

Welcome
To
Mrs. Benjamin's
5th Grade
Class



Contact Information:

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Room 112B

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Hello! My name is Sarah Benjamin. I am thrilled to be your child's teacher this year. I believe in a fun, hands-on, learning environment where children are encouraged to explore, investigate, and enjoy learning. Cooperative learning and social skills are important components of our room. Here are some of the policies and procedures that will be in place in our classroom this year.

Homework:

- Students will have an agenda book that will be sent home daily. Inside will be your child's daily homework. Parents are encouraged to check this nightly to review work with the students for accuracy and completeness.
- Students are expected to turn all assignments on time. Students will receive a 'pop' on their weekly progress card for late work.
- Homework will support and extend learning that is happening in the class. Students will receive homework on a regular basis Monday through Thursday. Regular homework will not be assigned on Friday's, though occasionally students may be completing large projects over the weekend.
 - Expect to see: Students will be required to read 30 minutes per night
 - Fast Facts – 2-3 minutes nightly
 - Spelling – 10-15 minutes nightly
 - Math – complete/review daily assignment
 - Content Area – complete/review daily assignment
- Homework (except projects) is worth 10% of your student's grade.

Math: It is ESSENTIAL that your child knows his/her math facts up to for addition, subtraction and multiplication and division facts through 12's. Finger counting is not on grade level.

*An outline of this year's projects
will be discussed at open house!*

Grading Policy:

- In objective assignments such as spelling and math, as well as on tests in all subject areas, the DoDDS grading policy will be followed.
 - 100% -90% – A
 - 89% -80% – B
 - 79% -70% – C
 - 69% -60% – D
 - 59% -0% – F
- In subjective areas such as compositions, projects, speaking and creative assignments, the following standards will be applied for the appropriate grade:
 - A – Above all requirements, neat, correct, and shows many extra ideas with creative, original thinking.
 - B- All requirements met, neat, generally correct, and some original ideas and creativity apparent.
 - C- All requirements met and work is neat.
 - D - Some requirements met, but finished work lacks creativity, neatness, and originality
 - F – Minimal or no requirements met.
- **Failure is a choice!** I have a policy that **ALL work**, including daily assignments, tests, and projects **that receives a below average (D or F) grade can be made up to a C.** It is the student's responsibility to choose to do so and to conference with me regarding how a failing grade can be raised.
- There will be several projects throughout the school year. Each student has the responsibility to complete the assignments on time and to make sure he/she understands the assignments before beginning.
- Late work is generally not accepted. If a student fails to turn in work promptly they will lose 10% off of their earned grade for every day late.
- In case of absence, it is the student's responsibility to make up any assignments that are missed.
- We will discuss the grading system, in class, on a regular basis. This should alleviate any surprises when mid-quarter and quarter grades are assigned.

Gradespeed:

Parents now have the opportunity to view their students' grades at <https://dodea.gradespeed.net>

- Grades will be uploaded into the Gradespeed data base once a week.
- You can create a personal log in at the Gradespeed website that will allow you to view your student's grades.

Discipline Policy:

During the first days of school, the students and I will spend a great deal of time talking about school, what is expected of them, and what they can expect of school. We agree that their main goal will be to learn as much as possible about the 5th grade curriculum and to do so in a respect centered environment. I have promised them that the school is going to help them as much as possible to achieve that goal. We have discussed the need for rules and for the different rules that we could have in the room. The rules we have will allow the students to take RESPONSIBILITY for their behavior and their learning. Below are the rules that will help each student to work best in our class. Our class is all about **RESPECT!**

Class Rules

Respect others

Everyone is important

Speak politely

Put-ups not Put-downs

Expect excellence

Come prepared

Try your best

Positive and Negative Consequences

Positive and negative consequences are tracked through the use of a Behavior Card. When the students break a rule, their card is popped and they are required to journal the infraction. Power points are tracked on the reverse side. Cards are changed weekly.

Positive Consequences:

- Power points – given to students who follow the rules. These points are given out daily and there is no limit on the number they can receive.
- TGIF Activity – This activity happens Friday afternoon. Students with complete work, and more power points than pops on their card, will be allowed to participate in this activity. Activities include outside recess, movies, art activities, and cooperative games.

Negative Consequences:

1. Warning
 2. Take 5 – 5 minutes to regroup in the Contemplation Station
 3. Parent contact. You will be asked to speak to your child over the phone.
 4. Contact with principal and mandatory parent/teacher/student conference.
- *Other consequences will be assigned as necessary.

If at any time your child is engaged in behavior that seriously inhibits the learning or safety of anyone in the classroom, they will be removed from the class and you may be asked to come to the school immediately.

Disrespect, insubordination and fighting are absolutely not allowed. These behaviors will be immediately referred to the office and may result in the student's removal from class.

Notes/emails will go home as needed when problems occur. It is your child's responsibility to see that they are given to you and returned to me with your signature. I keep a record of all correspondence I send home.

Progress Portfolio Folder:

- Students will have a folder that will be sent home each Wednesday. Inside will be your child's graded work, and their weekly behavior/accomplishment card.
- Parents must sign your student's behavior card, and your students reading log and return them with the Wednesday folder to school on Thursday.
- These folders provide a recap of your child's behavior, as well as their in-class work and homework for the week. This is a powerful tool to increase the communication between school and home.

Volunteers:

Anyone who can volunteer to help in the classroom would be greatly appreciated. I love having parents come into the class and research shows this is a way to increase your child's academic growth. Please fill out the attached parent volunteer form to indicate what you are able to help with!

Conferences:

You may contact me at any time if you would like to conference about your child's progress.

I will request conferences for any serious or repeat behaviors that are negatively impacting the learning process. I generally encourage both the student and the parents to attend.

Snack Time:

- Students are allowed to bring in a ready to eat, healthy snack, daily. Under no circumstances will a student be allowed to eat junk food during snack time.
- Students may have a small 'pop' top water bottle at their table. Please make sure that they do not have a 'leaky' bottle. This would include a frozen water bottle as the condensation 'sweats' onto the table. We would hate to ruin work!

***Per the new district policy all snacks and party food must be healthy. We are no longer allowed to have food items in class that contain high fructose corn syrup (processed sugar).

*Welcome to our class!
We are going to have a FANTASTIC YEAR!*

I have received and reviewed Mrs. Benjamin's classroom policy packet.

_____ *Student*

_____ *Parent / Guardian*

_____ *Parent / Guardian*

Notes: