



5th Grade Spring Newsletter



Bubbles, Tiny Bubbles...

Your child will be taking the Maryland State Assessment on April 3rd, 4th, 10th, and 11th. This assessment measures student achievement in both reading and math. The test includes both selected response (multiple choice) and brief constructed response (short written answers) questions. It is extremely important that students come to school every day on time, ready to do their best. Please avoid scheduling any appointments during school hours on these days. Also help your child get a good night's sleep so that he/she is alert and ready to excel. Students should also eat a healthy breakfast.

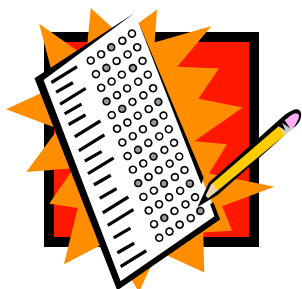
We have worked hard all year to prepare for the MSA. During the next few weeks, we will continue to review effective test taking strategies. Ask them about the strategies they have learned and how will they use the strategies while taking the test. If you would like to know more about the MSA, you can visit: http://mdk12.org/mspp/k_8/index.html.

End of Year Activities

We held a planning meeting for the end of the year activities on Wednesday, March 12th. Since many events and activities (such as the pool party, recognition ceremony, t-shirts, etc.) take several months to plan, we will be utilizing parent volunteers. Parents are a vital part of this planning process. Please volunteer to be a part of the committee. It takes all of us to make these activities a success.

Spring Break

Spring Break is almost here! This is a time to relax and recharge. Students are reminded that they should be reading during the break for at least **twenty** minutes each day. Parents should be asking their child about what they are reading. Students should be able to give a precise summary of what they had read during their adventure inside their book. Also, fifth graders should be working on practicing their multiplication and division facts daily. The fifth grade teachers have seen a **tremendous** improvement since the beginning of the year and would like to see continued growth.



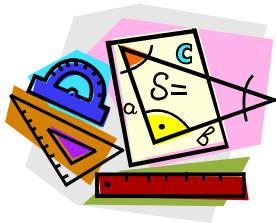
5th Grade Math

In Unit 3, we had been working on computing with whole numbers and solving various problems with decimals, fractions, and percents. Currently in Unit 4, students are organizing data in many types of graphic displays. They are also computing and comparing the mean, median, mode, and range of data sets.



Math 6 & 7

We are in our third unit which focuses on shapes, movement and formulas. In this unit we have been drawing and measuring polygons. We have also learned about types of angles and determining missing angle measures using both estimation and direct measurement with a protractor. They have studied parallel lines and the relationships of angles along a transversal. We have had a great time learning to make geometrical constructions. Students have been using formulas to calculate the areas of polygons and circles. Most recently, we have been graphing plane figures that are the result of transformations, such as translations, rotations and reflections in all four quadrants and making models of a 3D figures from a 2D drawing and making a 2D drawing of a 3D figure. Unit 3 will end on March 31 and the Unit Assessment will be given Tuesday, April 1.



Reading

Students have been studying text features found in feature articles, and after researching a topic of their choice, they created their own article. Students will complete a genre study on plays and examine various aspects of them including dialogue, stage directions, plot, and theme. Also, students will complete a genre study on science fiction.



Writing



What a challenge! During the 3rd marking period, we have begun to write multi-paragraph persuasive compositions. We are focused on looking for catchy hooks in the introductory paragraph and a firm position or clearly stated opinion about the topic. Also, we are looking for paragraphs that give reasons and convincing supports for the position taken. Finally, our conclusion will restate the position or use of an expository ending.

Social Studies

In social studies, students have been identifying the fundamentals of economics and the role of the economy in supporting a successful, democratic government. Also, students have been studying the Articles of Confederation and the key points of the United States Constitution, including the Bill of Rights. In addition, we have been studying the people and events associated with the writing and adoption of the present form of government in the United States.



Science

Students continue their investigation of electricity, magnetism, and electromagnetism. They have been trying to discover how electricity and magnetism are related. Also, students have been exploring how electric motors function. Students will use their observations and scientific information to form predictions and hypotheses throughout the unit.

