

Fifth Grade News

William B. Gibbs Jr. Elementary School

Mrs. Hilbrecht

Mrs. Kim

Ms. Mstowski

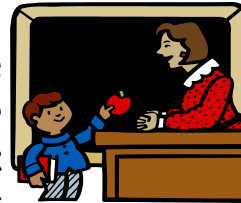
Ms. Wukitch

September 2011

Dear Fifth Grade Families,

We are excited to welcome the fifth graders to a brand new year at William B. Gibbs, Jr. Elementary School. We have been busy planning and preparing for our upcoming school year. We look forward to getting to know our students and their families. We hope to meet all of you soon at Back to School Night on Thursday, September 8th at 6:30.

As a team, teachers, parents, and students can make this a wonderful and productive year for all! Please check your child's assignment notebook daily. Each student will only receive one assignment notebook for the entire year.



Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns. Also keep an eye out for opportunities to help plan some of the special fifth grade activities and chaperone field trips.

~The Fifth Grade Team

Reading

During the first few weeks of fifth grade students will set up their reading journals and learn the routines of the reading block. Fifth graders will also review effective reading strategies that they can apply

when reading any text.

In addition, students will learn the responsibilities of each role in a literature circle. Toward the end of September students will begin to explore historical fiction genre.

Fifth grade students are also expected

to read at least 25 level—appropriate books on their own during the school year. This means that they will read approximately six books per quarter. Please help encourage your child to read on a daily basis so he/she will accomplish this goal.

Important Dates:

9/2/11: MCPS Flyer Distribution Date; Grade Level Newsletters come home in backpacks

9/5/11: Labor Day Holiday! No School for Students, Staff, and Administration

9/8/11: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Back to School Night for Second through Fifth Grades in the Gymnasium

9/13/11:

Rocky Hill Middle School Back to School



Night

9/21/11: PTA-Sponsored Spirit Night at Chik-Fil-A (Drive through orders do not count toward profits)

9/22/11: Clarksburg High School Back to School Night

9/28/11: 1:00 p.m. Early Dismissal for Students

9/29/11: Rosh Hashanah, No School for Students and Teachers

Writing

Writing for Personal Expression is the focus of the first quarter. Students have had many experiences writing personal narratives in previous grades. They will build and refine these skills. Students will also begin to speak and think like writers by applying the Six Plus One Traits of Writing (ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions and presentation). Students will examine other writers' pieces and apply techniques that effective writers use. Students will set up their writer's notebook during the first few weeks. They can use this notebook for inspiration when drafting longer pieces.



Congratulations!

Ms. Wukitch is getting married on Friday, September 2nd. When she returns to school next week, you can begin calling her by her married name—Mrs. Zacharda!



Science

The first unit of fifth grade science is **Force, Motion, and Energy**. Students will explore the following questions throughout the unit:

- How do we describe an object's change in motion?
- What causes an object to change its motion?
- How is energy identified in various mechanical systems?
- How do humans use the stored energy from Earth's natural resources?

Students will complete experiments, view videos, and use textbooks to explore these questions.

Social Studies

In social studies we begin our year with a review of rights and responsibilities of being a citizen and the role of each branch of government.



Then students will apply this knowledge by examining how citizens work within

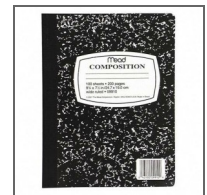
or outside the government create change. Next students will learn about British policies during the Revolutionary period to understand why colonists worked within and outside the



British Royal Government to create change.

Supplies

Thank you for sending your child to school with their supplies! We organized and labeled folders and notebooks. Unfortunately, the School Supply list that was posted on our website was not completely correct. If you are able to purchase a pack of looseleaf paper and one additional composition book we would appreciate it. We apologize for the error.



Notes

Please note that Wednesday, September 28th is an early release day. Students will be dismissed at 1:00. Please write a note to your child's teacher if there is a change in how your child is going home on that day.

Snacks will be allowed at school although they should be healthy, individual size portions, and not require utensils. Water bottles filled with water are permitted.



The fifth grade team would like to express its appreciation to the Gibbs PTA. We are excited to use the National Geographic Explorer magazine when teaching non-fiction. The PTA graciously paid for this year's subscription for all of our students. Thank you PTA!