A Parent’s Guide to 5th Grade

Everything you will need to know about fifth grade and more!

Bath Elementary School 2013-201
Welcome
We are so excited about the 2013-2014 school year! Fifth grade is an exciting time in your child’s life. He/She is the oldest in the school building and signs of adolescence are just around the corner. Fifth grade is the start of “the long goodbye” between childhood and the teen years. You will be amazed at how much your child will grow throughout the year both physically and mentally. He/She will become very independent but still need the adults in his/her life to guide and talk to him/her. It is our hope to work together with you the parents as a team to give your child the best last year of elementary school! Please feel free to contact us at anytime.

About Us:
Mrs. Grennell
I received my Bachelor’s degree from Grand Valley State University in Elementary Education and Science. Later I obtained a Masters degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Central Michigan University. This will be my tenth year teaching at Bath Elementary School. I am married to Chad Grennell and we have two children. Madison is in fourth grade this year, while Kylie is in second grade. They both go to school at Bath, so you may see them around. I stay busy going to my children’s sporting events and extracurricular activities. I am looking forward to an exciting year with your child.

Mrs. Ryan
I teach the math portion of fifth grade along with a section of language arts. Like Mrs. Grennell, I graduated from Grand Valley State University. This is my second year teaching at Bath. Before coming to Bath I taught in Utah which was quite an adventure living across the country and in the mountains, but I was so happy to be able to come back to Michigan. I am married and have two “children” of the canine variety.

Mrs. Waugh
I received my B.A. from Albion College in 1996 where I majored in Art and Elementary Education. After graduating from college, I took a year off before my first teaching job. I taught second grade for two years at Winans Academy for the Performing Arts in Detroit, 13 years at White Pine Academy in Leslie, and this will be my 2nd year at Bath. I earned my Masters Degree in Curriculum Development from Eastern Michigan University in 2004. My hobbies include reading, writing, art, hiking, running, and participating in triathlons. I am the middle child of three girls, and I have four nieces and three nephews. My husband, John, and I have a son who is 7, and two daughters, 5 and 3.

Emails
We will do our best to answer your email within 24 hours.
Mrs. Grennell- tgrennell@bathschools.net
Mrs Ryan- lryan@bathschools.net
Mrs. Waugh- ewaugh@bathschools.net

Weekly Newsletter
The Fifth Grade Flock is a collaborative weekly newsletter that includes information, important dates, reminders, and spelling lists. It consists of information from all three teachers, in all
subject areas. **Unless you request a paper copy**, this will come home in the form of an email. If you are not receiving the emails, please let your child’s homeroom teacher know. The newsletter will be emailed every Friday so keep an eye out for it!

**Bee Folders**
The following is a description of how Bee Folders will look in your child’s homeroom.  
**Mrs. Grennell**- The Bee folder is sent home every Friday and should be returned on Monday. Please be sure to complete and sign any required papers and send them back in the Bee folder. This is where important communication from the school and classroom will be located. Regular class work that is graded will be sent home daily and will not be included in this folder.

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**Mrs. Waugh**- I send Bee folders home every Friday and expect them returned on Monday. On the left side of the folder you will find important notes from me, the office, and the weekly spelling list for the following week. On the right side of the folder you will find work that has been completed and graded. This work can stay at home and does not need to be returned.

**Planners**
The following is a description of how Planners will look in your child’s homeroom.  
**Mrs. Grennell**- Planners will be filled out by your child daily. Planners are expected to go home for you to initial. This lets you know what is happening in all three classrooms on a daily basis. If you have any questions for me, you can write me a quick note at the bottom and I will respond. I will also initial these folders each morning.

**Mrs. Ryan**- I check planners at the end of each day as the students are leaving to get their belongings. I also talk to them about what they have and make sure they have the supplies they need.

**Mrs. Waugh**- I check planners at the end of each day as the students are leaving to get their belongings. I also talk to them about what they have and make sure they have the supplies they need. Parents do not need to initial their students planners unless they continually do not do their homework. In that case, I will contact you and we will set up a plan to make sure we help your child to get back on track.

**Field Trips**
Various field trips are taken throughout the year. These include skating, Wharton Center, the Planetarium, and Fifth Grade Camp. There may be a few more scheduled, depending on class time and funding.
Safeties
Fifth Graders have the opportunity to help monitor the lunchroom and playground this year. If your child would like to participate, there is a form that you need to sign. By being a safety, your child will miss some instruction time, or special ie. (music, library, art, or gym.) If your child chooses to be a part of the safety program, he/she is still responsible for any work missed during that time. Homework will still be due the next day. To participate students need to keep or maintain at least a “C” grade point average in every subject area and have no excessive missing assignments.

