

Welcome!

Please find your child's seat.
They have written you a note.
Feel free to write back while we get ready to begin.



Communication

- Most of my communication is done via email
 - ▶ Is your email on file current? Have you been receiving my emails?
- Individual contact will be made to discuss your child's progress if I notice something is up (good or bad)
- Class website: <http://5stewart.weebly.com/>
- Likely moving focus to **SeeSaw** LMS soon.
 - ▶ Seesaw is an online digital portfolio. Students will upload their work to share. If you have the app on your phone you will get notifications when your student's work is posted.

5th Grade

Here comes middle school!

- Work Habits
- Time Management
- Organizational Skills
- Study Skills
- Problem Solving (attempt yourself before coming to me)
- Responsibility (homework, communication, lunch, etc.)
- INDEPENDENCE

Schedule

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

8:00 Morning circle

8:10 Specials

8:55 Writing and Content Study (timing will flex based on need)

10:20 Recess

10:35 Math

11:45 Writing Skills,

12:20 Recess/Lunch

1:00 Reading

2:25 Wrap Up, Prepare for Tomorrow

2:35 Dismissal

Schedule Continued

Starting next week students will be released at **1:05pm**
on Wednesdays for teacher collaboration.

8:00 Morning circle

8:10 Specials

8:40 Writing and Content Study (timing will flex based on need)

10:20 Recess

10:35 Math

11:45 Read Aloud

12:20 Recess/Lunch

1:05 Dismissal

MY THOUGHTS ON HOMEWORK

There is ample evidence that a rich literacy life at home and parent-child connections through literacy activities (reading aloud, writing together, talking and thinking about books and story, modeling reading, even turning on closed captioning on the TV when watching a family show or movie together) tremendously benefit the young reader. However, there is little evidence that homework (even quality homework) has a positive impact on the achievement and development of early elementary students.

Family time, free play, conversations with family, outdoor exploration, cooking and eating together, tinkering/building something, doing regular chores, playing a board game, encouraging curiosity – these activities support children’s language development and build deep family relationships.

In lieu of regular homework (and the ensuing battles), I encourage families to provide a literacy-rich home environment, to talk with their children daily, and to support daily home reading routines. I hope you can find time to read to and with your children to foster joyful reading habits and to provide authentic writing and math opportunities at home.

Sleep & Devices

“A loss of one hour of sleep is equivalent to [the loss of] two years of cognitive maturation and development”

--Chapter 2, *Nurture Shock*

“Sleep deprivation impairs a child’s brain by reducing the plasticity of that child’s brain cells. The brain cells are then unable to form the connections required to record memory. Therefore, children suffering from sleep deprivation are not able to retain information learned in class. Sleep is vital for the synthesis and storage of memories. During sleep, the brain moves information learned during the day into more efficient storage areas within the brain. The more a child learns during the day, the more sleep is required to consolidate the memories associated with the information learned.”

