

Welcome to 5th grade!

Teacher: Mrs. Karen Williams



Contacting Me

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns that you have. You may contact me by phone or email. Email is the best way to reach me during the school day unless there is an emergency, or you need a reply before the end of the school day, for example, changes in bus or pick up routine for the current day. In that case, please call the office and leave a message. I believe that open lines of communication are so important, so do not hesitate to call or email.

The school phone number is (785) 286-8550.

My email address is kwilliams@usd345.com.

My home phone number is 246-0337 (between 6:00pm and 10:00pm)

Volunteering/Classroom Visits

You are welcome to visit the classroom at any time. I love to have volunteers in the classroom. Please sign in at the office before coming to the classroom. Parents, grandparents, or anyone else that is interested may volunteer. If you would like to volunteer, please contact me.

Newsletters/Class Website

I send out a newsletter each Monday with information about what we will be doing that week. It will also include student-written articles. The newsletters will be posted on the class webpage. You may choose to receive an email reminder when the newsletter is posted, or a paper copy, which will come home in your child's backpack.

Homework/ Assignments

Daily assignments will be posted on the board. Students will copy their assignments in their agenda, and will mark them off as they are completed and turned in. Unfinished assignments that need to be completed at home will be highlighted.

Most of the time students will have time to work on their assignments in class. During this time I will be there to support them if they have questions with the assignments.

However, there will be assignments that are designated specifically for homework. These assignments build responsibility and create a home-school connection. Any class work not completed during the school day will be homework, as well.

If you are stuck on your homework or have questions you may call me at home or email me. If I am not available to answer your question, please leave a message. I will either call you back that night, or if it is late I will help you with it in the morning.

All assignments should be completed and turned in on time. Late assignments will be accepted, but will receive no higher than an 80% during the first nine-week grace period, and no higher than a 70% beginning in the second quarter. Excessive late assignments may result in additional consequences.

I do not assign extra credit assignments. There will, however, be some opportunities for extra credit points. For instance, challenge words on spelling tests will count as extra credit, and some assignments may have bonus questions that will count as extra credit.

Independent Reading at Home

Students are encouraged to read independently at least 20 minutes per night. The goal is to develop life long readers and a love for reading. This should not be seen as homework, or cumbersome, but as part of the evening's recreation. Reading does not have to be just books, it can be magazines, newspapers, comics, there are endless things to read. Have fun with reading and get the whole family involved. Kids need to see their parents reading, too. Reading is a great "wind down" activity at the end of the night, as well. I remember hiding under the covers with my book and a flashlight as a child, and I still read before bed every night. 😊

Family Message Journals

Family Message Journals provide students with the opportunity to reflect on their learning and create a strong link between home and school. At the end of the day on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, students will write a journal entry in letter format to a member of their family. Please respond to your child in letter format.

The content of your message is what will help you child become a better writer, reader, and help them make connections between their world and what they are learning in school. Remember to respond to your child's topic. For example; if your child's message is about butterflies and you respond back about having pizza for dinner, then your child isn't getting a chance to communicate with you through writing. Also be sure to answer any questions your child has written to you.

Some suggestions for responses might be: You can demonstrate **interest**. (No, I didn't realize monarch butterflies eat only milkweed.) You can **provide new information**. (Did you know butterflies make a chrysalis and months make a cocoon?) You could **share personal opinions and stories**. (Abby wrote about how nervous she was to have a speaking part in a play and her mother shared a similar experience she had

when she was a child.) You can always **ask questions** or offer **solutions**. These are all wonderful ways to communicate with your child.

Remember anyone in the family can write to your child in the Family Message Journal. The journal must come back to school each day.

Love and Logic Behavior

The behavior plan in my class is based on Love and Logic. This program designed by Jim and Charles Faye makes the children, rather than the adult, responsible for their own actions. The behavior plan, as posted in the room, is as follows:

- I will treat you with respect, so you will know how to treat others.
- Feel free to do anything that doesn't cause a problem for anyone else.
- If you cause a problem I will ask you to solve it.
- If you cannot solve the problem, or choose not to, I will do something.
- What I do will depend on the special person, and the special situation.
- If you feel something is unfair, wait until an appropriate time and whisper to me," I'm not sure if that is fair," and we will talk.

By asking the students to solve the problem on their own (and providing support to help them solve them when necessary), it teaches students responsibility and gives the child opportunity to regain control of his or herself.

As a class we will talk about what is acceptable in our classroom, as well as what is not acceptable, and possible consequences for those behaviors. I have high expectations for student conduct and find that students rise to meet those expectations when treated with respect.

If your child is struggling with behavior, I will contact you.

Birthdays

Birthdays are very special days. We would love to celebrate your child's day at school. Students may bring birthday treats and a favorite picture book to share with the class on his or her birthday. Please only bring treats for our class. Students will not be permitted to deliver snacks to other staff in the school. This is a school-wide policy.

Snack

Students are welcome to purchase a snack milk in the morning, and/or keep a water bottle in their book bag. Students may also bring a healthy mid-morning snack. If they bring a box/ bag of something that they intend to keep at school for more than one day, they will be asked to measure out the correct serving size for one day. If necessary, students should bring the appropriate measuring cup.

I have read and understand the classroom policies, procedures, and grading criteria as detailed above. I will be a positive classroom participant and will always do my best.

Student Signature

Date

I have received a copy of the classroom policies, procedures, and grading criteria. I will be an active participant in my child's education. I will participate in Family Message Journals, and will sign my child's planner each night. I will communicate any questions or concerns with Mrs. Williams.

Parent Signature(s)

Date