



Welcome to 5th Grade!

Information Packet 2015-16

Ms. Merrys' Homeroom



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“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” –Helen Keller

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*This packet will be posted on the 5th grade blog, and rules are posted on all classroom walls.

Welcome to 5th Grade!



Last year at my old school, on superhero day!

This will be a big year of growth as students begin to take larger responsibility for themselves and their learning!

Teacher Bio

My name is Meredith Buelken, and I go by Ms. Merry. This is my first year teaching in Egypt after receiving my Teaching Certificate from Michigan State University, Michigan, U.S.A. My Bachelor's Degree was in Elementary Education, with a focus on Language Arts—so I am very excited to be your English Language Arts teacher this year! The students will learn more about me as the year goes on, and in the meantime, here are my goals for your students this year:

Academic Goals

Literacy is the focus, but that is not just the act of being able to read and write. It is also the ability to understand and be understood, and as fifth graders they will learn how to do this on a higher level.

- The textbook "Journeys" will be used to explore different genres of short stories, which will include; Humorous Fiction, Realistic Fiction, Historical Fiction, Legends, Fantasy, Informational Text, Biographies and Poetry.
- They will be able to respond with deep analysis through free writing, short stories, and presentations.
- They will engage in various forms of writing, such as opinion, research, persuasive, and others.
- And most importantly, we will focus on loving literacy! Read at home, read with your students, and discuss anything you are reading—every moment engaged in literacy at home will strengthen their progress in school!

Personal Goals

The focus in my class is not only on academics, but on the student as a person. In order to maximize a person's growth and success, there must be a sense of belonging and a support system of people who care about you.

- We will have weekly community meetings at the beginning of class on Sundays in order to know one another in a respectful and welcoming setting.
- Of course, there will be no tolerance for bullying whatsoever, and our behavior expectations will be clearly stated in this packet.
- Grow as individuals
- Grow as a community
- Aspire to higher levels of responsibility, respect, rigor, empathy, and empowerment.

I hope you can all look forward to a fun and rigorous year of learning and growing together! I am here to help you learn, but I can't wait to learn from you all as well.

5th Grade Behavior Expectations

Our goal is to have each student understand that there are set rules that must be followed at all times. There are explicit consequences for not following rules, and fun rewards for following them. The following chart is called the Behavior Chart, and is what each student must follow. I and the other 5th grade core curriculum teachers will also use this system, so it will be consistent in every class.

	All Settings	Classroom	Outdoor Break/Snack	Restroom	Morning Announcement Time
Be Responsible	1. Follow adult directions 2. Bring necessary materials with you 3. Be on time and prepared	10. Do your best work 11. Do your own work	18. Be careful not to hurt yourself or classmates	24. Wash hands with soap and water 25. Throw away trash	28. Listen with attention
Be Respectful	4. Use polite language 5. Use appropriate voice level	12. Keep your space and classroom clean 13. Be an active member of the lesson 14. Follow classroom procedures	19. Ask on duty adult for help 20. Eat your own food	26. Wait your turn for toilet or sink	29. Eyes and ears on the speaker 30. Stand in a straight line
Be Kind	6. Use kind words with students and teachers 7. Use empathy	15. Don't interrupt class mates or teacher 16. Use encouraging words and polite tone of voice	21. Take turns and play fair 22. Include others		
Be Safe	8. Keep hands and feet to yourself 9. Be where you are supposed to be	17. Move responsibly	23. Use equipment correctly	27. Keep water and soap in sink	

Behavior Chart Rewards and Consequences

Each number in the Behavior Chart is expected behavior for our 5th grade students.

If any student does not follow these expectations, they will receive **one reminder**—this is a warning mark. Their reminders will be recorded and tracked throughout the year.

Any student who receives more than 3 reminders in a cycle (2 weeks) will lose some privileges the following cycle. Students can earn back privileges by receiving 3 or less reminders during that following cycle.

Students who receive less than 3 reminders per 2 weeks will earn privileges each cycle. Every 2 weeks the homeroom teachers will update the list of reminders on our class blog, so you and your student can monitor their behavior.

The first 2 weeks of school, no reminders will be given. As students learn the rules and procedures, they will receive direction and instructions, but it is a week of learning. After those first weeks, they will be expected to know and follow the expectations.

1 Cycle = 2 Weeks

Level 3 3 or less reminders— Excellent!	Level 2 4 or more reminders— Working on it!	Level 1 7 or more reminders— Needs work!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May participate in class snack every two weeks. • Can enter their name into a raffle to earn prizes such as a homework pass, and choose your own seat pass! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lose some privileges: No class snack or raffle entry. • Chart sent home with reminders given, to be signed by parent and returned. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loses all privileges: no short break time alone, no outdoor break, no going to restroom alone. –after one week we revisit the student to see if they have earned back privileges. • If at a level 1 multiple times, meeting with parents and Vice Principal to determine a behavior plan for the student, and appropriate discipline.

