Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back to a new school year! Fifth grade is an exciting time for your child as they experience being the leaders of the school and preparing for middle school! It is a fun time for all!

Attached you will find an overview of what you can expect in fifth grade. Please read over the information and let us know if there are questions.

We’re looking forward to a great year with you and your child!

Sincerely,
Ms. Bieter
Mrs. Fattorini
Mrs. Williams
EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT FIFTH GRADE

Curriculum

English Language Arts: Students will be instructed with the Baltimore County English Language Arts (ELA) Grade 5 Curriculum. The children will read challenging texts for a variety of purposes using fiction and nonfiction texts. Many major assignments will be worked on in both reading and writing rotations as most assignments address multiple common core state standards. Expectations, rubrics, and models will be provided for each unit in reading and writing for students and provided digitally on Schoology as well to aid in helping your child to be successful.

E-Learning Expectation: Each week fifth graders will complete two Language Arts lessons. One of the two lessons will be reading and the other writing. These lessons are on Schoology and follow the same 5-part format as the spring. Students are expected to complete the lesson (all 5 parts) by the due date listed on the “Show what you know” section of the lesson. In order to help manage their time, students will be given time during their rotations to complete the different parts. We will assign a different part each day and they will complete them with me during class time. No additional time should be needed to complete the task.

ELA Grading Categories- Reading and Writing together comprise the ELA grade

- Vocabulary and Comprehension
- Speaking and Listening
- Written Expression
- Conventions
- Homework Completion

Reading Overview: As fifth grader readers, the students have high expectations to meet. They will be applying learned skills to more complex text with a goal of reading a mastery level in both skill and on grade level text. Fifth grade readers will learn to annotate their inner conversation when reading and will be expected to use “Think Marks” to track their annotations. “Think Marks” (text annotations) will be explicitly taught in the first few lessons and required the remainder of the year. 5th grade readers will also respond to text dependent

Commented [BP1]: Hi just where the highlighting is. Ashley and I worked on the other parts yesterday
questions in a multi-paragraph essay with cited text evidence weekly or multiple times a week depending on lessons and complexity. We will start slow and increase our stamina as we begin the year. Lastly, students will build stamina when reading lengthy text from multi-page articles to large novels. Novel expectations and requirements will be given to students and families before each novel unit. We will begin our first novel in the second part of unit 2.

Reading Teacher Contact:

1. Email: afattorini@bcps.org
2. Message on Schoology by clicking the envelope in the top right and type in my name

per BCPS guidelines. Please allow 3 business days for a reply.

Language Arts: Grammar, word work, and writing instruction will take place during Language class. Students will maintain a writer’s notebook and a grammar/writing journal in the five subject ELA notebook. Students will complete writing assignments that are checkpoints and assessments within the ELA curriculum, along with a variety of other writing activities. Examples and guidelines will be posted in the writing journal and discussed during reading and writing classes. Resources will be kept in the student ELA folder. Opportunities for research will be presented throughout the year.

Writing/ Language Arts Teacher Contact:

1. Email: jbrier@bcps.org
2. Message on Schoology by clicking the envelope in the top right and type in my name

per BCPS guidelines. Please allow 3 business days for a reply.

Math: Our math curriculum follows the Common Core State Standards and includes the Standards for Mathematical Practice. During math class, students will have access to a variety of online and digital resources for learning. On grade-level content will be presented using Bridges in Mathematics and advanced curriculum will utilize Pearson Envision Math. Additionally, all students will receive on-grade level Number Corner lessons daily.
Students will complete pre and post assessments for various skills and units throughout the year. Students will be expected to use a three-subject math notebook. All scores and feedback will be provided on Schoology and will involve a combination of journal entries, discussions, checkpoints, tiered tasks, and assessments. Students will work to master a variety of skills in the following areas: operations and algebraic thinking, number and operations in base ten, number and operations with fractions, measurement and data, and geometry. Grading will follow the Common Core State Standards for Math and will align with the BCPS grading policy.

