

Dear Room 206 Families:

Thank you for taking the time to read this 5th grade Survival Guide! ☺ In this handout I have included detailed information about fifth grade. The handout is arranged in alphabetical order for easy reference. This class has a GREAT bunch of kids, who already in one week are back into routine and diving into learning.

Absences and Vacations



If your child is absent from school he/she will have one day per missed day to complete any work. This will include all work done as homework and, in some cases, work that was done in class. **If you know that your child will be absent for a few days, please let me know one week in advance and I will get together the work he/she will miss.

Agenda Books/Assignment Books



Students are expected to keep up with each day's assignments in their notebooks. We will fill them out at the end of each day together as a class. I have a large poster in the front of the room that matches their assignment notebook, where I record what they are recording each day. At the beginning, I might stamp it to see that they have filled it out correctly, or encourage them to check their assignment notebooks with a friend. I may also add the homework to my Google classroom at times. I will move to periodic checks of their notebooks as the year goes on and the responsibility falls more on them. As the students become more independent, it will not be necessary to sign this book every night. I appreciate a parent's initials / signature nightly, but do not require it. This is a way for you and your child to discuss the day and any homework assignments or notes from the office.

If the Assignment Books are lost the replacement fee is \$10. We have discussed the importance of keeping track of these books & I don't anticipate any lost books.

Birthdays



Students are welcome to celebrate their birthdays, or half-birthdays, at school if they would like. If your child chooses to bring in birthday treats, treats must be store-bought and preferably allergy friendly (i.e., peanut and tree nut free). Please make sure you send enough treats for the class and that it is easy to hand out (i.e., pre-cut cookie cake, individually wrapped snacks, etc.) Note: treats do not have to be limited to food items; if your child wants to hand out fun erasers or pencils, etc., that would be just fine. By no means are treats required. The office has requested that students with summer birthdays celebrate their birthdays on their half-birthday. Please let me know if/when you are sending in treats so that I can plan accordingly.

Camp Wyman



The Camp Wyman experience continues to be a part of the 6th grade year at Steger. The district, however, would like for the cost of Camp Wyman to be paid in full and collected by their 5th grade homeroom teachers by April/May 1st (to be determined by Steger). The approximate cost is \$185. There will be an information district meeting all about camp later in the school year.

Community-Building & Class Teams



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The students participate in community-building activities throughout the year. These activities are incorporated into our days as we learn about one another and about different content areas. Research indicates, and it is part of my experience, that as we build a community-based environment, the students feel more welcome, more successful, and more a part of the overall school community.

About every six-eight weeks, students will be re-grouped into different table teams. These teams are meant to be balanced in a variety of ways, thus allowing students to learn to work with others that may not be the same as them in some manner. Teams participate in activities to strengthen their teams and to allow them to get to know each other and to work together in a cooperative and participatory way.

Conferencing



I can be reached at Avery at 918-4236. I can also e-mail if that works better for you - it often works better for me. My e-mail is Hartz.Christina@wgmail.org.

Fall Parent / Teacher conferences will be held in early November. Sign-ups will be online and emailed out at a later date similar to Intake/Jump Start Conferences. I like students to attend a portion of this conference. This is a great time for the students to show off the progress that they have made and tell you the goals they have set for themselves.

Differentiated Learning



I am committed to differentiated learning for students based on their readiness level and interests. I will be integrating the workshop method into the daily curriculum when applicable. The workshop method will allow me to meet with individual students as well as small groups to extend learning, practice skills to gain proficiency, and to remediate whenever necessary. I will use several forms of assessments as well as my anecdotal notes to group students. Groups will change based on the students' strengths and needs.

Enrichment/STEAM



Enrichment and STEAM opportunities will be offered throughout the year, so long as homework and behavior are up to par. It is time well spent working on class building, team building, or doing a special in-depth study. We are excitedly pairing up as Kindergarten buddies with Mrs. Howard's class. This gives all kiddos the opportunity to be a mentor through special activities with our partner class. Our class is definitely ecstatic! Other activities include Metro Theater, the NCADA (National Council for Alcohol and Drug Abuse) program, guest speakers, Project-Based Learning, and design challenges. We are also already working hard to move around the bases on our baseball chart and earn both individual and class rewards!

Field Trips



We will be going on a variety of field trips to supplement our learning throughout the year. Teachers enjoy off-campus activities as much as our students, and with great thought and care have worked hard as a team to plan meaningful experiences. More information regarding specific locations, dates, and costs will be send home via backpack mail and email throughout the year. I will do my best to keep you up-to-date with plans

and deadlines as they approach.

Please note, our incredible, generous PTO offered to cover the costs of all field trips offered at Avery this year. Still, fifth grade can be a very costly year for families with our P.E. skiing day, special t-shirts, and collecting money in the spring to pay for the 6th grade Camp Wyman experience.