We will be constantly re-teaching these expectations all year. We understand that students need to learn, and we also know they are capable of being held accountable. All of the teachers will work together to make sure your student is fully able to succeed behaviorally.

Homework Policy

Homework turned in after the due date will get a zero, but must still be turned in as part of the learning process.

If a student is sick, traveling, or has other circumstances and an excused absence note is issued from the office, student will have time to make up for the work.

Late assignments and projects will be accepted, but with a deduction of points:

One Day Late	10% Deduction
Two Days Late	20% Deduction
Three Days Late	30% Deduction
More than Three Days Late	No credit, but must be turned in for knowledge and practice

All homework will be marked and returned to students to use as a reference for studying. *Students are responsible for keeping their returned homework organized and available, and copies will not be given if originals are lost!*

Grade Percentage Breakdown

Class Work	20%
Homework (See Late Policy)	20%
Projects	15%
Tests & Quizzes	30%
Participation	10%
Behavior	5%

5th Grade Teachers: Who You'll See in Class 😊

English Language Arts Teacher	Ms. Merry Buelken
Math Teacher	Mr. Karim Adel Shoukry
Social Studies Teacher	Mr. Barry Turner
Science Teacher	Mrs. Hind El Haddad
Arabic Teacher	Mr. Ahmed Sorour
French Teacher	Mrs. Nourhan Essam
Spanish Teacher	Ms. Karen Gomez
German Teacher	Mrs. Rania Hussein
Religion Teacher	Mr. Ahmed Sorour
Music Teacher	Mrs. Danielle Urman
Physical Education Teacher	Mr. Ahmed Fadel
Computer Teacher	Mrs. Soha Abd El-Megid

Contact Information and Class Blog

The best way to reach me for any matters is through my school email, to which I will respond to within 24-48 hours. If you have questions about homework, specific assignments or rules, the blog will be updated weekly and is available for commenting. I will check in the blog regularly throughout the week.

If you ever have ANY problem or question, please contact me first—if you contact anyone else, they will simply have to contact me, so we want to cut out the middle man and get back to you as quickly as possible!

Ms. Merrys' Email: meredith.buelken@gpschool-eg.com

Class Blog Address: G5gps2015.wordpress.com

5th Grade Student Supply List

Hello parents and students! Fifth grade is a year of increased student responsibility and accountability! Your road to success starts with being prepared every day, in order to be the best student you can be! The following materials are **REQUIRED** and should be **LABELED** with the student's name

For Class Everyday:

- Pencil Case
 - Pencils (Minimum 4, sharpened)
 - Erasers
 - Pencil Sharpener
 - Glue Stick
 - Scissors
 - Ruler (inches and centimeters)
 - Colored Pencils
 - 1 small white board + fine tip white board marker (black or blue)

NOTE: Student is responsible for maintaining the supply of the materials listed above in their pencil bag. If they are unable to participate in class activities due to lack of materials, they will receive a zero for participation—so make sure you have everything at all times!

To Hand in to Classroom Teacher:

- 2 large packages of antibacterial wet wipes
- 2 family size boxes of tissues (Kleenex)

To Keep in Student Cubby:

- 5 large plastic zipper files labeled:
 1. *Library* and student name
 2. *Math* and student name
 3. *Language Arts* and student name
 4. *Science* and student name
 5. *Social Studies* and student name

To Hand in to Language Arts Teacher

- 1 package lined writing paper
- 1 package medium sized sticky notes
- 1 manila folder
- 1 clipboard (any color)

To Hand in to Social Studies Teacher:

- 2 packages multicolored construction paper

To Hand in to Science Teacher:

- 1 small package multi colored playdough

To Hand in to Math Teacher:

- 1 A4 copybook small squares
0.5 cm x 0.5 cm squares

For Arabic, Religion, and MOE

- 3 lined copy books, 80 pages
- 1 lined copy book, 60 pages
- 1 copybook, 40 pages (1 lined and 1 blank page covered in a green cover for MOE)
- 4 big red zipped file to put all Arabic and Religion materials into (practice book and copy book)
- 2 A4 display file (one with 10 files, and the other with 30 files)

All Arabic and Religion copybooks should have a red cover and clear handwriting on name tag!

Again, welcome to 5th grade! It's going to be a great year!

Sincerely, Ms. Merry

