

August 2012

Dear Parents:

At the fifth grade level, English, reading, spelling, and vocabulary are part of an integrated language arts program. These skills are interrelated through extensive writing and a broad-based literature program.

Fifth grade expands the departmentalized program that begins in Grade 4. Success in adapting to individualized schedules is dependent on good organizational skills. To assist in that endeavor and to help our students with their adjustment to fifth grade and next year to the middle school, we developed a study skills course tailored to our fifth graders. In addition to ten periods of language arts, each child will meet with us once a week for the first part of the year for a designated study skills course. Some of the topics we will address are listening, following written and oral directions, test taking strategies, time management, and organization.

We know that our teaching must begin with making your child feel at home in our classrooms. We hope to help all students come together into a learning community made up of unique individuals, each with his or her own learning style and interests and history and hopes. Would you help us with this program by taking a few moments to write to us about your child? What is your youngster like? What are the things you, as a parent, know that would be important for us to know? What are your child's interests? Do you think that your child has good study habits? Does he/she have difficulty completing assignments? What does your child like best about school? If there has been a least favorite subject, what was it? How does your child feel about entering fifth grade with its greater challenges, increased homework, and more responsibilities? How does your child think and interact with others? How do you see your child as a learner and a person?

We ask that you respond to us on or before Wednesday, September 5th.

Included with this letter is a list of necessary supplies for language arts. Please send those materials listed **FOR CLASS** with your child on September 5th, the first day of school. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Susanne H. Alford  
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