In 5th grade lessons, math students are expected to use math talk and show their work on all math problems. They should demonstrate an understanding of a variety of problem-solving strategies. Students are expected to write in math and include math vocabulary in their responses. Digital tools are available for additional practice.

Students have multiple opportunities to meet with success in math in a variety of formats. At home, continuing to practice fluency with math facts is essential to help your student be prepared for learning.

Math Teacher Contact:

1. Email: lwilliams31@bcps.org
2. Message on Schoology by clicking the envelope in the top right and type in my name

per BCPS guidelines. Please allow 3 business days for a reply.

Content (Science/Social Studies/Health):
In fifth grade we rotate units among these three subjects. We will cover various historical topics from the time periods of the Thirteen Colonies and the American Revolution. Students will access lessons for content via their Schoology course for the assigned subject. Additionally, notes will be taken throughout Google Meet classes.
to aid in understanding. Please check Schoology often during these units to monitor grades. We will cover 4 health units this year in which students will learn about personal health. The last 2 units will be taught in the spring and will require parent permission. More information about those units will be sent home around spring break.

Content is taught by your child’s homeroom teacher. For questions and support, please email or message the homeroom teacher.

**General Information:**

**Schoology**

BCPS adopted “Schoology” a few years ago, and it is used extensively in 5th grade. Students will use this learning tool throughout the day and will have constant access to their grades, assignments, deadlines, missing work, and redo assignments. Students and parents should be checking Schoology often as this is our primary tool for communicating upcoming assignments, reminders, and grades. Fifth grade follow the BCPS numeric grading scale. Any score earned below a 50% will receive the BCPS minimum of 50% and will be noted in the comments as LS (Low Score). Where applicable, due dates will be noted on the assignment.

The 5th grade team will use the “Homeroom” course to communicate reminders, tips, tech support, and much more. Please check as often as possible with your child to assure success this year. We will post the monthly classroom newsletters and other information in the students’ homeroom course. Please check Schoology often for updates and other important information from your child’s teacher.

**Student Devices:**

All 5th grade students should receive a BCPS Chromebook to use this school year. During the first week of school, a contract explicitly outlining student expectations and consequences will be reviewed with students. Headphones/Earbuds were listed on the school supply list this year. Students will need to have them for daily use as many assignments require listening on their devices. Please check in periodically to assure they still have them and that they are in working order. Detailed tech support will be provided from BCPS on their website as well as on Schoology in the Homeroom course. The Homeroom course will be the main spot for general information.

**Missing from Class:**

For the 2020-2021 school year of online learning, BCPS will follow the normal guidelines for attendance. Please refer to information emailed from Mrs. McNelly and BCPS for detailed attendance information. Where possible, please help assure missed work is completed by the due date. If additional time is needed, please discuss with the teacher. As the BPCS curriculum is fast paced, please complete and return assignments as soon as possible.
**Band/Orchestra:** Students will receive information about this from Mr. Doak.

**Grading Policies:**
- **Redoing Assignments:** Assignments must be completed with the teacher who assigned them within one week of the assignment deadline. In order to request to redo an assignment, students will message the assigning teacher on Schoology. We will make clear the expectations and help with redirection if needed.
- **Late/Make up Work:** All assigned work should be completed by the end of the week, unless directed by the teacher. Individual cases will be discussed as needed.
- **Assignment Deadlines:** Assignments must be completed as directed by the teachers. Information and deadlines will be posted on the assignment detail in Schoology.

**Correspondence**
- We can be reached by phone (410) 887-5947, by Schoology Messenger, or by e-mail at:
  - Writing/Language Arts: Ms. Brier: jbrier@bcps.org
  - Reading: Mrs. Fattorini: afattorini@bcps.org
  - Math: Mrs. Williams: lwilliams31@bcps.org