

Mrs. Shultz's
Class

Handbook

2012-2013



*We are working
together for a
successful year!*

Lucy W. James Elementary
5th Grade

Dear Parents,

This begins a brand new school year for all of us, and I'd like to extend a warm welcome to my new students. As always, the start of a school year holds the promise of new discovery and learning, as well as the prospect of personal growth in all areas.

I have put together a handbook of information to help you and your child become familiar with my expectations for the school year. Take a few days to read through this information, and then return this page and the party form (if applicable) with the first Friday folder sent home with your student. You may want to keep the handbook in a special place so that it can be referred to throughout the year. If you need to contact me, you can reach me by email at kshultz@stjschools.org. I check my email regularly and will respond promptly. If you can not access email, you may call me at school and leave a message—265-2300.

In a few weeks, we will host a parent night so that I can personally answer questions and share more ways that you can help your student at home. I'm looking forward to an exciting year with my classes! Thanks for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Student Name

Parent Signature



Cooperative Learning

I wholeheartedly believe in cooperative learning in the classroom. I will place students in mixed groups so that they may help each other during the learning process. These groups will change for various activities and at different points during the year. Research has shown that all students do better when they are allowed to discuss and defend their ideas as they learn. Working in small groups also helps students learn

valuable social skills they will need throughout life. Parents are often concerned about grades in cooperative learning classrooms. Don't worry! All grades come from individual assignments and tests. No student's grade will be raised or lowered based on the performance of others in the group. I welcome the opportunity to discuss this topic with anyone who has questions or concerns. I can't wait for our students to experience the benefits of cooperative learning!

Class Newsletters

A class newsletter will be sent home each week in the weekly red folder. Please remove the appropriate papers and take special note of upcoming events such as class parties and field trips. 5th grade teachers ask that you sign the provided signature page and return it the following school day with your student.



Materials Needed for 5th Grade

- 1 box crayons
- 1 Scissor
- 2 glue sticks
- 1 pkg. black dry-erase markers
- 1 large zippered pencil pouch (for art/class supplies)
- 2 pkgs. Wide ruled loose leaf notebook paper
- 2- 3 ring Binders (solid color)
- 3 composition notebooks
- 3- spiral notebooks (wide ruled)
- 24- #2 sharpened yellow pencils with erasers
- 2 large pink erasers
- 2 large boxes facial tissues
- 1 red pen
- Mrs. Shultz's class - Germ-X Large

Reading Program

The Accelerated Reader program is used at Lucy W. James. Students read books in their predetermined reading level and then take short computer quizzes to test their comprehension. Students earn points based on the difficulty of the quiz and work toward a

goal that the student and I will work together to develop. 25% of the students grade in Reading will be based on his goal points and comprehension in AR. Each day, I will give students a minimum of 30 minutes to read during class. I expect each student to have an appropriate



book to read at this time. Because we will have weekly trips to the library, this should not be an issue for students. I would also like to encourage students to read at home. They are welcome to read their AR books, but reading a newspaper, magazine, or bedtime book with a parent is just as (or more) valuable! I encourage students to read 10-15 minutes an evening. This way, they will build their reading vocabulary.

Attendance

Of course, I follow the school and state's expectations for attendance. I would, however, like to take this opportunity to say that I hope to see each student every day. We work to build our class team and improve in so many more things than just academics. Every student can benefit from being at school every minute of every day.

****Homework**

I believe that homework is necessary for practicing skills that have been learned or for enriching the classroom experience. On the other hand, I don't believe in overloading students with busywork! 99.9% of the time, your student will have time during the school day to complete his or her work. If it is necessary, due to absence, for a student to take work home, I will give ample time and explanation to complete it.

