

*Back to School Night
Fifth Grade
September 6th, 2016*

Welcome

Thank you for taking the time to join us this evening. This is an exciting year for your children and, by working together, we can only enhance and enrich their experiences. Below I have outlined the necessary information that I hope will keep you updated.

Communication

I believe communication between teacher, student, and parent is the key to a successful year. To meet this goal, there are some things you can count on from me to help keep you informed. *On Thursdays, a folder is sent home containing student work and school papers from the office. This is to be returned each Monday.*

Please feel free to contact me at school with a note, e-mail (kmaduzia@cbsd.org), or phone message (267-893-4350 ext 1188) whenever you feel it is necessary. Also, I recommend familiarizing your son or daughter with my website where homework and other important link are located. <http://www.cbsd.org/kmaduzia>

Homework

Homework is a very important educational tool. It provides reinforcement of academic skills, helps to promote responsibility and time management, and serves to keep parents informed regarding the concepts being introduced in school. District policy on homework for fifth grade recommends an average of fifty minutes per night. To help fifth graders develop a sense of responsibility, I have stressed the importance of completing and returning homework to school on time, to the appropriate class, and in a neat and orderly manner. Assignments are posted daily and are reviewed at the end of each day. You can also access the homework via my website at <http://www.cbsd.org/kmaduzia> Missed assignment slips will be sent home for each missing homework assignment. These slips will require a parent's signature.

Interruptions

Please do not bring any forgotten materials such as homework, instruments, or lunches directly to the classroom. Forgotten items should be taken to the office. The office staff tries to limit the number of interruptions to the learning process.

Academics

Language

This year we will be using a "Writer's Workshop" approach. Lessons will be provided through whole group, small group, and individual instruction. Each student will keep a "writer's notebook". The curriculum uses trade books as writing samples and provides worksheets to help

the students practice writing skills and grammar. During the year, students will be involved in writing informative, opinion, personal narrative, and creative pieces.

Reading

The reading program contains two parts. *The Comprehensive Tool Kit* concentrates on providing the opportunity for extensive practice with specific reading strategies. The *Lead 21* reading series provides a theme reader and a series of literature circle books. We will also use whole books, which may be read by the entire class, or in a small group setting. Students will be reading, discussing, and practicing skills as a whole group, in small groups, and individually. Each day, students are required to have a self-chosen book that is at their reading level. This will be read during SSR time in school, where students will be asked to respond in their reading notebooks. At home, students will be required to read for a minimum of 100 minutes each week/400 minutes per month. A monthly reading log will go home at the beginning of each month. Students will record their number of minutes read each night and parents will initial that this was completed.

Math

Math classes use the Everyday Mathematics series. Everyday Math offers students a broad background in mathematics.

I will be teaching the “accelerated” math program this year. The criteria for a student to be eligible for the “accelerated” class are standard across the school district. Mrs. Ardito and Mr. Hudak will be teaching the remaining fifth grade math classes. These classes are heterogeneously mixed.

Science

Science Companion is an inquiry-based program that encourages students to “enhance their powers of inquiry, observation, and reflection.” Topics to be studied include the scientific method, weather, decomposition, and the various forms of energy.

Social Studies

The Social Studies program, *SS Alive*, provides an interactive approach to learning Social Studies. The areas being studied are the Five Themes of Geography, Revolutionary War, Westward Expansion, The Constitution, and The Bill of Rights.

Finally...

I am very committed to promoting the successful performance of each and every child and look forward to working with you to achieve this goal. Thank you very much for attending this evening.

Keith Maduzia