

Fifth Grade Policies and Procedures

Fifth grade is a transition year filled with many new challenges and responsibilities. It is my goal to make this year a successful one for your child.

A strong parent-teacher partnership is a key ingredient to that success! Below, I have detailed important classroom policies for your reference. Please feel free to contact me if ever you have questions or concerns!

Homework

On a typical evening, students can expect to complete a math sheet and ~30 minutes of reading. Supplemental assignments (ex: completion of a reading response or writing assignment, often begun in class), will be given periodically, as well. In fifth grade, we are developing skills with regard to organization, responsibility, and time management, and homework plays a role in that process. However, work-life balance is crucial, and children need time for family, friends, activities and relaxation! Should you find that your child is spending a great deal of time on homework, please stop him or her from continuing and send me a quick email or note. (If you notice that a specific assignment or two is posing a particular challenge, it would be very helpful if you could include that information.)

Sometimes, time is provided in school to begin or complete assignments that will be due the next day. During writing class, for instance, students may be asked to finish the first two paragraphs of a writing piece for the following day. They should utilize their class time to work on that task and, if they do not complete it, whatever is left to be done should be tackled during homework time. In this sense, focused, productive use of class time is essential; if a child has not used his or her class time effectively, then it may be necessary to spend a bit more time on homework that evening. In an effort to avoid this occurrence, I have discussed this topic with the students and included categories like "On Task", "Working Hard", etc. in our Class Dojo.

Missing or Late Work

If a student is unable to submit a homework assignment on time, he or she fills out an entry in the "No Homework Binder" with the reason why. This system enables me to keep track of whether any particular students are regularly missing work, as well as to note patterns (ex: habitually forgetting materials at home or at school, not focusing when we are filling out agendas, etc.) so that I may lend the proper support. My aim is to email a student's parents if I see that he/she has reached approximately three missing assignments so that we can discuss ways to ameliorate the situation.

If an assignment is not passed in by the due date, the student is still expected to complete and submit it. Class Dojo points are awarded for on-time homework and deducted for missing/late homework.

Thus, two ways to keep track of your child's homework progress are to periodically check the Class Dojo/the paper Dojo reports sent home on Fridays, and to be on the lookout for a potential email from me about three missed homeworks.

Take Home Folder

Periodically (typically, on Mondays), notices and important graded assignments (tests, quizzes, writing pieces, etc.) will be sent home in Take Home Folders. I ask that a parent/guardian review, sign and return any **tests**. These documents inform future instruction by enabling me to track process and note areas in which further support is necessary.

Class Dojo

A home-school communication and behavior-management system we'll be utilizing this year is Class Dojo. Class Dojo is an online tool that tracks both positive and room-for-improvement behaviors and awards or deducts points accordingly. Points can be given to or deducted from individuals, small groups, or the whole class. Periodically, students will be able to cash in their "points" for rewards. Student privacy and comfort is key, and so individual student totals are kept private, accessible only to me, to you (when you log in), and to the student when I confer with him or her about progress. Parents can log in and see their child's behavior log, exchange quick and easy messages with me, and see whole-class updates (ex: a picture and caption from a hands-on math activity we did that week). Individual progress reports will be printed, reviewed with students, and sent home in Take Home Folders bi-monthly (every other Friday). Please feel free to review the paper report, check the site, or do both as a means of keeping track of your child's progress!

Website

Our class website can be accessed directly (www.grade5dowd.weebly.com) or through the East Elementary site. The website displays nightly homework assignments, our schedule, helpful links, enrichment information, and classroom policies and procedures!