

Welcome to your fifth grade classroom. In order to have a successful year and be prepared for middle school, the following classroom policies are very important.

CLASSROOM RULES

All students will...

- Wait for others to finish before speaking (so as not to interrupt).
- Stay in their seats (unless their movement has a legitimate purpose).
- Turn in all assignments when due and use class time wisely.
- Cooperate for the good of the class.
- Treat others with respect and allow them to learn.

With It/ Out of It Group

It is possible that, being human, you may occasionally make a bad decision., and you should know the consequences of those decisions. Each morning, your name will be on the board in the “With It” group. If you follow all rules, your name will stay in the With It group. The second time you choose to break a rule, your name will be in the “Out of It” group and you will receive consequences. You will also need to fill out an “I Choose to be Responsible” sheet which you will take home for parent signature. We will have a TGIF drawing almost every Friday before leaving. Only students in the “With It” group Monday – Friday are eligible. One or two names will be chosen to receive a small prize.

Homework

You will have homework most days except Fridays. Often, students are able to complete most work in class just by using their time wisely. All homework should be turned in by the assigned due date. Assignments must be complete and done in correct form following all given directions. **Incomplete assignments and late assignments are not acceptable and no credit will be given for them.**

Class Web Site

Our class web site is www.coldani.org. Within the site you will find information regarding field trips, assignments, notices, links for math enrichment and reteach pages, the Scott Foresman web site (very helpful if you ever forget your homework book at home), review sheets, wordsearch with spelling words, etc. While I hope that you find the web site useful, it is not mandatory that you use it. Please do not rely on the site for homework; it is meant only as a back-up plan should something happen to your assignment calendar. Students should get in the habit of recording assignments in their calendars – it will be a huge benefit to you this year, and even greater as you enter middle school next year.

Assignment Calendars

The assignment calendar is mandatory for all students. Students should write assignments as they are given. Accurate recording of assignments will increase responsibility and organization, and help as you make the transition from fifth grade to middle school. Do not lose or forget your assignment calendar. I strongly urge you to make this a habit, as it is something my former students have told me has helped them tremendously in middle school.

Attendance

Your attendance at school is very important. However, if you are ill and must stay home, please make arrangements with a trusted friend or family member to bring your missed assignments to you so you may stay current with the class. You can also check for assignments on the class web page by visiting <http://www.coldani.org> and clicking on Student Work (this is something in addition to the assignment calendar, not a replacement for it). **Late homework is not accepted for any reason.** However, you are still responsible to know the concepts covered in your absence (you won't need to turn in the work, but you should know what was covered – work missed is still on the test).

If you will be missing several days of school due to vacation or illness, have your parents come by the office to pick up an independent study contract (these are only to be used if students will be missing more than five days of school). If you will be on vacation fewer than five days, please let Mrs.Highstreet know.

Spiral Notebooks

You will be using your notebooks for Language Arts, Math, and Science. Your expandable folder should be used to carry homework to and from class along with handouts we will be using throughout the year. I will let you know if a handout needs to be kept in the folder. All other work should be kept at home. You will be cleaning out your desk at the end of each week, and both desks and organizers should be neat and organized.

Leaving Class

Although recess is the time to run around, play games and socialize with friends, more importantly, it is the time to use the restroom. Understandably, there will be times you simply do not need to go at recess and find you need to leave class to use the restroom. These times must be kept to a minimum. Students who need to leave class frequently (unless medically necessary) should be prepared to lose some of their recess time.

Grading

All work will be assigned a point value according to the rubric on the classroom wall. In a standards based reporting system, a 3 signifies proficiency, or meeting the standards. A 4, while not impossible to achieve, represents the efforts of those students who go above and beyond the task, adding depth and complexity. Obviously, there are some areas that will be easier to demonstrate this ability than others (e.g. it may be easy to show creativity in writing activities or oral

reports, but impossible to show creativity when multiplying two digits). The district standard for achievement is as follows:

- 4 – 80-100% achievement with depth and complexity
- 3: 80-100%
- 2: 65-79%
- 1: 64% and below

Communication

Class news will be shared via the web site or email and will include information about upcoming events, current projects, classroom behavior (email) and objectives. If you do not have access to email, please indicate at the bottom of this letter (and please let me know if your address changes). Field trips and test dates can also be accessed through the web site by clicking on "Calendar."

Email will be the fastest form of communication as I answer it nightly and it requires no common free time. I have found this to be the best communication most of the time. However, there are some issues that need to be dealt with in person, and for those things, I would prefer that you schedule an appointment. If you feel you need to speak with me personally, please leave a note with the office, or leave a voice mail message (ext. 3010), and we will arrange a mutually convenient time. Impromptu conferences are discouraged.

I have already discussed this packet of expectations with your child and would appreciate it if you would review it with him or her before you both sign and return the bottom portion of this page. I am looking forward to teaching your child this year and hope to work closely with you to ensure your child's needs will be met. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact me by email (best), or by phone here at school 426-4250 (I will try to get back to you within 48 hours).

Thank you,

Michelle Coldani

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Student Signature _____

Email _____

I do not have an email account

Home Internet access Yes No

Comments: