



Welcome to 5th Grade!

Summer 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome to 5th Grade at The Franklin School of Innovation! We are excited to get to know you and to introduce you to how we do school at Franklin. For those of you with older students attending Franklin, you may recognize two familiar faces on the 5th grade team, Ms. McKay and Ms. McCulloch. Since Ms. Allen moved to Apex to be near family, we are adding a new member to our team, Ms. Guevara. 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 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 handbook, and to show every adult at school the same respect they show their classroom teachers.

From our parents, we ask for your patience and support as much as you can offer it. We are entirely committed to the success of every child, but while you have one son or daughter in our class, please remember that we have almost fifty sons and daughters to work with each day. Please remember that when you approach us about conflicts, concerns, or the needs of your child, that our goals are the same as yours: we want the best for him or her! Let us show students that we are working together towards our common goals, and provide a model of cooperation through this process.

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 all of 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 or if you email or call us with a concern of your own. 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 & Social Studies

Students in ELA and Social Studies classes can expect to be challenged daily to analyze, describe, compare, revise, develop, organize, collaborate, and reflect. 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. The content standards for 5th grade ELA and Social Studies create many opportunities for cross-curricular instruction and projects. 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 can expect to participate in several intentionally interdisciplinary projects this year.

Science and Math

Fifth grade junior 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.

In fifth grade math, students will build on previous mathematical knowledge and investigate new topics. Some core fifth grade math skills 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.

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 assessments, homework, 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 on 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.**

It is essential for students to arrive the first day already knowing their multiplication facts. **We will have a test on multiplication facts (whole numbers 1 - 12) during the first week of school.** 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,
Alycia Guevara
Donna McCulloch
Peggy McKay

5th Grade School Supply List

Required - for individual student use:

- 1, **2”** binder. Please select a binder with the plastic sleeve on the outside - students will use this for all core subjects and it will be heavily used throughout the school year
- 1, **3”** binder for crew (students will use this throughout middle school)
- 2 sets of binder dividers (5 dividers each), one set for core classes and one for crew
- 2 composition notebooks for guidance/theatre and expeditions
- 1 two-pocket folder (plastic or durable paper) - for keeping track of homework
- Water bottle with a screw top lid (we have a water cooler to refill bottles, but no water fountain in our building)
- Pencil pouch with
 - 24 # 2 pencils
 - Eraser
 - 1 highlighter
 - 1 12-pack colored pencils
 - scissors (youth or adult)
 - Handheld pencil sharpener
 - hand sanitizer
 - Headphones - earbuds or over-ear; Do not send expensive sets that might be easily damaged. (For technology class and independent learning time)
- TI-30 XIIS calculator (optional)

For Art Class

- a 3 fastener FLAT folder with at least one pocket (we can recycle one from last year if needed)
- a case/durable bag (not ziploc) to keep supplies in
- fine tip and broad tip sharpie
- glue
- glue stick
- small box of markers
- small box of crayons
- roll of masking tape
- ruler
- ziplocs to bring supplies home

-paintbrushes (one small, one medium)

For Classroom Use (shared):

- 3 boxes of kleenex/tissues
- 1 bottle hand sanitizer
- Disinfectant wipes
- Lined paper

Wish List - OPTIONAL

- Whiteboard cleaner
- Plastic forks and spoons
- Extra colored pencils
- Extra pencils

Fees: There is a one-time \$35.00 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 check.

Field trips generally require additional fees, but with the uncertainty of this year, we will provide specific information on those opportunities when/if we are able to schedule them. If these take place the school will again send out invoices via email which can be paid online or with cash or check.

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, Peggy McKay at pmckay@thefsi.us to let us know. We will do our best to provide supplies to any child that is not able to afford them. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Peggy McKay
Donna McCulloch
Alycia Guevara

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

**In light of our current societal situation these days, 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 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
Carl Hiaasen

