

5E

2024 - 2025

Parent/Student Handbook & Curriculum Document

Mrs. Elias' Contact info:

Email - Mrs. Elias: eliasf@unit5.org

Classroom Phone - (309) 557 - 4410

[Class Website](#)

Benjamin Website -

<https://www.unit5.org/benjamin>



Welcome to Mrs. Elias' Fifth Grade Class!!!

SUPPLIES

School supplies for 5th grade can be found on the comprehensive Benjamin supply list. There is a link for this list on the Benjamin website. As a class we will spend time at the start of the school year organizing ourselves to help us be successful this year. If for some reason your student is unable to adapt to our system of organization, please communicate that with me. I would be happy to work together to find a system that works for your student. Throughout the school year your student may be in need of additional supplies. I will have some available for emergencies, but it will be important that they continue to have all of the tools needed to keep learning.



ASSIGNMENT NOTEBOOKS

Homework and daily activities will be written in our assignment notebook at the end of the day. We will use these to help us organize our materials to be taken home at the end of the day. This helps develop organizational skills and informs parents of upcoming assignments. Parents should ask to see the assignment notebook every night and go over any work requirements with their child. *Please sign your child's assignment notebook each night, as they will earn rewards at the end of each week for signatures!* Students need to purchase their assignment notebook in the school office. I will also send out a weekly update with what to expect for the next week!

BOOK ORDERS

Each month your student will be given a set of Scholastic book orders. I usually give about a week for each order to be turned in to me. When you purchase from these book orders, it creates classroom points. I am then able to make purchases for items that will be used in the classroom, and to continue building our classroom library with books our fifth graders will enjoy reading. Please also consider purchasing your student's book orders directly online, using the link on my website.



***Our classroom code for scholastic book orders is **VMK3C**. Click [here](#) to order!**



SNACKS

Due to our late lunch time, a mid-morning snack is allowed in 5E. If your student wishes to have a snack, please send a healthy snack. The students are also welcome to bring a water bottle if they would like. **We are peanut and tree nut free**

BIRTHDAYS

We are always excited to celebrate birthdays! We are not allowed to have edible birthday treats anymore, however, you are welcome to send in a non-edible treat if you would like. If you plan to have a party outside of school, please do not send the invitations to school, unless you plan on inviting the entire class, or all the boys, or all the girls. We know this is not always possible, but we want to make sure we are sensitive to others feelings.



BEAR BUCKS

Our classroom and school cash is known as Bear Bucks. This is money earned by showing they can follow the classroom and school expectations. Students earn Bear Bucks in a variety of different ways. Bear Bucks are used to purchase privileges and incentives that we will determine as a class. Your student will be given a chart that explains how Bear Bucks are earned and how they can be spent, this can also be found on our class website.

DISCIPLINE

The school PBIS plan will be enforced in our classroom. All teachers will stress the positive behaviors that we see in students, and make sure that students understand the expectations for behavior throughout the school. In 5E we will be using bear bucks, and communication in planners for any above and beyond behavior, and behavior that needs improvement. Although positive behavior in 5E will be the focus, a behavior management plan is in place for 5E students that choose not to follow expectations. When students aren't following expectations, we have a caution log for them to sign.

3 Main Expectations:

Be Respectful. Be Responsible. Be Safe.

If a student gets multiple warnings in a day, a call or email will go home to make sure the behavior is corrected. If a student begins to have chronic issues with behavior, an individual behavior plan may be established. The occasional warning or loss of privileges is not a cause for concern. If individual behavior does become an issue that needs to be discussed, I will contact you as necessary.

BE Safe
Respectful
Responsible

WEBSITE

I have a classroom website that you may access by clicking [HERE](#) or in any email I have sent! I have all classroom specific information there for you to check out!

COMMUNICATION

In addition to our monthly newsletter. We use Remind to communicate weekly about events in the classroom, reminders, and other random info. If you aren't receiving them, or need help joining, please reach out! :)

CURRICULUM

In 5E, language arts instruction will be presented in a workshop style format. We have an hour for both Reader's and Writer's Workshop. Specific reading instruction in 5E will be presented through the following methods:

- Mini Lessons
- Independent Reading
- Guided Reading
- Shared Reading

Read more about each of these below!!

Writing: Specific grammar and word skills will be presented through mini lessons during Writer's Workshop. These skills will then be practiced through independent activities or individual and small group instruction. Idea development, conventions, organization, voice, words choice, and sentence fluency will be the areas of learning during our writer's workshop. We will focus on a variety of writing genres, including expository, narrative, and persuasive. We will also be working on our public speaking skills as well through monthly projects.

Spelling: We will use Fountas & Pinnell Word Study for our classroom spelling instruction. Through this system, students focus on word structure and word patterns, phonics, and spelling. We will also be practicing Greek and Latin Roots.

Social Studies: The TCI America's Past textbook, and other resources, will be used to explore the historical events and people that shaped the development of our country as we study American History. Students will use their multiple intelligences to do many activities and learn many skills. Major topics include: Geography, Native Americans, explorers, colonization, the Revolutionary War, government, Westward Expansion, the Civil War, and current events.

Science: The science information that will be covered will be through the Carolina Science curriculum and other resources. Fifth grade science topics include Earth and energy systems, space, and mixtures and solutions.

Math: The Everyday Mathematics program will be used to guide the math curriculum. In addition to this, other math resources will be used to assist students in developing stronger basic facts, computation, and problem solving skills. The student's reference book is a valuable resource at school and at home. Your child is encouraged to log in to Everyday Math to access this when they need help with homework. These passwords will be given out within the first two weeks of school. The focus of fifth grade math is not just on being able to perform rote computation, but on understanding what is behind the computation and how it is applied in our world. **Some of the big and general topics that you will see us cover this year include: multiplication, division, geometry, fractions, decimals, percentages, measurement, place value, and probability.**

Mini-Lessons: Throughout the school year, we will focus on several different strategies for reading comprehension. These strategies will be presented through mini lessons at the start of our reader's and writer's workshop time. Strategies that will be taught include: monitoring and correcting, visualizing, inferring, determining importance, summarizing, questioning, synthesizing, making connections, and analyzing.

