



Welcome to Fifth Grade



Here are a few things you will need to know...

Your child will be **traveling** from class to class for each subject. They will travel with all materials and a binder daily. They will have Mrs. Gasior for ELA, Mrs. Stumpf for Math, and Mrs. McCarthy for Science and Social Studies. Mrs. Martell will be traveling with homeroom 225 as the Special Education Co-Teacher. Mrs. Smardz will also be traveling with homeroom 225.

- Our **5th grade rules** will be the same from classroom to classroom and students will be expected to adhere to these rules or have consequences. The following are our rules:
 - 1) Follow directions the first time given.
 - 2) Respect all people, property and space in our school.
 - 3) Be responsible for your learning and your actions.
 - 4) One person speaks at a time.
 - 5) Stay in your seat/raise your hand to speak.

Students are asked to bring in a water bottle to keep on their desks throughout the day so they can stay hydrated. Please do NOT send in juice, pop, or anything other than water.

We have a **PLAY MONEY incentive program**. Students get paid for completing homework, behaving, turning in assignments, completing projects, cafeteria behavior, etc. The students will be expected to pay "fines" for not completing homework, being out of uniform, poor behavior, etc. They will need to use the money to pay "rent" for their desks; they can also use the money to buy weekly entry into "Fun Friday" as well as other fun incentives. They will be required to keep track of it on a "general ledger" which will be in their binders. Students will be assigned jobs to help out with the money. (We will have a "banker.") Here are some ways your child can earn class cash:

- Perfect weekly attendance gets a \$50 bonus!
- Take Home folders need to be signed and returned daily.

Homework policy: Homework will be assigned Monday - Thursday. Students are expected to complete homework nightly. If the homework is not completed students will be expected to complete an "oops" form. "Oops" forms need to be signed by parents. The "oppss" form needs to be returned with the completed homework by Friday or students will not be allowed entry into the Fun Friday incentive (even if they have enough money to pay for the incentive).

Homework is a very important part of learning. Students that are chronic offenders for not completing homework will be assigned lunch detention. Homework assignments can be found the bulletin board in the 5th grade hall, on each teacher's website, and on the take home folder weekly assignments sheet.

We have a very extensive classroom **library** of books that are available for students to **BORROW**. Students may borrow a book for a period of 2 weeks. If it is not returned within the 2 week time period parents need to agree to pay for the cost of the book to be replaced off of Amazon.com. If the book is not returned in the state that it was borrowed in it will also need to be bought. If the child does not pay for the book within a period of 2 weeks they will not be allowed to be a member of the classroom library. Please sign the release to allow your child borrow from our classroom library.

I agree to pay all associated fines for replacing the book my child borrowed if it is misplaced or damaged.

x _____
(parent signature)

x _____
(student signature)

Each teacher has great webpages. We love to put pictures up of our kids-- please sign the release to allow your child to have their photo taken and put on our websites. We will NEVER use their full names!

I agree to allow my child's picture to be taken and used for school purposes only.

I DO NOT wish my child's picture to be used for school purposes.

x _____
(parent signature)

Please read all the 5th grade course syllabus information with your child and then sign and return this packet back to school! Thanks for your time and we look forward to meeting you soon.

--The 5th Grade Team

x _____
(parent signature)

x _____
(student signature)



ELA / Reading Course Syllabus

Mrs. Kelly Gasior

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I am so excited to be teaching your child 5th grade ELA/Reading this year. I have been teaching first grade at Lorraine for the past 4 years, prior to that I taught 5th and 6th grade. My favorite grade has always been 5th grade! My philosophy is for kids to learn by doing. This year we will have many fun hands-on activities to help your child learn.

Fifth Grade Learning: In ELA/Reading your child will become a very strong writer. There will be a very strong focus on reading, writing, and vocabulary. Every other week your child will be given a vocabulary test on 10 words that they will be given at the beginning of the week. On the opposite week the students will have a 20 word spelling test. Spelling words, vocabulary words, and their definitions can be found on my website at www.buffaloschools.org/webpages/kgasior.

In addition, students will be responsible for reading 25 books this school year. As part of this responsibility your student will need to keep a reading log and turn in a book report for one of the books every month.