Handwriting



The students will be working on a handwriting packet throughout the course of the year. We will work with the students to set up a timeline to monitor monthly progress. This means that students will need to complete approx. 5-10 pages each month. The expectation is that students will complete the work AT school, and that by early spring the packet will be completed and turned in.

Home-Learning/Homework Assignments and Notebooks



My home-learning/homework philosophy is that home learning should be directly connected to the content/strategy studied that day/week. I also believe that homework teaches students responsibility and time management. Homework is the responsibility of the student, and should be completed with effort and care. Generally, you will see daily math practice/review and possibly vocabulary/spelling or studying for a test as homework. As part of their nightly homework, students will be expected to read their goal number of pages (count the pages you read in 20 minutes, then push to read a few more) each week night and over the weekend, totaling approximately 2 hours of reading at home each week. Students will be receiving more information about specific reading assignments each month.

Throughout the year, students will also be assigned a couple long-term projects. In addition to supporting the curriculum, these will be designed to teach children about planning and time management. I encourage you to assist your child in planning and prioritizing. Your mentorship will be important to your child's success. The calendar in our classroom will also help students keep track of long-term assignments and their due dates. In addition, I will use Google Classroom with the students to assign some daily work and projects, and we will utilize our assignment notebooks on a daily basis to keep track of assignments and other important reminders and notes.

The homework policy for Room 206 was explained in "Mrs. Hartz's Class Contract" that went home during the first week of school. To review, most homework is due on the following school day. Students have one "Oops!" per trimester in which there is no penalty for forgotten work-as long as it is turned in the next day. When homework is continually forgotten there will be consequences such as using free time, reward recess, or enrichment activities to keep up with the work. When students repeatedly forget their homework, students will bring home a missing assignment sheet to ensure that we are all on the same page with your child's learning.

Also, not all homework will be returned to you with a grade on it. Often, it is more valuable learning and practice to discuss an assignment and correct it in class than it is for me to assess it away from the students. This permits me to determine in the moment if students need additional instruction, and it permits them to ask questions.

Inhalers and/or Medication



If your child needs to take medication at school, please medication to the school with a doctor's note. This includes Tylenol for headaches. If your child has asthma, please send an inhaler to the school nurse ASAP.

Instagram



Follow our dynamic class journey on Instagram [@mrshartzavery](https://www.instagram.com/mrshartzavery) for pictures and other brief updates throughout the year.

Love & Logic



A big part of 5th grade focuses on learning to be responsible and independent. I challenge you, as a parent, to help your child with this during the school year! I encourage you to resist bringing up forgotten items (backpacks, homework, lunch boxes, instruments, etc.), even if you feel it's your fault (which I know we all do at times)! ☺ Your child will learn to solve problems, handle trying situations, and become more responsible and resilient in your absence.

Lunch Money



The cooks in the cafeteria request that, if possible, you deposit money into your child's lunch account online via the parent portal. Otherwise, the school is requesting that a parent or guardian make a payment in the front office with our secretary - they will provide you with a receipt and then lunch payment will be deposited by the cafeteria staff. As in the past, accounts owing a balance will be allowed 3 charges, then a cheese sandwich and mil given on the fourth. If you ever owe money, send in more than just what you owe to cover for future lunches - this should make life easier for them and you. If needing to make a payment for multiple students at Avery and would like one deposit, please contact the district personnel, Tricia Yates at 314-918-4158

Mail from School



Mail from Avery will be sent home on Wednesdays. Please be sure to check backpacks at least every Wednesday. You will find information about upcoming Avery events and any PTO letters, among other things. Most school work (graded and otherwise) will also be sent home on Wednesdays. It would be of value for both you and your child to occasionally sit down and go over one or two of their graded papers.

I do not ask that parents sign the notebooks every night, however it is encouraged, particularly on Wednesday. This way you and I both know that their bags were checked. Please review the contents each week, and send back any appropriate items. Newsletters, quick notes/reminders, and email updates will come home from me throughout the year; please make sure your email is current with the office.

Math



We will be using the district's Investigations Program (<http://investigations.terc.edu/>). Important concepts for students this year will include extended knowledge of multiplication and division, place value, fractions, beginning algebra concepts/order of operations, number stories (word problems), geometry, volume, measurement, and coordinate grids. Family letters for each unit can be found on the Avery Fifth grade website, and there are Student Reference Books (textbooks) in the classroom that students may check out at any time to help with any math work. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in online math programs, such as MobyMax, Khan Academy, or XtraMath. While students will have time to work on this at school, I highly encourage and suggest students work on this at home as well.

Intervention time is again part of our schedule this year. Intervention will take place each day for 20 minutes outside of homeroom math. The focus of Intervention is math at each student's individual level. This could be re-teaching or enrichment based on your child's needs for a particular skill/concept. During this flexible grouping time your child will be working with a variety of teachers.

