



"Surf To Success"

August 24, 2009

Dear Parents,

Welcome to fifth grade! My name is Ms. Miller and I will be your child's teacher. In addition to helping your child be all he / she can be academically and socially, I intend to enhance your child's motivation and confidence through their strengths. My goal this to create an environment for your child that encourages cooperation, problem solving, and a desire to try their best at all times. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be your child's teacher. I look forward to getting to know you and your child as our year progresses. The following information will be useful in understanding policies and procedures.

**ARRIVAL / DISMISSAL:**

Please make sure that your child knows how he / she will go home every day, especially during the first week of school. If you need to make a transportation change, please call the main office before 2:30 or send a note ahead of time. Please do not leave any messages on my voice mail concerning transportation. Our school day begins at 8:30 with the students entering the classroom at that time.

**PARENT / TEACHER COMMUNICATION:**

Your child will have a planner that needs to be signed each day including Friday. This lets me know that you have reviewed your child's class work and looked at all important papers.

You can contact me through your child's planner, email or phone.

This year you will be able to view all grades online as well as our class web site. On the website you will find useful information about our class to help keep you in the know at all times. In addition to the website we have the virtual book bag, this is found on the school's website. On this site you will find important handouts that have been given out to students such as, rubrics for projects and teacher letters.

**Homework:**

Homework is given Monday through Thursday. Homework is written on the board on homework days. It is the student's responsibility to copy homework into their planner daily under the appropriate subjects. Homework is given in both classes daily except for Friday.

**Class work/Quizzes/Tests:**

**Class work:**

**Problem of the day:** Everyday students are given a problem of the day. The problems are chosen based on what they are learning as well as their needs. Quizzes and Tests questions are all generated from the problem of the days. Students are to keep all problems of the day in a one-subject notebook.

**Math Strategies:** After we come to the end of our daily math lessons students will keep track of math strategies to solving problems. These strategies are used to help them practice similar problems. Students are able to use their math strategies on selected quizzes. Math Strategies should be kept in their one subject math strategy and vocabulary notebook.

**Math Vocabulary:** Math vocabulary will be kept in the math strategy / vocabulary notebook. Each math term should be defined and given at least on example.

Science Journals: Science journals will be kept here in class.

**Grades:**

**Test:** Math and Science Test are given at the end of each chapter and unit.

**Quizzes:** Quizzes are given when the teacher feels it is needed for all subjects.

Most math quizzes will be given on Friday.

**Class work Grades:** are grades that are recorded during class, these grades are not recorded everyday.

**Grading Scale:**

100 - 90 A

89 - 80 B

79 - 70 C

69 - 60 D

59 - 0 F

\* Grades lower than 40 will be recorded as a grade of 40 \*

Test / Projects =40%

Quizzes =35

Class Work =25

**Classroom Rules:**

- Follow directions the first time they are given
- One person is allowed out of their seat at a time
- Raise your hand and wait for permission to speak
- Keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself
- Respect your teachers and peers at all times.

**Behavior Chart:**

Superb (Setting positive examples for others)	100%	Note home or Phone Call
Awesome (Making good choices)	95%	Positive Reward
Satisfactory	85%	Following Most Expectations
Warning	70%	Time Owed
Note Home (Contacting parents due to loss of privileges)	60%	Parents notified by phone or note home
Referral	50%	Written referral to the office

\*To participate in Fun Friday students must earn a minimum of 80% for the week.

**Important Resources:**

As the year progresses, I will update the virtual book bag as well as our class website, <http://dcps.oncoursesystems.com/school/webpage.aspx?id=518898>. The class website offers links that are useful for helping with reinforcing skills at home. Most of these resources are web based.

I look forward to working with you and your child this year. I welcome your cooperation and participation and look forward to seeing you at open house on September, 3rd.

Sincerely,

Ms. K. Miller

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