Classroom Rules
1. Be prepared to learn- have supplies, homework, and a positive attitude.
2. Respect yourself, others, and their property.
3. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
4. Always put forth your best effort.

Homework
There will be homework assigned to your child this year. On Fridays, we will send home a spelling list that your child is responsible to learn by Friday of the following week. Math has a page of homework that comes home almost every night. In addition, there will be days when your child has run out of time to finish an assignment in class and is expected to finish at home. Tuesdays are the most frequent day for reading homework. Please check your child’s planner daily to see what he/she may have for homework that night. Throughout the year there will also be projects in social studies and science. More information will come home in the Fifth Grade Flock as these projects are assigned.

Book Response Projects
Book Response Projects will be assigned during the months of September, October, November, January, and February. At the beginning of each month students will choose a book that is appropriate to their level of reading. After it is approved by their homeroom teacher, they will have the month to read the book and complete a book response project. There are 17 book response projects to choose from. A form will be filled out by the student, after he/she has chosen his/her book, regarding the type of project he/she would like to complete. It includes basic information and a timeline for the project. It will be signed by the student, teacher, and parent. The original version will be sent home and a copied one will be kept at school so everyone is aware of the student’s choice.

Once the student has completed the book response project, they must choose a different book response project for the next month.

Due dates for the book response projects are:
#1 Thursday, October 3rd
#2 Thursday, November 7th
#3 Thursday, December 5th
#4 Thursday, February 6th
#5 Thursday, March 6th
Powerschool
Powerschool is another form of communication that we use to show grades and completion of homework assignments. If your child has a zero or a blank space, this means that the assignment has not been turned in. We try to have all grades updated weekly. Mrs. Wahrer, in the office, will be able to assign each of you a password and username. You may e-mail, phone, or stop in to speak with her at your earliest convenience if you are having trouble accessing Powerschool.

Study Hall
The fifth grade has recess each day from 2:20-2:35. Students who are caught up on their work will be able to attend recess. If your child is behind at all, he/she will be in study hall catching up on his/her work. The three of us each take a week at a time to be the study hall teacher.

Flipping
This school year we are going to try to use the flipping method with some of our reading instruction to make instruction more effective. We are going to start this very slowly and in class so the students understand what it is we want them to do. If you do not have access to the internet at home, you can arrange time before or after school or during lunch time with your child’s homeroom teacher so your child can access the material. We are in the process of creating a website that will have all the resources your child needs for this. Information on how this is used in the classroom will continue to come home in the Fifth Grade Flock.

What is Flipping?
The following information came from this website: (http://fod.msu.edu/oit/flipped-classroom)

In “flipped classes” students use technology at home to watch online video lectures, demonstrations, and explanations of assignments. Class time is spent doing what is traditionally called “homework." The teacher in a flipped classroom is a learning facilitator, able to work one-to-one with students, clarify assignments, and offer help as needed. Classmates can work together on in-class assignments, engage in discussions, or collaborate on projects. A major benefit is that teachers spend more time working directly with students instead of lecturing to them.

Supply List
Here are some suggested supplies to help your child in fifth grade. We would appreciate your help with any of the following:
- pencils (Your child will need at least 10 pencils for the year. Please have your child write his/her name on the pencils going down the side.
- 1 pair of scissors
- 8 spiral notebooks
- 3 packs of index cards
- 1 black pen
- 1 box of colored pencils
- assorted colors of sharpies markers (or other markers)
- 1 black sharpie marker
• Box of crayons
• 1 pair of scissors
• 6 glue sticks
• 2 bottles white glue
• 1 highlighter
• 1 pencil box to hold supplies
• 8 folders

**Donations**
If throughout the year, you are able to donate any of these items, we would appreciate it!
• Disinfecting wipes such as clorox wipes or baby wipes
• Boxes of tissue
• Scotch tape and masking tape
• Dry Erase Markers for the Whiteboard
• Whiteboard Cleaner
• Pipe cleaners
• Post-it notes

**Technology**
We are excited to announce that there is 1:1 computer to child ratio in all fifth grade classrooms. There are so many different lessons and activities that we use the computers for; from Glogster, KidBlog, TodaysMeet, Google docs, Goodtyping, podcasting, movie making, Study Island, BrainPop and much more. We are providing you with a classroom technology form that must be signed before your child is able to use the classroom computers.

