



Dear 5th Grade Families,

Welcome to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade! We are thrilled to partner with you and your child this school year for Reading, Language Arts and Social Studies. As the last year of elementary school, our goal is to have your scholar practice, refine, and cultivate the skills gained over their tenure here and develop them even further in preparation for middle school.

Fifth grade scholars will be analyzing material in deeper ways, writing with more structure, encouraged to be more independent in their learning, and expected to be more responsible. The core tenets in our classrooms are “Respect”, “Responsibility”, and “Resourcefulness,” which will be discussed often throughout the school year.

It is a rigorous year, but it is one filled with many exciting activities and growth opportunities. With proper communication and a strong commitment from all parties, we will have a fantastic year together! We’ve included some information and procedures for our class that are helpful for you and your child to know.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach us at [leilani.regan@archimedean.org](mailto:leilani.regan@archimedean.org) and [natalie.bolivar@archimedean.org](mailto:natalie.bolivar@archimedean.org).

We are looking forward to this school year together!

Sincerely,

*Ms. Leilani Regan & Ms. Natalie Bolivar*

## COMMUNICATION

The 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading team uses email, Class Dojo, and phone calls to communicate with parents. Please make sure you have verified your contact information with the office and your child's homeroom teacher.

If you would like to contact us, please send an email. Our goal is to respond within 48 hours, although it is usually sooner. If you did not receive a reply, it is likely we did not receive the email so please feel free to follow back up!

## HOME LEARNING

Home learning (aka Homework) is an important part of academic excellence. It is intended to provide practice, preparation, good habits, elaboration, and study opportunities for each scholar. Scholars will be assigned home learning weekly, but the assignment will vary. Our objective is to give meaningful work that will support the day's lesson as well foster responsibility and accountability. Many times, we assign iReady lessons to reinforce a concept.

Home Learning is usually graded based on completion with fidelity. Completed assignments that reflect a lack of care in their work, short response questions not answered in complete sentences, or answers not proven with underlined text evidence, etc., will result in no credit for that assignment. Certain take-home quizzes are based on accuracy but that will be announced in class.

Scholars are expected to have their completed assignments daily so that we may review it in class. Should your child have an unusual circumstance that prevented them from completing an assignment, please communicate with us via a handwritten note or email so that we can determine an appropriate solution. Please note that late assignments result in a 10% deduction per day until submitted.

# BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

Please take some time to speak to your child about classroom behavior and expectations:

## **Be Respectful**

- Raise hands and wait your turn to speak
- Allow others to learn by not disrupting or disturbing the class
- Use kind words and manners in all interactions
- Keep hands and feet to yourself to respect others' personal space

## **Be Responsible**

- Give your best effort
- Listen and follow directions, quickly and the first time
- Be prepared to learn (materials, behavior, attitude)
- Stay on task
- Keep iPads flat on the desk
- Be attentive to classmates speaking

## **Be Safe**

- Walk safely throughout the halls
- I.D. must be worn at all times
- Stay in the lunch area/classroom/school and stay with your group
- See something, say something

## **Be Resourceful**

- Ask yourself if you've thought of every solution prior to asking for help
- Create useful and unique solutions in challenging situations

## **Be Curious**

- Embrace differences
- Be willing to learn new things
- Find new and educational ways to spend your free time
- Lead by example and help others as 5th graders are role models for the school

## PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

A safe and peaceful learning environment is important for all. Although we do not expect to have disciplinary issues, it is important scholars and parents understand the procedures in place for disruptive and/or inappropriate behavior. Some actions may require immediate parental contact or administrative referral.

<b>Tier 1 - Verbal Warning</b>	Scholar will be advised that behavior is not acceptable for the classroom environment
<b>Tier 2 - Escalated Verbal Warning/Private Discussion</b>	Scholar will be taken aside to be reminded that the continued behavior is unacceptable
<b>Tier 3 - Written Communication</b>	Teacher will send a message via email/agenda to the child's parents and determine whether the scholar should be referred to the school counselor
<b>Tier 4 - Loss of Privilege</b>	Continued interruption will result in a loss of privilege (e.g. no recess, seat change, redirection, independent work in another classroom, etc.) and the teacher will follow up with the parent through email or phone contact
<b>Tier 5 - Parent Conference Request/ Lunch Detention</b>	If behavior persists, an in-person parent conference with the 5th grade teaching team will be requested and/or lunch detention will be administered by Mr. Carbia
<b>Tier 6 - Follow up Contact/ Loss of Major Privilege</b>	If the aforementioned actions do not correct the behavior, parent contact will be reinitiated with loss of major 5th grade activity (e.g. field trip, banquet, or club activity, etc.)
<b>Tier 7 - Administrative Referral</b>	Scholar will be referred to administration for further disciplinary action

## **GRAMMAR**

A new grammar skill is introduced weekly (e.g. nouns, verbs, pronouns, etc.) and practiced daily. An assessment is administered at the end of each unit to assess mastery of the skill. In addition, to help reinforce use of grammar in writing, scholars will be incorporating the grammar skill into their weekly paragraphs and essays. Tests are announced at least 3 days in advance to allow ample time for studying.

## **READING**

Each week, scholars are given a new Reading comprehension skill and strategy that we work in with several different styles of passages. Every other Thursday, a reading test is administered to assess their understanding of that skill. The reading test consists of 2 paired texts that scholars will read independently. Since it is a “cold” test, students will not have previous exposure to the passage but will be familiar with the style of story and questions. The comprehension skills “loop” throughout the units so scholars will have the opportunity to use these skills repeatedly in various ways and depths with each unit.

## **VOCABULARY**

Vocabulary words will not often be assigned as our curriculum focuses on strategies scholars should use to determine the definition of unfamiliar words. The majority of our focus will be on how to use context clues and root words to define and understand unfamiliar words.

## **WRITING**

Each week, scholars will have a fun, warm up writing prompt to freely write in their writing journal. The goal is to allow them to “find their voice” when sharing their thoughts and feelings.

There will also be a more formal weekly writing prompt that will be graded as classwork. As the year progresses, scholars will move from writing a thesis statement and paragraph, to a short essay and then to a final formal essay.

The F.A.S.T. style writing pieces will focus on narrative, argumentative or expository texts and will be graded using the F.A.S.T. writing rubric. Our build up to this will be heavily guided to ensure their success upon the FSA Writing Exam! More information can be found on the Florida Department of Education website:

<https://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/best/>

### iREADY

An iReady reading diagnostic is administered at the beginning of the year to understand your child’s reading comprehension levels. Each week, scholars will follow their Reading iReady path and complete at least two (2) lessons per week. More information to follow.

### TECHNOLOGY

Technology in the classroom is used to *enhance* the learning experience, not to replace it. At the teacher’s discretion, we will use iPads and computers for certain programs, assignments and projects.

Programs and websites such as Class Dojo, Seesaw, iReady, Quizizz, and Dadeschools are used in our classroom. Please feel free to familiarize yourself with them.

