

ctober 2021

Greetings Grade 5 Parents and Scholars,

One of my favorite quotes is “Go the extra mile, it’s never crowded there”. As you read this letter, Term 1 has completed, and we are embarking Term 2. For ELA and SS, scholars will be bringing home a note to supplement their Term 1 Report Card. You are receiving two copies, one to keep and the other to sign and return.

As we approach Term 2, much of what needs to be covered is in the supplemental letter I am sending home with scholars. The focus is our partnership, both parent, school and teacher supporting the scholar, in addition to the scholar accepting and asking for support to be successful.

Last year this time we were distance learning and I believe we can all agree, it was a challenge on many levels. This year we have the benefit of being in person, with consistent and collaborative learning. It is important that all scholars complete their homework, approximately 20-30 minutes a night to solidify the days learning and prepare for tomorrow’s lessons. This has been the main obstacle this term and to ensure scholar success, it needs to change.

ELA In Reading we are using the textbook *Collections*, and currently we are in Unit 1 Face Your Fears, completing the story Fine? by Margaret Peterson Haddix. Scholars have a printed story and are to read the assigned pages each night and annotate, using symbols. There is a direct correlation to scholars that read and annotate and are successful on the assessments, be it bell work questions, comprehension questions or the final assessment. We are in an accelerated curriculum, 6th grade content, that is challenging and achievable, it takes effort and consistency.

In addition to the Collections readings, scholars will begin to read independent books, at their lexile or above. For each book they read they will complete a book review. The scholars will chart their daily reading and one week in we will set a goal to complete the book. Scholars can borrow books from our library in the cafeteria, read books on EPIC! or go to the library. Scholars need to expand their reading, moving to different genres, not reading the same type of book each time. Improved reading translates to improved writing. They are both life skills and need to strengthen this year to prepare for Middle School.

WRITING We are writing in our journals and this is the beginning process to writing well. Scholars need to enjoy writing, learn the basics, and improve their own work to develop writing skills that they can use in every class. Many scholars do not have a journal and keep writing on loose-leaf paper, losing them and having no proof of their work. Please ensure your scholar has a writing journal.

Reading and writing go hand in hand and each day students had to respond to questions from the story using RACE and P, requiring students to write in a specific format, one they can use in each subject.

**R – RESTATE A – ANSWER THE QUESTION C- CITE EVIDENCE E – EXPLAIN
P – PUNCTUATION**

R- restate the question. Please practice this at home verbally. When you ask your scholar a question, do not accept pat answers. For example:

Parent: What did you do in PE today?

Scholar: Basketball.

What you should expect as a response is: In PE today, we played basketball and we focused on dribbling. If we can practice verbally, this will translate well into writing.

Social Studies is moving along with most scholars having mastered: **US States, US Capitals, and State Abbreviations.** Scholars were assigned to make flash cards for these three topics and only half of 5th grade completed the assignment. Three class periods in total were provided to help scholars. Please ask to see your scholars cards.

Scholars are beginning the Causes of the American Revolution, starting with the French and Indian War! We will be making a timeline in the hall as we track our nation’s history!