I WILL BE SENDING HOMEWORK ON WEDNESDAYS WHICH WILL BE DUE ON FRIDAYS. I give Wednesday through Friday so that students will have time to work around church and sports activities. Most of the time, this homework will be 4 or 5 questions or a simple summary. The purpose of my homework will be to keep you informed of what the students are working on and your student's understanding of the subject matter. Students may have time at school to complete the work, and that is fine with me. However, on each homework paper, there will be a place for the parent to initial. Even if the student completes the work at school, I want to make sure that you are able to see the work and stay informed. Red Folders do not receive a grade, however, the parent's initial on the homework will be worth 5 points. A student who returns the homework without the initial will have 5 points deducted from his grade.



NO STUDENT will be given the privilege to call home to have parents bring in homework. I will always accept late work—for a daily deduction of 1 point. There are not enough telephones in the school to allow students to request a parent to deliver their weekly homework. I also want my students to learn the value of organization!

Snacks

My classroom has become known, somewhat, as the snack room. 5th graders eat lunch at 12:15. We all get a little hungry, and therefore distracted, by the time lunch rolls around. Because of this, I encourage my students to bring a healthy snack to school each day. I would like for students to avoid bringing candy and soda into my room. I will allow water bottles and sports drinks. Please note: students will try to bring the "best snack" in class. I always try to remind them, "It is a snack—not first lunch." An entire can of Pringles is unnecessary for a daily snack and becomes quite a distraction. A bag of \$1 pretzels can be purchased at the grocery store and divided into more than one week's worth of snacks. I would like students to bring items that they can eat while continuing with class and learning.



I will have a snack each week to share with the students on a day when they don't bring their own. I will only be able to share one snack a week with each student because the cost can become unbearable. After all of the students have received a weekly snack, I will sell the leftovers for one quarter. The money goes into the DARE field trip fund.

If you would like to provide one of these weekly snacks, please contact me at my information in the letter. The students will be grateful to have your support and to have the extra nourishment in their belly. I would also be happy to share some of my snack ideas with you if you are in need of any.

Parent Volunteers

I love to have parent volunteers in my classroom! I can use help with everything from cutting out bulletin board pieces to working with students individually on assignments. I share my classroom with Mr. Allen, the 5th grade resource teacher, but we can always use an extra set of hands. There is a brief form for interested volunteers to complete and it is attached to this packet. The school must do a background check before allowing anyone in to the classrooms. I can find something that you want to do if you come weekly or just once in a while. I look forward to seeing you!

Spelling Program

We will not have a traditional spelling program in my 5th grade classroom. We will not test on Fridays as you may have become accustomed to. Our class will study words, how they are formed, and their meanings based on root words and prefixes and suffixes. I will have a take home component to this program, but it will not be to prepare for a weekly test. Enjoy the break!

Common Core Standards

LWJE and every school in the St. James R-1 school district works to help our students achieve the nationally established, Common Core Standards. You can find these CCSS online at <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/curriculum/ccss/> If you do not have access to the internet, I will be happy to provide you with a printed copy.

How Parents Can Help

As students get older and their classes become more and more complicated, it also becomes more difficult for parents to find valuable ways to support their students. I have just a few ideas here, which will support your student's education in 5th grade.

*Attend as many parent nights as possible. Our first one is August 25th. We will be discussing grading and discipline procedures on this night. It will also be a great way to meet all of your student's teachers.

* Encourage your student to read to you for 15 minutes during the evening. This might be during dinner prep or clean up. Maybe he could read to you on the way home or right before bed. Just like with a sport or any other extra-curricular activity—Practice Makes Perfect!

*Put the LWJE PBS matrix in a busy place at home. In class, I make an effort to let my students know the high expectations I have for each of them. Reminding them at home would be a great way to start off each day at school on the best foot!

*Contact me whenever you have a question, praise or concern. I am quick to respond and will do my best to answer questions fully. Come by and see us too!

Parent Party Form

I would like to participate in the preparation and implementation of class parties by: (check all that apply)

- volunteering on party day
- sending a snack for the class
- providing a game or craft for the class to do during the party

Please provide your contact information and your name so that I can inform you in plenty of time for a classroom party. We traditionally will celebrate Halloween, Christmas, and Valentine's Day.

Parent Name

Parent Contact Information