Independent Reading: Each day, students will engage in self-selected reading during reader's workshop. Students will be required to log all books read independently, and will complete a variety of comprehension activities related to their reading. Students will also be required to record a weekly journal entry in their reading response journals.

Guided Reading: Each week, various students will be selected to work with small groups to learn or reinforce specific reading comprehension skills. This guided reading will use a variety of sources, with an emphasis on nonfiction informational texts.

Shared Reading: Each day, the entire class will share in grade level appropriate text. Sharing in an on-level reading experience will promote fluency and accuracy, as well as reading for enjoyment with the entire class. Shared reading texts will include chapter books that the students vote on, mentor texts, and various other sources.

Homework

Please check your student's assignment notebook daily to see what homework has been assigned. In 5E, students will be given opportunities to begin (and most of the time, finish) assignments during the school day. Students in 5E should also be reading at least 20 minutes each day outside of school. Students will have a reading log that should be used to keep track of this reading. Students are also encouraged to finish 20 minutes of math freckle a day as well. This will likely be completed during math workshop, but if it isn't finished, they can work on it at home. Occasionally, it may be necessary for students to spend extra time on special assignments or projects, but this does not occur on a regular basis.

MISSING ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments given in 5E as homework or in class will not be accepted after the due date. If a student has trouble completing an assignment outside of class, effort should be made by the student to communicate any issues with me. The occasional missing assignment is not a cause for serious concern and students will be given their homework passes each trimester for homework emergencies. Missing assignments will typically not be reflected in the academic grade, but will be noted in the Infinite Campus grade book and on the report card under the “Learner Characteristics” category. Missing assignments will be treated as a behavior issue and will be addressed accordingly. If reasonable efforts have not been made by the student to communicate an inability to complete an assignment, or if missing homework becomes a chronic issue, there will be a call home to try and correct the behavior. If an absence results in missing assignments, the student will receive a “No Count” in Infinite Campus, and the assignment will not impact their grade or report card.

STUDENT ABSENCES

If your student is absent for any reason, be sure to report the absence to the main office as soon as possible. Students in 5E will be responsible for reading at home each day for 20 minutes. Please be sure that your student returns to school with his or her reading log completed. If your student will be absent for an extended period of time, we will need to discuss your situation on an individual basis. Typically, I will count anything missing due to an absence as a “No Count” score in Infinite Campus, and it will not negatively impact your student’s grade. However, if there is a special project, presentation or test, your student may need to complete work missed due to an absence. Any make-up assignments will depend on what we are learning at that time. Assigned homework is often an extension of activities from the school day, thus making it difficult to complete these assignments at home after classroom instruction has been missed. I will try my best to get materials that can be completed outside of school together before a planned trip. Be sure to check our week at a glance to see what they missed!

INFINITE CAMPUS ACCESS

Attendance will be updated in Infinite Campus daily. Assignments and grades will be updated weekly in Infinite Campus. You may log in to see your child's progress as well as missing assignments. Be sure to check it often to keep up on your student's progress in 5E. If you do not have internet access, let me know, and an alternative means of communicating your student's progress will be made. There will not be formal report cards this year. The gradebook will be updated continuously throughout the school year.

PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Plagiarism refers to using any content written by someone else that you use as your own in any assignment, without citing the source. Academic dishonesty refers to copying from or sharing the answers with another student. If a student shares answers with another student that did not attempt to complete an assignment, it will be considered to be academic dishonesty. If a student that copies answers from another student on any test, quiz, project, or homework assignment, without an attempt to complete the work on his or her own, it will be considered to be academic dishonesty. Plagiarism and academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. If found to have engaged in either, a student will not be allowed to submit the assignment and a call will go home. You may also refer to the Unit 5 handbook for further information regarding plagiarism and academic dishonesty.

Assessment

Our gradebook reflects standard based grading practices. This means that your child will receive a 4, 3, 2, or 1 based on how they perform on each standard. A 4 is exceeding standards and shows that your child understands well beyond what the teacher has taught. A 3 is meeting standards which means that your child understands and can complete assignments regarding that standard on their own. A 2 is when your child may understand some but still needs some help completing assignments on their own. A 1 is when your child does not understand the concept or standard. It also includes a section that will give more specific information regarding learning characteristics using a 4,3,2, or 1. This will let you know how your child is progressing with the

learning characteristics. Please remember to check Infinite Campus to access your student's grades and missing assignments.

Independence

One of the goals in 5E is to foster the development of independent fifth graders. Our goal is to prepare your fifth grader for the challenges he or she will face in middle school. It is important for fifth graders to be responsible with their materials, as well as advocate for themselves when they need assistance. Throughout the year I will challenge your fifth grader in many areas. Please assist me in fostering this independence by your support at home. Below are suggestions on how you can help:

Homework: Never do your child's homework! Show your support while encouraging him or her to think for him or herself. If an assignment is not completed, allow your child to receive the natural consequences of not getting work done on time. The next time, they will understand that there will be consequences for their actions and not let it happen again.

Responsibility: Make it your child's job to show you his or her assignment notebook every night, get out homework, and put the completed homework or notes back into his or her binder for the next day.

Behavior: Have your child explain his or her behavior if he or she received a yellow or red star in their assignment notebook. Hold them accountable for their actions.

Please make sure that you reach out with
WHATEVER you need this year. I am here to
support you and your child 100%

