



Welcome to 5th Grade!

Summer 2026

Dear Parents,

Welcome to 5th Grade at The Franklin School of Innovation! We are excited to get to know you and introduce you to The Franklin School of Innovation! Mr. Chris Pauley (Social Studies), Mrs. Jenn Ryan (Science), and Mrs. Krystal Frazer (ELA) will all be returning to the 5th grade team, and we are extremely excited to welcome Mrs. Kristina Lunsford (Math) and Mrs. Jessica Williams (EC) to our team this year. Beyond introducing ourselves and saying, "Welcome!" We also want to take this opportunity to overview some expectations we have for our students and families, and in turn let you know what you can expect from us.

From students, we expect everyone to help contribute to a positive classroom culture. A positive classroom culture is one where we speak kindly and listen respectfully, maintain a growth mindset, arrive prepared to work and learn, and take care of our campus and materials. We expect students to follow the dress code and guidelines of our school, and to show every adult at school the same respect they show their adults at home.

From our parents, we ask for your patience and support. We are entirely committed to the success of every child, and our goals are the same as yours - we want the best for your child! We will have around one hundred students to work with each day, and concerns, conflicts, and needs will arise. Let us show students that we are working together towards common goals, and provide a model of cooperation throughout the year.

From your teachers, you should expect us to know your child as an individual. We will strive to make personal connections with every student, to know their strengths and weaknesses, and to push every student towards academic and personal growth. You can expect us to make decisions based upon your child's best interest and to get timely communication from us when a concern arises. You can expect us to help, to guide, to encourage, to model the values and behaviors we teach, and to push students to do more than they ever thought they could.

We are very excited to kick off what we hope will be the best year yet at Franklin. Below you will find a brief introduction from each of your core teachers.

English-Language Arts

Students in ELA can expect to be challenged daily to analyze, describe, compare, revise, develop, organize, collaborate, and reflect. Most of all, persist in the challenge of putting thoughts to paper. Students will read and write daily in addition to participating in classroom discussions and activities. In reading, we will emphasize the concepts of reading deeply, gathering evidence, and analyzing text. In writing, we will emphasize sentence, paragraph, and essay structure, incorporation of quotations, and clarity of message. We will be reading fictional novels, biographies, and much more!

Social Studies

Social Studies content builds on previous studies of state and local government/history and transitions to a broader understanding of those topics on the national level. Students will learn a comprehensive, inclusive, and ethical approach to United States history. Major topics covered will be Native American history, European exploration/colonization and its effects, causes of the Revolutionary War, the creation and function of our government, causes of the Civil War, the Industrial Revolution in America, economics, The Great Depression, and Civil Rights.

Science

Fifth-grade citizen scientists will do the work of scientists by forming evidence-based explanations and designing and conducting experiments. Students can expect to apply their growing knowledge through projects and labs, often working collaboratively. Our curriculum explores life science, force and motion, and weather. We will build a foundation of inquiry skills that students will expand upon each year at Franklin.

Math

In fifth-grade math, students will build on previous mathematical knowledge and investigate new topics such as order of operations, volume, and graphing on a coordinate plane. Some core fifth-grade math skills also include multiplying and dividing with multi-digit numbers, decimals, and fractions, as well as adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators. Students will regularly apply their mathematical knowledge to real-world problems and learn multiple ways to solve equations. Students will frequently use math to better understand science concepts. For example, we will investigate the use of place value and decimals by using the metric system to collect data and use graphs to analyze experimental results.

Resource and Inclusion (IEP/504)

Students will continue to work towards goals through their current Individual Education Program, if applicable. This will include both resource and inclusion time stated in the service minutes agreed upon for each student who falls in this category. Students can expect to work in small groups and/or one-on-one to gain the skills necessary to accomplish each goal. These resource/inclusion times will be scheduled throughout the week for each student while incorporating their accommodations and modifications.

Assessments and Character Development

In all fifth-grade core classes, we will focus heavily on FSI's Habits of Scholarship to develop lifelong learning skills, including organization and communication skills. A student's grade will be a culmination of classwork, assessments, and projects, and the contents of their notebook/binder.

5th Grade Readiness and Summer Preparation

Research indicates that many students will experience a decline in academic growth during summer vacation. To ensure that our students start school prepared to learn, they should engage in academic material over break.

We encourage rising 5th graders to read every night. Reading a variety of genres, reading aloud, and talking about what they're reading will help keep their minds engaged. **Please see the reading list below for suggested age-appropriate books.**

- a. It is essential for students to arrive the first day of school, already knowing their multiplication facts. Students should practice them daily this summer to be prepared to build on this skill throughout fifth grade math. These [math cards](#) are a great resource for practicing multiplication in a way that promotes mathematical understanding and number fluency.

