

5th grade
classroom
handbook

2020 -2021

This handbook provides both parents and students with important information about fifth grade. I encourage parents to read it with their child as both will be held accountable for the information. If you have any questions, I can be reached the following ways:

- phone: 660-783-2141 (elementary office)
- email: kporterfield@stanberryschools.org
- note sent to school with your child
- stop in to see me (It's always nice to have visitors 😊)

Newsletters

Each week I will send home a newsletter that includes the following:

- What we learned this week
- What we will learn next week
- A list of important upcoming events on our calendar
- Spelling words for the next week
- A "Student of the Week" section- if you prefer not to have your child's photo in the newsletter when he/she is student of the week, please let me know.

Friday Letters

Each week (starting September 18th) I will also be sending home a Friday letter that includes the following information:

- Current grades
- Behavior for the week
- Homework alerts for the week
- Rewards for the week
- Accelerated Reader goal and current points

Students will need to get a parent signature and return the Friday letter on the next school day.

Assignment notebooks

Each student will receive an assignment notebook at the beginning of the year. Students will be expected to fill out their assignments every day. They will be given time first thing in the morning to do so. At the end of each day, I will have students check off any assignments that are complete and highlight or circle any remaining work that needs to be completed at home. I am hoping this will help students be more organized and reduce the chances of forgetting homework. Students will need to make sure they have their assignment notebook at school each day. On Friday, I will check assignment notebooks to make sure they are filled out correctly. Those students who have completed the notebook correctly will earn money in their classroom reward account. If a student repeatedly forgets to or chooses not to fill out their assignments, they will be fined from their reward account.

Assignments

We will be providing students with a variety of resources this year to use for each subject. In social studies students will have a notebook, and we will be using Studies Weekly which is a newspaper that covers our standards. In math they will have a notebook that will provide examples and a workbook that we will use for daily assignments. Students will also have a notebook for science and a binder for ELA that will have notes and examples for each topic. In ELA students will also use a textbook and workbook. Students are welcome to take notebooks home to help with homework or to study for a test. However, if a notebook is taken home it is very important that it returns to school the next day as we will be using them daily.

We will also be utilizing Chromebooks this year as a resource. Each student will be assigned a Chromebook which will stay at school. We will discuss the rules and expectations for the Chromebooks in class on the first day. If a student is found misusing the Chromebook, he/she will lose computer privileges for a length of time determined by the teacher.

I rarely give an assignment that is meant to be done strictly at home. Most homework will be assignments that your child has started in class but didn't finish. I try to give students ample time in class to complete all assignments. If at any time during the school year you feel like your child is bringing home an excessive amount of work, please come see me so we can discuss how your child is spending his/her class time and if there are some adjustments that need to be made.

Homework Alerts

If a student doesn't have a homework assignment completed or forgets it at home, that student will receive a homework alert. Alerts are given per day, not per assignment. For example, if a student forgets his/her folder at home with three homework assignments, it is only one homework alert for the day. The student will conference with the teacher about the missing/incomplete assignment and a homework alert will be recorded.

Parents will be notified on Friday letters if their child received a homework alert during the week, but no note will be sent home on the actual day of the alert. After three homework alerts, the student will then conference with Mrs. Graham instead of the teacher. Once a student receives five homework alerts, Mrs. Graham will make a phone call to parents. If the student receives ten homework alerts, the student will meet with a team consisting of but not limited to the principal, teachers, parents, and counselor to discuss a future plan for the student.

Each month all students will be a part of Homework Club. If a student receives two homework alerts in the month, he/she will be removed from Homework Club. At the end of each month those students who are still members of the club will participate in the Homework Club reward. Membership is reinstated at the beginning of each month.

Online resources

We will be using Google Classroom quite a bit to share resources with students. We will spend the first couple of weeks making sure your child is comfortable using this platform. We will also utilize other sites like Spelling City, Explore Learning (Gizmos), Studies Weekly Online, and Prodigy. We will be putting login information in the front of your child's planner for all of these websites and making sure students are comfortable logging in and completing tasks.

Cell Phones

If a child brings a cell phone to school, it is to be turned off and left in their locker during the day. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen phones. Please refer to the school handbook in the front of your child's planner for consequences for violating our cell phone policy.

Accelerated Reader

Each quarter Mrs. Palmer will sit down with students to set A.R. goals. These goals along with your child's current points earned will appear on Friday letters so you can track your child's progress throughout the quarter. I encourage you to have your child read each night to work towards their goal. If you need help finding books that interest your child within their reading level, Mrs. Palmer, Mrs. Hilton, or I will gladly help.

