**Welcome to 5th Grade!**

This is a special year for the fifth graders in that they are the oldest students in the elementary school. We are focused on teaching them how to be more responsible for their belongings and their school work as well as teaching them how to be more accountable for their actions. Our goal is to prepare them to transition to the middle school with ease and confidence in their abilities to do well academically and socially.

We are committed to teaching the fifth grade students of Spectrum Academy about communities and how they relate in their lives. We are focused on providing a safe community for each student to learn and grow in. The students will practice working together as a group and learning how to work well with those around them. They will learn more about how their actions affect others as well as how they can be affected by what is going on around them.



**Important things to know…**

**School Hours:** School begins at 9am and ends at 3:30. Students will be allowed into the classroom at 8:50. If students arrive before 8:50 or are still here after car pool ends they will be sent to Giraffe Club.

**Homework Packets:** Homework packets will be handed out on Monday and will be due on that Friday. Homework packets must be complete in order for students to attend field trips. The homework packet typically will include work the students are working on while in homeroom, throughout the week.

**Reading Minutes:** It is critical for students to be reading for at least 20 minutes every day. Reading minutes will be tracked in the student planners (discussed below) and the students will be able to attend the reading party at the end of each month if they have documented their reading time of 600 minutes a month or more. Their homeroom grade will be affected if they don’t have 600 minutes a month.

**Student Planners:** Students will receive a planner to keep track of their homework. This is also a place for teachers and parents to communicate. Planners should be brought home and to school every day. Reading minutes must be logged in the planners with the parent’s initials in order for them to be graded.

**Lunch:** Students are required to either bring their lunch from home or purchase a lunch through the school. There are no microwaves available for the students due to safety issues so please pack lunches that do not need to be heated up.

**PRIDE rules:** The PRIDE rules are a set of school wide expectations that outline the way we want out students to conduct themselves.

**P**ractice listening body

**R**espect for all

**I** am accountable

**D**o it first request

**E**verybody safe

**Level System:** The level system is school wide and includes a GREEN level for desired behavior, YELLOW level for poor choices but redirecting, and a RED level for undesired behaviors. Students are responsible for marking their level in their planner at the end each day.

**Toys & Electronic Games:** Toys and electronic games are not allowed at school. If the student needs to bring them to use during car pool, the toys or electronic games must remain in the students backpack until they are in the car. If necessary the teachers can put them in a safe place while the student is at school.

**Field Trips:** Students can earn field trips by completing all of their weekly homework packets. Parents can earn volunteer hours by driving on field trips however, you must submit a copy of your insurance, driver’s license, and background check to the office before you will be able to drive. Field trips only happen if we have enough parents to help volunteer to drive.

**Parent Teacher Conferences:** Parent Teacher conferences will be held during each mid-term. There will be a sign up sheet for time slots on compass. Please sign up if you are planning on attending.

**PEN nights:** Parent Empowerment Night will be held the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 6-8 pm. These nights are designed to help parents learn skills to use with their student at home. You can earn 4 hours of volunteer work for attending.

**Volunteer Hours:** You can earn volunteer hours by donating requested items to the school. Every $10 spent is worth 1 hour. Volunteering to drive for field trips and attending PEN nights are other ways to earn volunteer hours.

**Wanted Items for the classroom:**

* Pencils
* Erasers
* Dry Erase Markers
* Highlighters
* Copy paper
* Lined paper
* Art supplies (markers, colored pencils, glue, etc...)
* Snacks ( individually packaged)
* Office supplies (staples, tape, paper clips, etc…)
* Books
* Disinfecting wipes
* Tissues

I am looking forward to getting to know you all! If you ever have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me and I will help in any way I can.

Thanks,

*Sarah Mataia M.ED/SPE*

5th grade Teacher

Spectrum Academy

smataia@spectrumcharter.org