Nightly Reading

30+ Minutes

Please don't let it drop*

*but please don't make it a battle

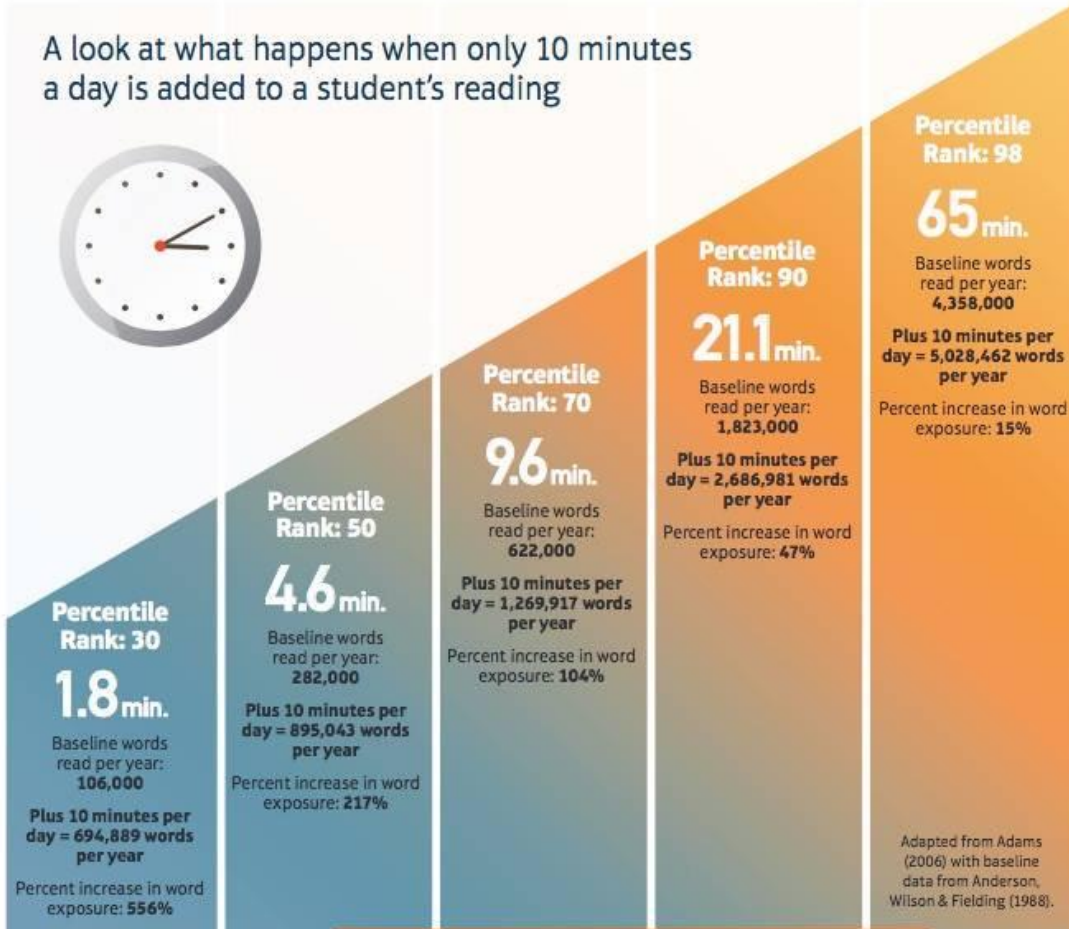
Success in reading is directly related to the amount of time a person spends reading.

Learners need enormous amounts of time for actual reading.

Learners need opportunities to talk in response to texts.

Learners need access to books that allow them to do a high volume of **high success** reading.

A look at what happens when only 10 minutes a day is added to a student's reading



Something is better than nothing. You don't have to be perfect.

CHART I

From *Disrupting Thinking* by Beers & Probst, p. 137

Adapted from Adams (2006) with baseline data from Anderson, Wilson & Fielding (1988).

Encourage talk about reading...

Some ideas to try:

- If you could be friends with any character in the book, who would it be and why?
- What was the most exciting part of the book?
- What surprised you most about the story? Why was it surprising?
- What do you think the saddest part of the story was? Why?
- Is there anything in this story that is similar to something that has happened in your life?
- What would you do in a situation similar to that faced by a character in the story?
- What part of the story made you think it would end the way it did?
- How would you change the book's ending if you could re-write it?
- How is this book like one you read in the past? Discuss how they are alike and different.

Consider modeling with your own reading. Even better? Try reading the same book.

The discussion becomes easier.

My Philosophy on Reading

(as more eloquently said by Neil Gaiman)

“The simplest way to make sure that we raise literate children is to teach them to read, and to show them that reading is a pleasurable activity. And that means, at its simplest, finding books that they enjoy, giving them access to those books and letting them read them.”

Access to books will be very important:

Average reader should be reading about a book a week.

Some readers should be in easier texts that they're finishing actually quicker--1-2 a day

This means your learner will need a steady supply of books.

WHERE CAN STUDENTS GET BOOKS?