**Camp**
May 5th - 9th, we will go to fifth grade camp at Camp Arbutus Hayo-Went-Ha. Camp is located 10 miles southeast of Traverse City, MI on Arbutus Lake. This is a week long activity where your child will stay all day and night taking part in activities at the camp. Some of these activities include team course challenges, archery, pond ecology, canoeing, and orienteering. We also take part in crafts, sports, and make a trip to Sleeping Bear Dunes for a dune walk and study.

The cost of camp is $85 per child and $50 per adult chaperone. We will do a couple of fundraisers to help offset the cost of this trip. The money is due in April, just after Spring Break. If you are interested in being a chaperone for camp, please contact your child’s homeroom teacher. We usually take 3-4 male and 3-4 female adults with us to camp. We will provide more information on this trip at a parent meeting and in future newsletters.

**Parent Volunteers**
If you are interested in helping in the classroom this year, we would love to have the help. We would like to have parents help with making copies, laminating, recording podcasts, reading with students, or helping with stations in the classroom.

We are also looking for parents to help plan the classroom parties.
Please send us an e-mail or note letting us know of your availability and what you would like to do to help.

Curriculum

Language Arts
The fifth grade reading program develops comprehension skills, vocabulary skills, and analytical skills while promoting a deeper appreciation for literature. Students read and discuss a variety of genre in large group and in small group settings. They expand their reading comprehension through written work and oral discussions. We currently use the Macmillan/ McGraw-Hill Treasures Reading Series as our main method of teaching reading. Your child will be responsible for completing book report/projects during the school year.

Math
The students will use the math concepts and skills that they have learned to solve multi-step problems. They analyze problems and use logical reasoning to choose the best strategies to solve these problems. The math curriculum will consist of multiplication and division of whole numbers, decimals, (multiplication, division, addition and subtraction of fractions), measurement, algebra, geometry, and reading and constructing graphs.

Science
In the fifth grade science program students analyze, interpret, evaluate, and comprehend the world around them.
Physical Science- Students discuss force (magnitude and direction, balanced and unbalanced forces, objects in direct contact and indirect contact), describe motion (point of reference, relationship to other objects, periodic, circular), and use graphing to show representation of findings.
Life Science- Students will start off identifying parts of an animal and plant cells. They will identify the general purpose of animal systems, and how these systems work together. We will also cover animal adaptations due to heredity and environment.
Earth and Space– Students study the solar system including the planets, the moon phases, tides, eclipses, stars, Earth’s seasons, rotation, and revolution.

Social Studies
The fifth grade social studies curriculum encompasses four major areas of study.
- Beginnings through 1620
- Colonization and settlement
- Revolution and the New Nation
- Public discourse, decision making, and citizen involvement

We will start off the year learning about our government today. Once we understand how it is run, we will go back to the beginning to see where it all started.

Each unit of study incorporates lectures, videos, and projects. There is no textbook or tests in social studies. I will be assessing students through Study Island to make sure students are learning and comprehending the material, but this assessment is for my use only.
The projects are worth a lot of points. I spend time going over directions and the rubric, and I give students 1-2 class periods to begin working on the project. After that, it will go home as homework and students generally have one week to complete the assignment. Extra credit is offered for each assignment as well.

Assignments go down a certain amount of points each day the assignment is turned in late for up to half the amount of points it is worth. **No assignments will be accepted one month after the due date.**

**Late Assignments for Social Studies**
- **Assignment worth 1-10 points**- 1 point will be deducted for each day it is late
- **Assignment is worth 11-20 points**- 2 points will be deducted for each day it is late
- **Assignment is worth 21-30 points**- 3 points will be deducted for each day it is late
- **Assignment is worth 31-40 points**- 4 points will be deducted for each day it is late
- **Assignment is worth 41 or more points**- 5 points will be deducted for each day it is late

**Writing**
Writing focuses on fine-tuning the mechanics of a well written paragraph and essay. We will be teaching opinion (persuasive), informative/explanatory, narrative, and how to research. During the school year, we will also focus on grammar usage, parts of speech, and sentence structure.

**Important Websites**
- Bath Website: [www.bathschools.net](http://www.bathschools.net)
- Use this to access PowerSchool and ICAL
- Mrs. Grennell’s Class Page-See class page on the elementary link
- Fifth Grade Flipping- [fifthgradeflipping.wikispaces.com](http://fifthgradeflipping.wikispaces.com)
- Go Math (This is part of our math series)- [https://www-k6.thinkcentral.com](https://www-k6.thinkcentral.com)
- Study Island-[www.studyisland.com](http://www.studyisland.com)
- Moby Math- [www.mobymath.com](http://www.mobymath.com)
- BrainPop- [www.brainpop.com](http://www.brainpop.com)
- Mrs. Waugh’s Website- ewaugh.edublogs.org