Classroom management

In 5th grade, I use an economy system for classroom management. Students will have opportunities to earn money in their account for positive behavior and grades. With this, students may also be fined for things like misbehaviors and missing homework. On every Friday Letter, you will see a balance for your student's account. You will also see any fines or rewards earned by that student. If the Friday Letter is not signed and returned the first day of the following week, that student will forfeit all money earned in the previous week, but fines will still be assessed. At the end of each month, students will have the opportunity to use their money to purchase tickets. Some examples of tickets include but are not limited to:

- bring a small snack
- bring a small drink
- no shoes in the classroom
- listen to music while working
- sit in the teacher's chair
- line leader for the day
- use fun pens to complete your work
- chew gum in the classroom

We will occasionally have a classroom auction where students will be allowed to bid on items that are for sale.

Recess

As I'm sure you are aware, the weather can vary greatly from day to day in Missouri. We try to go outside for recess if at all possible. We ask that you make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather for the day. In colder months, please make sure your child has a heavy coat, hat, and gloves. If there is snow on the ground, students will need snow boots to leave the hardtop playground surface. If a child is deemed by the faculty to not have proper attire, he/she will not be allowed to go outside. If at any time you need help providing warm attire for you child, please let myself, Mrs. Graham, or Nurse Ronda know so we can help.

Academic dishonesty

If at any time throughout the year a student is caught cheating on daily work or a test, he/she will receive a zero on the assignment and parents will be notified. They will also have a discipline referral to Mrs. Graham. A detention, ISS, or Saturday School may be assigned for the infraction and for any additional incidences.

After School

Students **MUST** have a note or phone call to the school office before 2:45 from a parent/guardian if their after school plans will be different than normal. To ensure each child's safety, without a note/phone call the student must follow his/her normal routine. If you know your child will be going home a different way before the day begins, please just send a note with him/her rather than calling the office.

Birthdays

Birthdays may be celebrated in the classroom. Your child may bring treats if he/she chooses to do so. Students with birthdays in the summer may celebrate at any time during the year. We do have a gluten allergy in our class, so please keep this in mind when sending treats. Please notify me in advance if you do plan to send treats so I can allow time to celebrate. Parents will not be allowed to deliver birthday snacks to the classroom due to increased safety measures this year. They may drop birthday snacks off at the elementary office or send them to school with their child.

Literature Festival

Students also have the opportunity to earn a trip to the Literature Festival in Warrensburg, MO where they get to meet authors and illustrators. To earn this reward students need to read all 12 Mark Twain nominated books for the 2020-2021 school year and get a 70% or higher on the A.R. test. Mrs. Hilton has these books available in the library. Several of them are also available at the Gentry County Library. As with anything this year, this will be subject to this event still being held. If the event is cancelled, those students who met the criteria will still be rewarded in some manner.

Day at the K

Mrs. Graham and I are working on putting together a reward for those students who earned Day at the K last year. Unfortunately it will not be a trip to Kauffman Stadium. We have also decided to not do Day at the K for the 2020-2021 school year. While this is very disappointing, in light of everything that is going on, we felt the criteria used in the past would not be fair this year. We hope to pick it back up for the 2021-2022 school year.

Extra activities

- Students will have the opportunity to participate in band this year with Mr. Sheeley. Band time is included in our weekly schedule. If your child is not participating in band, this time will be a study hall/silent reading time.
- Your child will be participating in the D.A.R.E. program this year in which Sergeant Smail comes once a week to talk to the students about drugs, alcohol, and peer pressure. As of right now, the plan is to start D.A.R.E. in January and continue throughout third and fourth quarter, but I do not have exact dates yet. Students will receive a t-shirt paid for by the D.A.R.E. program that he/she will wear on the days we have D.A.R.E.
- Students will have the opportunity to participate in fifth grade basketball in the second half of the school year. Practices and games are outside of school time, but notes will be sent home from school sometime after Christmas break.
- Students will also be able to try out for academic bowl, spelling bee, and student council. Information will be sent home about these activities throughout the school year. I encourage all students to take advantage of these opportunities.
- Please refer to the Stanberry R-II Handbook located in the front of your child's planner for information regarding grades and participation in extracurricular activities.

Although there are many extra activities available to fifth grade students, please keep in mind that they should not detract from your child's education. If you feel like your child needs extra help throughout the year, please let me know so we can discuss possible solutions.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this handbook. I have tried to be very thorough in this handbook. However, it is not possible for me to cover all matters that might arise in my classroom. If something is not covered in this handbook or the school handbook, it will be up to the discretion of the teacher or principal. Please remember, I want your child to feel safe, comfortable, and successful as a part of our school family. If at any point during the year, this is not the case, please do not hesitate to email, call, or stop in to see me. I am looking forward to a great year!

~Mrs. Porterfield

Please return the bottom portion of this page by Monday, August 31st. If returned on time, the student will receive \$250 in their reward account. 😊

Student name: _____

We have read the classroom handbook and understand that we are accountable for the information presented in it.

Student signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent signature: _____

Date: _____