



# INCLUDED IN THIS PACKET:

Class Letter

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Dear Fifth Grade Students and Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to fifth grade. I am looking forward to getting to know all of you this year. Fifth grade is a year filled with fun and exciting new experiences, which will support the fifth graders' academic and personal growth. We have a lot to look forward to, including the fifth grade camp trip in October and a few fun field trips to the Martinez Courthouse and Chabot Space & Science Center. Below you will find some important information, which will help you understand how Ms. Bockser's fifth grade class runs.



## RULES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

\* Be respectful inside and outside of the classroom (listening while others talk, staying quiet near classrooms, have good sportsmanship on and off the field). **THINK** before you speak.

T- Is it **TRUE**?

H- Is it **HELPFUL**?

I- Is it **INSPIRING**?

N- Is it **NECESSARY**?

K- Is it **KIND**?

\* Take responsibility of your words and actions.

\* Come to class prepared (have the proper supplies, textbook, and homework, as well as appropriate uniform attire).

\* Maintain a positive attitude and participate in class.

\* Be organized.



**REWARDS:** A number of rewards can be earned throughout the year. They may include a trip to the treasure box, free time, a certificate award for a free candy from Powell's Sweet Shoppe in Lafayette and

many more. You can earn these rewards with the support of your learning groups. You can also earn tickets, which can be earned throughout each month that can be used to go to the treasure box as well.



**FIELD TRIPS:** You will be notified in advance for all upcoming field trips once they are confirmed and on the school calendar.



**BIRTHDAYS:** Birthdays will be celebrated. However, if a child would like to celebrate their birthday with the class and want to bring in a treat I would strongly encourage them to find something healthy that can be eaten by all students. Students are not required to bring a snack for the class. Students celebrating a birthday can also bring in one to two personal items, which they can share with the class at the end of the day.



**PARENT/TEACHER COMMUNICATION:** Please never hesitate to send a note to school with your child, email, or call to set up a conference to discuss any questions or concerns you may have. Your child's planner may also be used as a communication tool between home and school.



I would like to thank you, in advance, for all your support and help in providing a safe and successful learning environment for your child. Please see the attached questionnaire to be completed and returned. I'd like for you to share with me your expectations for your child so that I may be sure to assist your child in accomplishing those goals!

**Ms. BOCKSER**

# DIFFERENTIATED LEARNING

## “ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL”

Differentiation is a key part of the fifth grade curriculum. Simply put, differentiation is a type of instruction that allows a teacher the ability to meet the different needs of their students. There are many strategies that can be used in the classroom to help learning be accessible for all students including:

- \* Flexible grouping in which teachers create temporary groups of students based on instructional needs and interests.
- \* Tiered lessons where students are provided with a wide range of learning opportunities based on the need to reteach activities or to provide challenge assignments.
- \* Varied levels of teacher support where some students work one on one with the teacher, others work in small groups and others work independently.
- \* Varied teaching approaches including visual, auditory and kinesthetic.

# HOMEWORK

1. Provide a quiet Study time in a well-lit place.
2. Be available to encourage, praise, advise, and supervise.
3. Monitor new concepts for understanding.  
Provide related learning experiences to reinforce concepts learned.
4. Help your child make education a top priority during his or her school years.
5. Show, by example, that learning can be exciting and fulfilling.



**\*Note-** If there is something you feel is too difficult or not at the level at which your child is capable of achieving his or her personal best than I encourage you to set up a meeting with me. I will work with you to set up a system that works for your child and strive to support you here in the classroom the best I can.



# WAYS TO HELP YOUR CHILD AT HOME



1) **Encouraging children to read everyday and to enjoy reading is probably one of the most important influences we can have.** Reading is the basis for all learning. Research suggest the following about reading

- \* The amount of independent, silent reading students do in or out of school is significantly related to gains in reading achievement.

- \* Increasing the amount of time students read out to be a priority for both parents and teachers.

- \* Independent reading is probably a major source of vocabulary growth and reading fluency.

- \* Students who are avid readers come from homes in which reading is encouraged by parents, grandparents, older brothers or sisters, or even baby sitters.

- \* The fluency with which students read in and out of school depends upon the priority classroom teachers give to independent reading. (This research is from Becoming a Nation of Readers, 1985)

Suggested reading activities include the following (you may already be doing many of these things):

**\*Listen to your child read to you:** Children begin to see themselves as readers when they are provided opportunities to share books with others. Talking with your child about the book will increase his or her understanding of the book.

**\*Read aloud with your child:** There is more to reading to children than just saying the words. Reading aloud is a social event, a shared activity in which children are encouraged to ask questions and talk about a story. Children of all ages benefit from hearing stories read aloud.

**\*Have your child see you read:** Children get the impression that reading is valuable when they see their parents enjoying and benefitting from reading. When parents read newspapers, magazines, and books at home and check out library books for themselves as well as for the children, they set a powerful example and emphasize the importance and pleasure of reading.

**\*Introduce your child to materials available from the library:** Helping your child obtain and use a library card can result in many benefits. you convey to the child the conviction that printed and media materials available from the library are valuable and provide access to a variety of resources.

In addition to support in reading, you can:

- 2) **Talk with your child about shared experiences:** Parents can deepen their children's understanding of the world by talking with them about the experiences and memories they have shared. Parents should talk with children about their studies, homework, and school experiences. The experiences should be varied, as variety of experiences help children develop different sorts of knowledge. These experiences should be surrounded by talk. Communicative parents give children opportunities to talk about the world around them. Language frames the world that the child knows; the richer the language, the richer the child's world.
- 3) **Show the importance and use of writing at home:** Providing opportunities and purpose for writing will enhance your child's interest in writing. Ideas to suggest for writing activities include journal or diary writing, shopping lists, story writing, and thank-you notes.
- 4) **Help your child be organized and prepared for school in the morning:** Parents can help their child be prepared for school by encouraging them to pack up their bag the night before as well as set out their clothes for the next day. Make sure it is the child doing the packing up and organizing, not the parent. It is the child's responsibility, and it is important for the child to feel like they have a routine. This way their morning is not hectic and can set them up for a positive day at school.