We encourage students to keep a weekly **nature journal** this summer and write or sketch what they see, hear, and observe around them. By observing closely through writing or drawing, they hone their observation skills and descriptive writing skills. This practice can help students find a sense of calm by focusing on the present. They can turn in their nature journal to science class for extra credit at the beginning of the fall semester.

Finally, thank you for choosing to entrust our team with your child's education. We can't wait to get to know them and to watch them grow. Please feel free to be in touch with us as needs arise and we will do the same. There is also a school supplies list attached. It's going to be an exceptional year!

All the best,

Mr. Chris Pauley

Mrs. Jenn Ryan

Mrs. Krystal Frazer

Mrs. Kristina Lunsford

Mrs. Jessica Williams



5th Grade School Supply List

Required - for individual student use:

- 1 graph paper composition notebook for math
- 3 composition notebooks (One for ELA, one for science, and one for math)
- 5 durable two-pocket folders (one for social studies, one for math, one for ELA, one for theater, and one for communication/work)
- Sticky index tabs like [THESE](#) for ELA
- Water bottle with a screw top lid
- Pencil pouch supplied with
 - 12-pack colored pencils
 - Pencils
 - Large eraser
 - Scissors
 - 3-4 glue sticks
- Not required, but headphones are recommended to have. These can be earbuds or over-ear; expensive sets that might be easily damaged **should not** be sent.

Community Supplies Wishlist (optional, shared supplies for the classroom)

- Colored Sharpies (all sizes)
- Extra Pencils
- Eraser caps
- Tissues
- Construction paper
- Disinfectant wipes
- Paper towels
- Dry erase markers
- Glue sticks
- Sticky notes
- Index cards

For Art class (**these are not needed until your student has art**):

- box of pre-sharpened or mechanical pencils
- 2 or more fine tip sharpies
- 2 or more glue sticks
- 1 box quart-size storage bags
- 1 container of disinfecting wipes for cleaning after class
- 1 package of white art erasers
- 1 small container of dishwashing soap and 1-2 sponges for cleaning paint supplies
- 1 roll of paper towels

*These supplies will be combined with many other supplies and equipment provided by the school, such as clay, paint, pastels, papers, and more!

Art Classroom supplies wishlist:

Our Wish list, if you would like to donate to help Visual Arts and families in need

- Colored Sharpies
- Scissors

Fees: There is a one-time \$15.00 consumables fee, which covers things like expedition materials, science labs, supplemental reading books, workbooks and other instructional consumable materials. The school will send out invoices for the consumables fee through email at the beginning of the school year, which can be paid online or by cash or by check.

Field trips generally require additional fees.

Note about supplies

Materials on this list do not need to be new, just in good working shape. Feel free to reuse materials from previous years that students already have. Please consider, if you are able, donating an extra bag of supplies for those who cannot.

If you are not able to afford supplies, please email the grade level lead, Chris Pauley, at cpauley@thefsi.us to let us know. We will do our best to provide supplies to any child who is not able to afford them. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Mr. Chris Pauley (Social Studies)

Mrs. Jenn Ryan (Science)

Mrs. Krystal Frazer

Mrs. Kristina Lunsford

Mrs. Jessica Williams

Suggested 5th/6th Grade Summer Reading Choices

Award Winners:

Moon Over Manifest

by Clare Vanderpool

Out of the Dust

by Karen Hesse

Kira-Kira

by Cynthia Kadohata

The Higher Power of Lucky

by Susan Patron *Illustrated by* Matt Phelan

The Graveyard Book

by Neil Gaiman *Illustrated by* Dave McKean

When You Reach Me

by Rebecca Stead

Dead End in Norvelt

by Jack Gantos

Mockingbird

by Kathryn Erskine

When Zachary Beaver Came to Town

by Kimberly Willis Holt

Classics and Favorites:

Charlotte's Web

by E. B. White

Matilda

by Roald Dahl

Number the Stars

by Lois Lowry

Maniac Magee

by Jerry Spinelli

Tuck Everlasting

by Natalie Babbitt

Island of the Blue Dolphins

by Scott O'Dell

DRAGONWINGS

by Laurence Yep

A Long Way From Chicago

by Richard Peck

Nonfiction:

GUYS READ: TRUE STORIES

by Various

HARRIET TUBMAN

by Ann Petry

RED SCARF GIRL

by Ji-li Jiang

**The following titles highlight the diversity and equity in which our school firmly believes. These titles are by no means comprehensive. They're just a place to start and get students thinking.*

The Parker Inheritance

by Varian Johnson

No Fixed Address

by Susin Nielsen

Return to Sender

by Julia Alvarez

The Season of Styx Malone

by Kekla Magoon

Amina's Voice

by Hena Khan

Amal Unbound

by Aisha Saeed

Or check out amazing middle grade titles by one of these authors!

Richard Peck
Christopher Paul Curtis
JK Rowling
Cynthia Rylant
Lois Lowry
James Patterson
Rick Riordan
Jerry Spinelli
Gary Paulsen
Raina Telgemeier
Neil Gaiman