PBIS - Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports



PBIS is a framework or approach for assisting school personnel in adopting and organizing evidence-based behavioral interventions into an integrated continuum that enhances academic and social behavior outcomes for all students. At Avery PBIS includes line basics, cafeteria basics, playground basics, etc.

Every child will succeed academically and personally! Improvement and progress are supported and expected. The use of the AVERY Way is as a guideline for positive community behavior. Positive behaviors are emphasized through positive reinforcement and praise, whole class and individual behavior goals, and a school wide positive referral to the principal called The Avery Ticket. When necessary, consequences will be handled privately and individually, based on the level of the specific behavior. Warnings and "Taking Responsibility" reflection sheets are used if a student makes a poor choice of behavior. All this being said, each day is a new day with the opportunity for a fresh start.

Reading



Our reading specialist and I are currently assessing each child's reading level for best reading instruction this year. We will soon dive into our district Lucy Calkins Reading Units of Study program, with mini-lessons, reading groups, independent reading, and responding to reading in writing. In addition to reading appropriate leveled-books / articles, we will also highlight various reading strategies, such as summarizing and responding in writing, within other subject areas as well. We will visit the library weekly where the kids can check out a variety of books. We will also do class activities to help build and foster vocabulary development. Your child should be reading daily!

Report Cards / Elementary Progress Report



Report cards will be sent home 3 times this year. The report card format, now referred to as the Elementary Progress Report, is the same as last year. Please refer to the district website for more information. Ultimately your child's progress report (report card) should reflect his or her personal best / growth.

Most homework, tests, and projects will be graded using the new scales. See below:

Progress Report Markings:

For Student Curriculum Marks/Learning Goals

M: Meeting: The child applies the learning goal (**district grade level expectation**).

A: Approaching: The child applies a basic understanding of the goal.

B: Beginning: The child applies an initial understanding of the goal.

N/A: Not assessed at this time.

Living and Working in the classroom: Indicators in Living and Working in the classroom will use these three descriptors, as this area includes strategies best described by the frequency with which the student uses the skill.

U: Usually

O: Occasionally

S: Seldom

X – Marking Selections

Snacks



As was mentioned in the introduction letter, students may bring a snack everyday as long as it is healthy. Pretzels, granola bars, and fruit are a great suggestion; please no soda. Please be aware of any allergies we may have in our classroom; kids may not share snacks.

Science and Social Studies



We have some great topics to learn about this year! We will generally alternate between social studies and science units. In science, the topics we will be studying are: Ecosystems, Earth and Space Systems, Structures and Properties of Matter, and Engineering. *WE WILL ALSO HAVE A SCIENCE PORTION OF THE MAP TEST IN 5TH GRADE ALONG WITH MATH AND COMMUNICATION ARTS, AND WILL REVIEW A VARIETY OF SCIENCE CONCEPTS AND PROCESS SKILLS IN THE SPRING!* In Social Studies, our units will include: Explorers - Foundations of America (colonies, Declaration of Independence, American Revolution), Westward Expansion, and a brief introduction / review of the Civil War.

Writing

We will continue using the "Lucy Calkins - Units of Study" program that teaches good writing habits. Our units will include: Personal Narrative, Information, and Opinion writing; if time allows, we will also take a look at Science-Fiction/Fantasy writing. Complete sentences, appropriate capitalization and punctuation, indenting paragraphs, & good research are a *must* this year! We will also do class activities to help build and foster vocabulary development.

Weekly Schedule - this schedule will be what we do everyday.

TIME	ACTIVITY
8:00-8:15	Arrival & Unpack, Morning Work
8:15-8:30	Announcements, Attendance & Lunch count; Morning Work, Class Meetings
8:30-9:20	Science or Social Studies
9:20-10:10	<i>SPECIALS</i> Monday: PE (Anderson)/Library Tuesday: Music Wednesday: Art Thursday: PE (Velten) Friday: Health (Bonham)
10:10-10:20	Restroom and Snack
10:20-10:40	Intervention > Skills Groups
10:40-11:40	Math
11:40-12:10	Writing Mini lessons, conferences, workshop
12:10-12:50	Recess & Lunch

12:50-1:10	Read Aloud
1:10-1:40	Continue Writing
1:40-2:40	Reading Mini lessons, conferences, workshop
2:40-2:50	Word Work ~ Words Their Way
2:50-3:00	Assignment Books, Pack up, Clean up
3:00	Dismissal



Thank you for the support you've already provided this year. It thrills me to see how interested you are in your child's time at school. My responsibility as a teacher is a sacred one, and my goal is to provide your child with daily learning opportunities that are both enjoyable & meaningful.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Christina Hartz ☺