to carry their agenda with them to all classes throughout the day. The agenda is provided by Dresden Elementary to assist students in becoming more organized. In it, students write all homework assignments for each subject as well as any other important information. Students should take the agenda book home with them and review it with their parent or guardian daily.

Academic Expectations

Fifth grade teachers have high expectations for students' academic performance and growth. Therefore, any work that is turned in one day after the assigned due date will be considered late and will be marked down 15%. **If a student does not turn in an assignment on time, the subject area teacher will stamp a "Missing Work" notification in his/her agenda. Students will record their missing work in the "Missing Work Binder".** After four missing assignments a phone call home will be made. After nine missing assignments the student will miss the next "special activity." Each marking period we will accept fewer missing assignments before the stated consequence. **After two days, the assignment becomes a zero in the grade book.**

It is the student's responsibility to obtain work that was assigned during an **absence**. One day will be given for work completion for every day the student was absent. The student must make up missed class work. Many lessons depend heavily on the previous day's work. Several activities are done in prearranged groups and cannot be sent home. When one person from the group is absent it causes additional work for the other group members. If a student is absent for more than **three days**, please make arrangements to pick up their work. Some assignments completed in class are project-based and unfortunately cannot be sent home.

If your students will be missing school for a planned vacation, all work must be made up after returning. Work will not be given ahead of time.

Re-do papers Many concepts can prove challenging to students. If a student scores a 70% or lower on a worksheet/assignment, next to the percent may appear the "Improved Grade" stamp. This is an opportunity for students to fix their mistakes on a separate sheet of paper in order to improve their grade. The original assignment must be stapled to the corrections before the paper can be turned in. The final score is an average of the two grades. It is the student's responsibility to turn in a corrected assignment. Students will not have the opportunity to retake a quiz or test. Students will not be able to redo any assignment that is turned in late.

Behavior Expectations The fifth grade students will have a color coded behavior system. Everyone starts each day on green. After one verbal warning, the next warning will move the student to yellow. Yellow is a warning! More negative behavior will move the student to orange. At orange the student must fill out a line in the behavior section of the Missing Work Binder.

After six lines are filled in a phone call home is required. If the student progresses to red, an immediate call home will be made, as well as another line in the binder being filled in. After 11 lines are filled there will be a conference with the student's parent(s), Mrs. Wood will be notified, and a special activity will be missed.

Report cards and Progress Reports

Grades are available on Powerschool. Report cards are sent home at the end of every marking period. Parents will receive the first marking period report cards at the November Parent/Teacher conference.

Progress reports are sent home once between report cards (5-6 weeks into the marking period) to keep you updated on your child's progress. Parents should check PowerSchool regularly to monitor progress. Parents can sign up for PowerSchool in the school office.

Birthday Celebrations

No food can be brought in for birthdays. If you want to celebrate your child's birthday you may send a recess game, playground ball or school supplies. Nothing is expected, but anything you donate will be well used.

Schedule, Attendance and Absent Work

The school day starts at 9:00 am and ends at 3:50 pm. Students are allowed to enter the classroom at 8:50 a.m. to allow to prepare for the start of the day. It is imperative that students are on time daily. Regular attendance is a requirement for academic success. Frequent or lengthy absences are bound to affect performance and grades.

If at all possible, please try not to schedule appointments, family outings or vacations during school days. If, however, you do plan a vacation during school, we want you to enjoy that time with your family. Therefore, the work that your child misses will be given after you return. After your trip appropriate time will be given to complete the required work.

Daily Snacks

Students may bring in a snack daily. Snacks must be nutritious. Please leave the cookies, chips, candy, etc. for lunch or after school. **Only water will be allowed within the classroom.**

NOTES:

SIGN UP FOR REMIND 101 TO RECEIVE IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE FIFTH
GRADE TEACHERS!

I have read and understand the expectations of the fifth grade team. I will keep this document to refer to in the future and will not hesitate to contact one of the teachers if a question arises.

Parent Signature

Date

My child's name