



FIFTH GRADE

Monday, February 10, 2025

Dear American Academy Parents,

Welcome to the month of February! We are quickly progressing through 5th grade, and this month we will begin preparing your child for the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) assessments. You may see them assigned iReady lessons or IXL practice to help reinforce their skills in reading and math. They will also be taking practice tests in class to help them learn to navigate the program and test-taking skills.

It is that time of year when the weather is so uncertain so please remember that we do try and go outside every day. Please send your child to school with a coat, gloves, and a hat for when the weather is super cold.

We want to thank all of our parents who came to parent-teacher conferences this past week. We found the conferences very helpful and enjoyed learning more about your child. With that being said, we want to remind all parents about the student planners. All students should be filling out their planner for each class everyday of any homework for that day or future assignments that are due on a different day. Please talk with your child about their planner daily. We would also like to have your child show you their grades and missing assignments in IC; this way we can hopefully minimize our missing assignments.

Getting your child to read more...

Reading is an essential skill that helps with learning and imagination. Here are some fun and creative ideas for parents to encourage their 5th graders to read more books!

1. Create a Reading Corner

Set up a cozy reading space in your home. Use soft pillows, good lighting, and a few shelves for books. Make it a special spot where your child can relax and enjoy reading.

2. Book Club at Home

Start a family book club! Choose a book that everyone can read together. After finishing the book, have a discussion about it. Ask questions like:

- What was your favorite part?
- Who was your favorite character, and why?
- What do you think will happen next?

3. Visit the Library Regularly

Make regular trips to the library a fun outing. Let your child choose books that interest them. Many libraries also have reading programs and events that can make reading more exciting!

4. Set Reading Goals and Rewards

Help your child set reading goals, such as finishing a certain number of books each month. Create a reward system where they can earn small prizes or privileges for reaching their goals.

5. Connect Books to Interests

Find books that relate to your child's hobbies or interests. If they love animals, look for books about wildlife. If they enjoy sports, find stories about athletes. This connection can spark their curiosity and motivation to read.

8. Create a Reading Challenge

Set up a reading challenge for the family. For example, see who can read the most books in a month. Keep track on a chart and celebrate the winner with a fun family activity!

Supplies!

As we continue to work hard and stay creative in class, it's a good time to check in on your child's school supplies. Many students are beginning to misplace many of their supplies. To ensure they're fully prepared for each day, all students need the following items: scissors, pencils, expo markers, glue sticks, a coloring agent (crayons, markers, or colored pencils), and erasers. These items should be kept in a pouch so students can easily carry them from class to class. Please take a moment to check with your child to make sure they have everything they need. If they are missing items, could you please refill those items? A quick refresh of supplies will help keep them organized and ready for the classroom! Thank you for your support!

Learning Educational Responsibility and Problem Solving

As you are aware, one of the big focuses in third, fourth and fifth grade this year has been building independence. Along with this, students need to learn how to solve problems they may face during their educational career (ie: lost homework, forgotten assignments, notes from a class that was missed, makeup work from absence, etc). One way the teachers have already started working on this is the WIN expectations students complete daily; prioritizing and working through tasks. To continue developing and enhancing this skill, the teachers are encouraging students to use resources they have to solve problems they may face. Resources students may use are: their planner, Infinite Campus, or Google Classroom. Nearly everything that takes place in the classroom can be found within those resources. If those resources don't help solve their problem, the teachers are encouraging the students to come speak with them during WIN time. If the student has exhausted all options, we are asking that you sit with them to formulate an email (using your email) to ask for the assistance they need. We want to ensure the students are getting the support they need and learning the proper ways of communicating via email.

