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Back to School Night 2015

Miss Miller’s Fifth Grade Class

**Expectations:** We as a class have developed a list of classroom expectation. We expect that each person in the class will:

* Work together and share ideas
* Listen to the teacher
* Be Respectful in the classroom, bathroom, and to others
* Don’t talk while others are talking
* Remember that words hurt

**Student Planner and Purple Folder:** Students fill out their daily planner every day. I will go to each student and initial that they have written down their assignments. Every week, I will send home a Purple Folder. In this folder will be all graded assignments that we have completed throughout the week and any important notes. Please sign the folder and have your student return the folder to school the next day.

CURRICULUM

**Daily Writing:** Students will complete daily structured writing activities. Students will practice the six traits of writing (ideas, word choice, organization, sentence fluency, voice, and conventions) that all wonderful writers use. Students will be using the 4 square writing model webs to organize their thoughts before they write. We will also starting using a program called “The Write Tools” that allows all students to become even stronger writers.

**Spelling:** Spelling lists will be sent home on the first day of every other week. In fifth grade, we are going to focus more on the understanding and proper usage of the words, more so then the correct spelling. The spellings words are words that will be seen and discussed within the two weeks. The last two words on the list are challenge words that will not be counted against your child, but act as extra credit. We will have our bi-weekly spelling test on Friday or the last day of the week, which will include categorizing words and using the word correctly in a sentence.

**Handwriting:** We will touch briefly on how to write in cursive in the month of September. If you would like your student to have extra practice, please contact me. I would be more than happy to send home sheets.

**Math:** In fifth grade, we use a book called, Envision Math. Some skills we will be focusing on and learning are place values, decimals, graphs and data, fractions, perimeter and area, percentages, and mixed numbers.

We will also have math centers that focus on skills that your child might need a little extra help on. Some of those centers include, group conference, partner work, and working with manipulatives.

Rocket math is something new to our classroom. It will help students on their basic facts and allow them to practice addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. It also allows students work on an individual term to strive to their best. We will be practicing Rocket Math throughout the year.

**Reading:** This school year all students will read a chapter book per quarter. Students will read the book in small groups with me, as a whole class, and at home. Below are the list of novels per quarter: Quarter 1: *Lunch Money* by Andrew Clements Quarter 2: *The Circuit* by Francisco Jimenez Quarter 3: *The Watsons* go to Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis Quarter 4: *She Touched the World By*: Sally Hobart Alexander and Robert Alexander

**Science:** Color and Light: We will focus how light reflects on certain objects. We will also be doing a lot of hands-on activities.

Solar System: We will talk about and explore all the different planets.

Natural Disasters: We will learn the different disasters such as tornadoes, hurricanes, and tsunamis. Your student will also be creating a presentation to give to the class.

**Social Studies:** States and Capitals: Each student is responsible for memorizing the location of all the states and their capitals. As a final review, each student is responsible for a state. A report will be given.

Other topics that we will focus on throughout the year are The Industrial Revolution, Immigration, The Great Depression, World War I and II, and different ethnicities around the world.

**Ketchup and Pickles:** Every Friday, all of the fifth grade teachers, will set aside a time at the end of the day for all students to have a study hall or free time. If the student has any missing work at the end of the week, they will be considered a “Ketchup” and need to go to the study hall room to get teacher help. The student will have until Monday to complete any missing assignments or else it will remain a **zero** in the grade book and cannot be made up. If the student has all their work complete, they will get a chance to be a “pickle”, meaning they will get to pick an extra activity, such as TSPE.

BEHAVIOR

**Whole Class Reward:** In creating a community, students work to set good examples for the younger grades. If students receive a compliment from another teacher in the building for their excellent behavior, they will receive two blocks that they will place into in a scale. Once twenty blocks are earned, we will have a classroom party.

**Class Dojo:** Each student has their own individual account, where I can reward positive and negative points. These points will stay with the students for one month, and then the points will be reset. It is a great way for parents to see how your student is doing and you can even text me with any questions! If you need the paper to sign up, please feel free to ask.

**Check Marks:** This is a school wide program at Wilkins Elementary. Each day, students start off with no check marks. Any teacher within the building may give a check to a student at any time for inappropriate behavior. I will also be putting how many check marks your student gets each week on Power School, under the conduct category. If check marks are giving:

1 check=warning

2 checks= ½ of TSPE

3 checks= all of TSPE

4 check detention.

OTHER

**Classroom Website:** Please check out our classroom website at <http://msmillersclassroomweb.weebly.com/> for upcoming events, homework, and educational websites.

**Remind 101:** Remind 101 is an app for tablets, cell phones, etc. where I am able to send important reminders or messages to you. It is not an individual reminder, but a group. I will send reminders for events at school or snow days. Please ask if you would like our classroom code.

**Twitter Account** Another great way to communicate with parents in our classroom Twitter. I will post announcements and pictures of activities students are doing in our classroom. No faces will be shown when creating a post. Please follow us at millermayhem109!

**Homework:** Students will have 20 minutes of reading each night. Students may have various assignments in different subjects throughout the week. Homework will not be given each night and should be seen as practice for the students to further succeed.

**Birthdays:** If you send treats for your student’s birthday, please see a list of District 109 approved birthday treats. All treats must be prepackaged items that are clearly labeled with ingredients. Please send napkins and/or plates if need. We currently have 29 students. Summer birthdays will be celebrated in the following months (on your student’s half birthday):

June in December July in January August in February

**Book Orders:** I will be sending out Scholastic Book Orders periodically. This is a great opportunity to build your student’s library at home. Also for every book that the class purchases, we receive bonus points. I then use the bonus points to build our classroom library.

**Snack:** Students may bring in a **healthy** snack that they will be eating every morning. The snack that your student brings in needs to be a healthy choice. Some options are fruits, vegetables, cereal, cheese sticks, crackers, etc. If your student brings in something that requires utensils, please have it provided. Students are also allowed to have a water bottle. Please make sure that it has a twist top. They are not allowed to bring in any type of soda.

**Special Teachers:**

* PE: Mr. Sabo
* Music: Ms. Cardella
* Art: Ms. Alagna
* Library: Ms. Hall

*If there is anything I have forgotten or you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me. ☺*

Email: emiller@isd109.org