

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school! We would like to welcome you and your child to the fifth grade. We are looking forward to working with your child to make this a positive, successful school year.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Reading/Language Arts

Our reading series is called Imagine It. Focus will be on reading comprehension, extended responses, vocabulary and word analysis, and exploring a variety of literary works. Language Arts will include spelling and writing; expository, persuasive, narrative, letter writing, and poetry.

Math

Harcourt is our math series this year. We focus on place value, decimals, rounding numbers, algebra, analyzing data, graphing, multiplying and dividing whole numbers and decimals, fractions, geometry, measurement, ratio, probability, and percent. Students will focus on problem-solving skills and strategies, and extended responses.

Science

The series is Prentice Hall. Students will be studying a variety of topics including plant, animals, weather, and the environment.

Social Studies

Our Social Studies series is McGraw Hill. We will focus on Native Americans, early cultures in and the founding of America and colonization. Students learn map skills, and will be involved in several projects.

Please have your student continue with the academic program "Study Island" at www.studyisland.com. This is a wonderful program for reviewing necessary academic skills.

HOMEWORK GUIDELINES:

Homework will be given to students daily. Students are required to record all homework assignments in their Student Daily Homework Planner. Homework must be turned in the next day. If your child is absent, they are responsible for getting the homework they missed and turning it in the following day. If a student does not complete an assignment, it will be highlighted in their homework planner for you to be aware of. Students must have a parent signature on their planner. Homework is available on-line at www.smyser.org for you to check daily.

If there is a time where your child may be performing unsatisfactorily, tests or other papers will be sent home for your signature. If an issue needs to be addressed, a note will be sent home or written in the Student Daily Homework Planner requesting a conference. You can also write a note in your child's planner addressing any concerns. Please check and sign planners daily. Progress reports will be sent home after the 5th week of each quarter.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:

Each class follows the school's discipline and dress code. If a student does not behave in accordance with Smyser and CPS rules and expectations, their actions will result in consequences sited in the behavior plan. Students are also given incentives and rewards for displaying positive, appropriate behavior. At the start of each year, each class creates expectations and guidelines for appropriate behavior.

Please review this information with your child. The education of any child begins at home. We are a tool for your child. It is of prime importance that you be an active part of your child's education. We believe that by all of us working together we can make this a very successful year. Your cooperation and support is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know.

Sincerely,
The Fifth Grade Team