- Classroom library
- Friends (underused resource)
- School library (3-4 at a time)
- Public library
 - Do they know how to put titles on hold?
 - Err on the side of checking out too many
 - Choice is key!
- Goodwill (\$0.99-\$2.99 for used books)
- Bookstore
 - Start in the new releases section
 - Powell's has used and sale books
- Scholastic
 - Good motivator and helps build our class library.

Fiction Builds Empathy (Reading & Writing)

“When you watch TV or see a film, you are looking at things happening to other people. Prose fiction is something you build up from twenty-six letters and a handful of punctuation marks and you, and you alone, using your imagination, create a world and people it and look out through other eyes. You get to feel things, visit places and worlds you would never otherwise know. **You learn that everyone else out there is a me, as well.** You’re being someone else, and when you return to your own world, **you’re going to be slightly changed.**”

-Neil Gaiman, “Why Our Future Depends on Libraries, Reading and Daydreaming”

Language Arts

- **Write informative/explanatory texts** to examine a topic to convey ideas and information clearly
- **Write opinion pieces**, supporting a point of view with reasons and information
- **Write narratives** to develop experiences or events using descriptive details and clear sequences
- Demonstrate command of standard **English grammar** when writing or speaking
- Demonstrate command of conventions of **capitalization, punctuation, and spelling** when writing
- **Read** a variety of **fiction and nonfiction** texts for comprehension, research, and enjoyment
- **Deliver an informative speech** with appropriate intonation, eye contact, and volume
 - ▶ Hopefully while instilling a joy and appreciation for reading & writing

Math

- Solve problems involving **decimals** to the hundredths place
- Solidify multiplication reasoning and strategies
- **Divide** using a 4-digit dividend and 2-digit divisor
- Add, subtract, multiply and divide **fractions**
- Solve problems involving **volume**
- Classify **two-dimensional** figures into categories
- Graph and interpret points on a **coordinate grid**
- Solve problems using mathematical practices

Math (continued)

Over the past two years the district has been involved with a in-depth look at several math curriculums. Although there isn't a new math adoption, we are pulling from a variety of curricula in order to create a more comprehensive way to meet the needs of students. We will still be using the **Eureka Math** Curriculum in addition to **Context for Learning Math**. This is a very collaborative, inquiry-based math curriculum to round out the needs of our students, the district has purchased a license for DreamBox. DreamBox is a fully online program which meets students where they are. Driven by Intelligent Adaptive Learning™ technology, **DreamBox** adapts to students' actions to meet them at the right level—with personalized instruction that promotes student decision making and strategy development.

Science

- **Organisms as living systems**/interdependence of plants, animals, and environment
- **Sun-Earth-Moon system**/Sun's effects on Earth's weather and climate
- **Friction, gravity and magnetic forces**
- Use **observations** and **scientific inquiry** to identify testable questions
- Solve problems using the principles of **engineering design**

Social Studies

- **Native Americans** prior to European exploration
- Early Spanish, French and British **exploration** of North America
- Reasons for **movement of people** from Europe to the Americas and conflict with Native Americans
- Life in the **13 British colonies** and resistance to British rule
- Branches of **U.S. government**/lawmaking/rights of U.S. citizens
- Economics

BIZTOWN FIELD TRIP: March 22

Biztown is an indoor mini-city with 19 businesses. Students are adults for a day – they have a job, earn a paycheck, have a bank account, pay taxes and vote (and they get to dress up).

Volunteers are needed. Look for a future email.

Trainings have been scheduled for **3/6/2017 from 6:00 – 7:30 PM** and **3/8/2017 from 10-11:30 AM.**



Snack

- Students can bring healthy snacks into school to have during the day. They will need to remember to pack them separately from their lunch as lunches are left in the cafeteria in the morning.
- Examples of health snacks include: fruit, crackers, bars, veggies.
- Only water to drink in the classroom, please.

Conferences

- Conferences are October 11 & 12
- Signups are done online and information about that will be coming from the school.
- I am also always willing to meet outside of class about any topic. Please contact me ahead of time for a few times/dates that would work.

Thank you.

Questions?