Stock The Lounge Donations Please

Thank you for the overwhelming amount of Stock the Lounge items donated to our staff this year! Your contributions have brought BIG SMILES to our staff. Diet Coke and daily snacks are definitely the way to our teacher's hearts! If you haven't already done so, please consider donating to provide soft drinks or snacks to our teachers! The sign up link is below; However, I have also included an [Amazon link](#) for those who would prefer to order and send! Above all, THANK YOU for all of your support, emotional, monetary, and with keeping our teachers fueled! Remember, donating items counts toward your volunteer hours. If you are unsure how many hours to log for donating items, reach out to PTO, or just fill in the hours equal to the dollar amount spent. Thank you for ALWAYS supporting our teachers and staff!

Sign up to donate using the following link, [Stock the Lounge](#) or donate items using our [Amazon Wish List Stock the Lounge](#)

February Coffee With Admin

Do you have questions or concerns about our curriculum, policies and procedures; Or suggestions or feedback for our teaching staff and administration? Rather than bringing it to a social platform or the AA Community Facebook page, why not come in and take the opportunity to have a face to face conversation with myself, April Winder and Robyn Hunt. Having the opportunity to meet with or speak with us, and have all of your questions or concerns addressed in person, is also a great way to convey to other parents our philosophy on education, curriculum, academic accomplishments, and vision for helping students succeed. If we're going to continue to be successful as an exceptional charter and school community, communication, transparency, honesty and accessibility are imperative! I encourage you to come to our next **COFFEE WITH ADMIN** on **Thursday, February 27**, and share your thoughts and questions. Coffee and doughnuts will be provided! Please click on the following link to RSVP!

[Coffee With Admin](#)

Valentines Party

Our Valentine 's party will be on **Feb 13, 2025** ,it will take place from 1:15pm -2:40pm. We will be having a valentine exchange within each homeroom, and if students have friends in another classroom they may also give them Valentines. As a fifth grade tradition we are having a Valentine's box competition between each homeroom. The expectations for this Valentine box are as follows:

The Valentine box needs to sit on top of the students desk

Be creative and appropriate

Class Lists for Valentines Day				
Mitchell	Ericson	Anderson	Hein	
Mihir A.	Sadie	Katelyn A	Henry	
Brynlee C.	Yug	Aavya A	Makai	
Nathan A.	Milo	Lucy B	Owen C	
Bradley C.	Knox	Nandith B	Oscar	
Isaac Epp	Toryn	Priya B	Austin	
Addie L.	Lielle	Brady B	Lenore	
Sora W.	Kase	Zoey C	Vidhisha	
Bradley W.	Landon	Caleb D	Addison	
Aahika	Jay	Maddie Halsey	Jack	
Sheral	Jayce	Ruby H	Madison H	

Mia G.	Lucy	Vihan K	Jade	
Gray L.	Cody	Tanner L	Isaac	
Riley O.	Dana	Drake M	Cody	
Arjun	Smrithi	Xavier M	Smrithi	
Ishaan	Akshaj	Kai M	Lillian	
Arianna H.	Owen	Cal N	Claire	
Liam	Anvitha	Jasmine O	Reid	
Ethan R.	Shailesh	Athvika P	Carson	
Yash B.	Harper	Vashi P	Manaswi	
Quinn	Brooklyn	Owen R	Atharv	
Juliana	Gresha	Bennett S	Dane	
Mahi	Lennox	Skylar S	Norah	
Ryan B.	Sloane	Amrisha S	Taylor	
Jacob S.	Inba	Neha V	Noah	
Ellie	Saanvi	Amelia Y	Christian	

Curriculum updates

Math-

Ms. Ericson: We just finished chapter 16 on volume and are now starting chapter 14 which is learning about how to figure out the perimeter and area of rectangles with fractional side lengths. This has been a bit of a challenge so be sure to help them review at home!

Ms. Hein: Our students have been diligently working on fractions, and I am so proud of how hard everyone is putting in the effort to master these skills. It's wonderful to see their progress, and I encourage you to celebrate their achievements at home!

This month, we will continue our focus on the multiplication of fractions. After mastering this concept, we will transition to dividing fractions. Understanding these operations will lay a strong foundation for future math concepts.

In addition to our fraction work, we are also reinforcing multiplication facts. I kindly ask that you practice these at home with your child. Regular practice will help solidify their understanding and boost their confidence in math.

