

5th grade Newsletter

September 2009

READING/LANGUAGE ARTS

In **reading** we are beginning to work on our narrative texts, focusing on historical fiction. We will also use many wonderful books like Owl Moon and Smoky Night to focus on our questioning skills. We will continue to work on modeling the proper way to answer a BCR in preparation for our MSAs later this year. The students also keep a reading response journal and we have spent some time learning and practicing our written responses to text.

In **writing** we have set up our writer's notebooks and have begun adding our own personal entries. We will continue to explore what can go into a writer's notebook, as well as focusing on organizing our written work.

MATHEMATICS

All students are currently working towards mastering curriculum indicators and objectives in their math classes.

Each class is working on the following:

Math 7 -> Data Analysis

Math 6 -> Graphing Data and Statistics

Math 5-> Divisibility, LCM, GCF, and Graphing Equations

For additional information regarding math in Montgomery County, please visit the MCPS web page:

<http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/curriculum/math/>



WORD STUDY

Our Focus is...

VOCABULARY.

Students will work on skills in class.

**Quiz days are determined by each home-room class schedule.



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DATES to REMEMBER:

• **September 7th:** Labor Day Holiday, No School for Students

• **September 9th:** Instrumental Music Parent Meetings, 10am, 2:30 pm, or 6 pm

• **September 28th:** No School (Yom Kippur)

• **October 2nd:** Early Release Day for students (Teaching grading/planning)

• **October 12th:** OPEN HOUSE

(*Note- Some classes may have specials from 9:30-10:30 am)

• **October 16th:** No School (MSTA Conference)

• **October 30th:** First Marking Period ends

SOCIAL STUDIES:
CITIZENS IN ACTION



Every Marking Period...

students will have a 4-week rotation in Social Studies and a 4-week rotation in Science.

Social studies instruction will begin by refreshing our knowledge of the branches of government. Students will then discuss how change is created. We will also explore how citizens work **within** or **outside** the political system to create these changes. This will then allow students to be able to answer these

Essential Understandings:

1. Define rights and responsibilities of citizens today.
2. Explain how citizens have worked for change throughout U.S. History.

Encourage your child to read 25 independent books by the end of 5th grade.

SCIENCE:
FORCE, ENERGY & MOTION

We are beginning Quarter 1 with four weeks of science instruction. Our first unit focuses on forces that create motion and the various types of motion we see everyday. Our other units of study this year will be...

- **Electricity & Magnetism**
- **Astronomy**
- **Cells & Heredity**



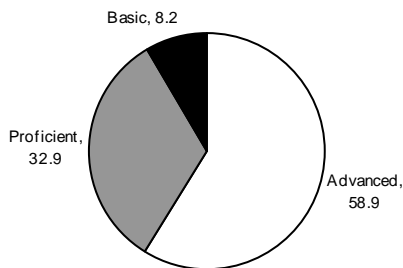
5th grade Data Center

Congratulations! Your 5th grade student worked amazingly hard last year and our test scores show it!

READING: Our current 5th graders scored 41.1% advanced, 50.7% proficient and 8.2% basic.

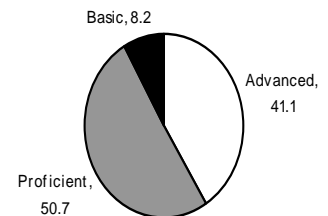
MATH: Our current 5th graders scored 58.9% advanced, 32.9% proficient and 8.2% basic.

Math MSA data



We will be assessing student progress and providing a great deal of support to ALL students to help our team reach our goal of increasing the number of students scoring advanced & decreasing the number of students scoring basic.

Reading MSA data



As your child may have already mentioned, the portable classrooms have been a little chilly. Please send in a sweater or sweatshirt for your child to keep in class.

**Call us at (301) 601-4350. **Email your teachers. **Send us notes from home.

Thanks for a great start!