Grading

Homework: 10%

Participation: 10%

Spelling Tests: 10%

Weekly Reading Tests: 25%

Vocabulary Tests: 15%

Writing Assignments: 20%

Book Reports: 10%

Extra Credit: will be given at teacher's discretion (several times a semester) and will only be given if all assignments are turned in and completed. After 10 book reports have been turned in, students can complete extra book reports for extra credit.

Late assignments: will be accepted, however the grade will be penalized, with the exception of absences. No late assignments will be accepted after the end of the marking period.

I believe in positive reinforcement and I love kids. I will keep in touch with parents via email and phone (when necessary). Please check my website for daily homework, spelling words, and vocabulary words. The best way to reach me is via email at kgasior@buffaloschools.org. Please feel free to call or email me anytime (716) 816-4809

Kelly Gasior

5th Grade Mathematics Course Information

2014-2015
Mrs. Stumpf

CURRICULUM: The fifth grade curriculum is comprehensive and fast paced. We begin with a study of place value, decimals, and move quickly into fractions and division. We cover multiplying whole numbers and decimals, dividing with one and two-digit divisors, data, graphs, and probability, geometry, fractions, measurement, measuring solids, ratios, proportions, and percentages, and finish with algebra. There is so much to cover! Many students are very excited to master their multiplication facts and to polish their division skills as well, however, there is much more to math than just knowledge of facts. Problem solving, logical thinking, estimation, analysis, and visual thinking are also important skills to be learned. Students are often encouraged to struggle through difficult multi-step word problems. During each module, students will complete: short quizzes after skills have been taught, a mid-module assessment, and an end of module assessment. Students will study in class for the end of module assessment and will also have nightly homework to reinforce skills that directly correlate with the content of the assessment. Lastly, the 5th graders will take the NYS comprehensive test in mathematics which will be given April 22 – April 24. We will prepare for this exam in class.

GRADING POLICY: Students' grades will be comprised of the following categories and weights:

Effort: 10%

Participation: 10%

Homework: 20%

Classwork: 20%

Assessments: 40%

PARENTS ARE TEACHERS TOO! (Mighty important ones!) Good communication between parents and teachers is imperative in meeting your child's cognitive, social, and emotional needs. Each day your child will bring home his/her Take Home Folder, which will contain all papers, tests, and assignments completed that day. It also has a pocket for any homework assignments that need to be completed at home. If you ever have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to send a letter in, an e-mail, or call the office during school hours (816-4809) and I will get back to you as soon as possible. Keeping the line of communication open all year will also be instrumental in meeting your child's needs.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs. Stumpf

cstumpf@buffaloschools.org

Social Studies and Science Course Syllabus

Mrs. Lindsay McCarthy

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am excited to welcome your child to the fifth grade. I am looking forward to a challenging and rewarding school year. It is important to me to provide a rich, rigorous, and supportive learning environment for each and every child, and I look forward to working with you to help your child reach their full potential.

Fifth Grade Learning: In Science your child will explore ecosystems, electric circuits, astronomy, and the human body. In Social Studies we will be going back in time to the dawn of the North American continent. We'll look at the interactions between early peoples and how they used the environment to survive. We will follow the growth of settler communities and the establishment of the United States. We'll look at our founding documents and the wars we fought. We will be covering hundreds of years of history!

Grading

Both Science and Social Studies grading policies are the same.

Assignments: 30%

Tests & Quizzes: 30%

Notebook: 20%

Participation: 10%

Homework: 10%

***Extra credit** will be given at the teacher's discretion (several times a semester) and will only be given if all assignments have been turned in and student notebooks are complete and up-to-date. **Late assignments:** students with an absence note will be given time to complete work. All other late work will be penalized.

Science and Social Studies **notebooks** are a central part of this course. They will be interactive notebooks which house a table of contents, notes, science lab observations, diagrams, models, drawings, tables, graphs, and a glossary. These notebooks are meant to stay in school but occasionally your child will be asked to bring one home to complete work begun in class. PLEASE make sure they are responsible for the notebook and get it back to school. 20% of their grade comes from these notebooks being complete, accurate, and neat. Inside the front cover of each notebook you will find a grading rubric for your reference.

I am truly excited about this school year and look forward to meeting you!

Mrs. McCarthy