Mr. Anderson: This month, we will be working on Chapter 11 (Multiplying fractions) and Chapter 12 (dividing fractions). These chapters will continue to build up our skills with fractions, continuing on with "mixed numbers." Please continue to work on these skills at home.

Ms. Bambury and Ms. Mitchell: This month we will begin chapter 10, adding and subtracting mixed fractions. Next, we will move on to multiplying and dividing fractions. Please continue working on math facts as these will be imperative for the next two chapters.

Literacy-

This month, we will be wrapping up our unit on Don Quixote. The students have truly enjoyed this literary journey, and I encourage you to ask them about the contrasting characters of Don Quixote and Sancho Panza. They have been exploring how Don Quixote embodies idealism while Sancho Panza represents realism. Your child will be able to share insightful examples from the book that illustrate these differences.

Following this unit, we will transition into a fun unit called Chemical Matter. The story is called The Badlands Sleuth: Case of the Missing fossils. Students will explore how matter can be transformed by physical and chemical changes, resulting in the extraordinary diversity of our physical world. The unit is written as a detective story rather than a standard informational text, combining literary and informational characteristics into a single text.

Ms. Bambury's class continues their exciting journey through the Ancient Civilizations unit! This month, students dive deep into the fascinating worlds of the Maya, Inca, and Aztec civilizations. They'll be exploring these cultures' unique contributions to history, such as their advancements in mathematics, architecture, and agriculture. It's been an engaging and hands-on learning experience, and students are really enjoying uncovering the mysteries of these ancient societies. Be sure to ask your child what they've discovered about these incredible civilizations!

History-

We have started our unit about "European Exploration." This unit is even more action-packed with countries in competition with each other to find ways to get to the Spice Islands. This leads to explorers finding new land, interacting with new cultures and new people. For most of this unit there will be many engaging stories about European Explorers. We will conclude this unit with a small group project that will task the students with researching an explorer to share information about them with the rest of the class. After this unit we will begin our unit on "Westward Expansion," which will focus on how the United States went from 13 states to the 50 states we have today.

Science-

We are done with the Matter unit for the first group, which coincides with STEM. The students that were in STEM are now with me and my kids are down with Melissa Jones for STEM. See the blurb below for all the STEM information! This is great because we can really dive into the curriculum with the smaller class sizes! You should look forward to some fun conversations that they will have about the experiments we are doing! We have been learning all about the states of matter and their properties. After the trimester ends we will all regroup again for the first time in forever, (sung to the Frozen theme!) We will then dive into learning how energy moves through ecosystems and organisms.

STEM

Fifth Grade STEM is going good this trimester! Our first group of students finished on January 14th. Group 2 started STEM classes on January 15th and will have STEM classes until the end of trimester 2, February 21st. Students are doing a good job of coding their Rebel Robots to move forward and backward, make turns, and use four of the sensors on the robot. Now that we know how to do basic coding with our Rebel Robot, we will start our fun coding challenges in class; the Volcano Challenge, the Maze Challenge, and the Space Challenge. Please make sure to ask your child all about the new things they are learning in STEM.

Specials

Here are the links to the special teacher's classes. Please open and view to see what your child is working on in Specials.

[MB Elementary Music News | Mr. Richardson](#)

[MB Elementary PE News | Ms. Bauer](#)

[MB Elementary Tech News | Mrs. Brown](#)

[MB Elementary Art News | Ms. Easton](#)

Sincerely, Your 5th-grade team

Mr. Anderson

Ms. Bambury

Ms. Ericson

Ms. Hein

Ms. Mitchell

Upcoming Events

Feb 7, 2025	Parents Night Out
February 14 - 17	No School
Feb 21, 2025	End of 2nd Trimester
Feb 28, 2025	Dress of Choice

For more event dates, please visit the Event Calendar on www.aak8.org. For questions or concerns about an event date, please contact [Michele Quintana](#).