

# Fifth Grade Survival Guide

Dear Student,

Welcome to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade! I am so excited to be teaching fifth grade this year. This guide is designed for you, mostly to introduce you to my procedures and expectations. Please review this letter with your parents before signing the attached paper on the back. This is going to be the greatest school year ever!

~Ms. Deavers

## Arrivals and Departures

- 8:10 Gates open- For the safety of all children, please do not arrive before this time. For those who are interested, breakfast will begin at this time as well.
- 8:30 Class starts- If students arrive later than 8:30 they will need to get a tardy pass from the office.
- 3:00 Dismissal- Parents, thank you for being punctual with pick-up!

## The Way of Our Classroom

The 6 Pillars of Character will guide us through the year when it comes to making choices here at Haley. The 6 Pillars are Respect, Responsibility, Citizenship, Caring, Trustworthiness, and Fairness. Each week we will spend time learning about and practicing the 6 Pillars in order to work together as a classroom. I encourage you to use these words at home as well so that students can practice doing their personal best.

In addition, I will be using the Responsive Classroom Approach to teach and foster a safe, challenging, and joyful classroom environment. Responsive Classroom practices include some of these: Morning Meeting, Creating Rules, Academic Choice, and Interactive Modeling. This will help me know your children individually, culturally, and developmentally.

## Agendas

Being a fifth grader, you are expected to demonstrate responsibility for your assignments with little reminder from anyone other than yourself. You will fill out your agenda at the end of each day. You **will** record your homework and many important projects and events.

## Homework

You can expect to have between 30-50 minutes of nightly homework Monday through Thursday. Homework must be done with your best effort. The reason we have homework is so that you can review what we have learned during the day and prepare yourself for what we will learn tomorrow. Homework is an opportunity for you to practice your skills. We will go over homework together the following day so that you can make sure you understand important concepts and can work towards mastering your skills. Your homework will count as part of your effort grade in that particular subject. You are also encouraged to read every evening.

Completing your homework on time is crucial. I suggest that you exchange numbers with a classmate so that you have someone to call in case you have questions, or if you somehow forget what you are supposed to do. If you are absent, you will have the same amount of time as you were gone to make up your assignments. Your assignment will be in your *"We Missed You"* folder. It is your responsibility to check your folder when you return to school and finish all missing assignments.

**\*If you are struggling with your homework, after making your best attempt at completing it have your parent(s) attach a note so we can help you in class the next day.**

### Grading

Rubrics, percentages, and point systems will all be used to evaluate your work. Each letter grade corresponds to the following percentages:

90-100% = A      80-89% = B      70-79% = C      60-69% = D      50-59% = F

In addition, a 6-Point Rubric will also be used throughout the year:

6=100%      5=90%      4=80%      3=70%      2=60%      1=50%

Late assignments/projects will result in one letter grade deduction for each day they are late. Expectations are given to you ahead of time in order for you to earn the grade you want. Everyone in our class starts out with an A. You just have to keep it!

### Water Bottles and Snacks

Bringing water bottles to school is strongly encouraged, especially when the temperature in Arizona approaches or exceeds the 100 degree mark. On such days you will not be permitted onto the playground without a water bottle. According to district policy and health requirements, water bottles must contain WATER only. You are welcome and encouraged to bring a water bottle and a ***nutritional snack*** that will keep you going strong and steady!

\*Please sign and return by **Friday, July 29th**. This Guide will be returned for your reference.

I have read and understand the expectations in the Fifth Grade Survival Guide.

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Parent Signature

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Student's Signature

# Getting to Know Ms. Deavers

July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011

Dear Student and Family,

I am Ms. Deavers and I will be your 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher! I moved to Arizona 4 years ago from California to finish up my schooling at Arizona State University. I graduated Summa Cum Laude from the College of Teacher Education and Leadership and am certified to teach K-8. This is my second year at Haley and I absolutely love being a Haley Tiger!

When I am not teaching I enjoy going to California to visit my family, riding my beach cruiser, reading, hiking, watching movies, surfing, snowboarding, and going to the gym. I am rarely without a Starbucks cup in my hand and you may frequently find me hanging out at Target.

I am really looking forward to teaching 5<sup>th</sup> grade again and I know this is going to be such a fun year. My favorite subject to teach is math and I love creative projects.

Some tips to remember if you want to be successful in 5<sup>th</sup> grade are: Always do your homework, manage your time wisely, practice and master your multiplication facts, and practice reading any time you can. If you do those things I know you will have a successful year!

I hope that you are all as excited as I am and ready for a great school year!

Sincerely,

Ms. Deavers

# 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Classroom Volunteers

Dear Parents,

You have the opportunity to make a difference in our classroom by volunteering. Please look at the list of opportunities and check next to any area you can give your time. We greatly appreciate you!

<b>We need you for:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>I can help!</b>
At School	Make copies, check work, collate papers, prepare projects, etc.	
In Class	Work with one on one students, listen to students read, monitor math games, help in the computer lab, etc.	
Art Masterpiece	Come into our classroom once a month and teach an art lesson. (Lessons are already planned for you! ☺)	
Field Trips	Chaperone an educational experience! (Fingerprint clearance required. More information to come.)	
Other Ideas?		

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Contact Information: Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

# Homework for Parents

Student's Name\_\_\_\_\_ Parent(s)\_\_\_\_\_

Dear Parent(s),

Every child has at least one unique strength, talent, or gift. Academic brilliance is only one example of such a gift. Ambition, curiosity, persistence, organization, courage, coordination, patience, cooperation, and creativity are but just a few. Many of these strengths have been used by adults to achieve success. To help us reach your child the best way we can, your assistance in learning about him/her as a unique individual is very beneficial. Please answer the questions below and send this form back tomorrow. Thank you!

- What is your child's attitude towards school?
- How often does your child discuss school, and what do you talk about?
- What, if any, schoolwork has your child expressed concern about?
- What do you think your child's strengths are?
- What does he/she do in their spare time?

- What responsibilities does your child have at home?
- What works best to encourage your child to fulfill his/her responsibilities?
- What does your child love to do?

Please use the space below (or additional pages) to write down anything else we need to know about your child so that we are able to work more effectively with him/her. We look forward to getting to know you and your child. Thank you for your time and effort!

Sincerely,

Ms. Deavers