

STONEBRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 2022-23



5th Grade Handbook

Contact Information

Classroom Phone:

Mrs. Benning 651-351-8725

Mr. Haugen 651-351-8752

Mrs. Poechmann 651-351-8700

Email:

Carla Benning: benningc@stillwaterschools.org

Chris Haugen: haugenc@stillwaterschools.org

Nicolle Poechmann: poechmannn@stillwaterschools.org

Front Office: 651-351-8700

Attendance Line: 651-351-8701

*When your child will be absent:

- Enter the absence on Powerschool **OR**
- Call the attendance line: 651-351-8701

In addition, contacting your child's teacher directly via email or phone is always appreciated!

Welcome

Dear Fifth Grade Families,

The three of us would like to welcome you to our 5th Grade Community!

We are excited to have your child in our classrooms this school year and look forward to an exceptional year.

One of the goals we have is to develop a strong relationship with your child. We believe in the importance of getting to know each student to best meet their social, emotional, and academic needs.

Lots of learning occurs during the fifth grade school year. We are dedicated to providing a rigorous, engaging, and student centered learning environment to help facilitate this important learning. We strive to teach fifth grade academic standards in a fun and meaningful way.

We value communication, so please reach out to us with any questions or concerns. We look forward to partnering with you to ensure a successful fifth grade experience.

Sincerely,

Your Grade 5 Teachers

Carla Benning

Chris Haugen

Nicolle Poechmann

Curriculum

Math

Math instruction is taught using the Holt McDougal Mathematics Course I curriculum. We will be using technology, playing math games, learning note-taking, and engaging in fun, interactive activities that meet the needs of our 21st century learners! Worth noting that the Holt McDougal Mathematics curriculum will not be available to students/ families online this year.

Literacy

Literacy instruction consists of reading workshop, writing workshop, and word work. Each day students will receive direct instruction in skills and strategies that lead to proficient reading. They are given ample amounts of time to read high interest, self selected, just right books. During independent reading time, students will meet with the teacher one-on-one or in small groups focusing on skills at their instructional level.

Writing Workshop begins each day with a whole group lesson on a writing skill or strategy. We practice together and then students work independently on their piece of writing. Teachers then meet one-on-one and in small groups with students to give feedback, teach next steps, and monitor students' writing.

We will use the Words Their Way curriculum for word work instruction. Based on years of research into invented and developmental spelling, the classroom-proven framework of this successful series is keyed to the five stages of spelling and orthographic development. This curriculum meets the needs of each student based upon his/her stage of spelling development, from emergent through derivational relations.

Science

Throughout the year we will complete these units: Variables; Landforms; Environments; and Levers and Pulleys. We also have 2 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) kits called Marvelous Machines: Making Work Easier and A Slick Solution: Cleaning an Oil Spill. Fifth graders will also take the MCA Science Test in the spring. Therefore, we will take time throughout the year to prepare for this standardized state test. Students use the engineering design process, critical thinking, problem solving, and collaborative discussions while designing products and processes.

Social Studies

Our curriculum addresses all four social studies disciplines:

- Citizenship and Government
- Economics
- Geography
- History

We use an inquiry based method to help students strengthen their understanding of the following concepts:

- Ask Questions
- Think Critically
- Solve Problems
- Communicate Conclusions

Homework at Stonebridge

Multiple studies show little evidence suggesting that homework has a significant effect on student learning at the elementary level. At Stonebridge, our expectation is that kids read (or a parent reads to them) each evening as their homework. In fifth grade, this could include practice of sight words, leveled books, and/or books of the student's choice. Here are some minimum guidelines to follow:

- 15 minutes for kindergarten and first graders.
- 20-30 minutes for second through fifth graders.

The overarching theme at our school is that we will not be assigning homework other than what is described above. On occasion, there will be some exceptions. First, we need to look at the difference between homework and schoolwork. Homework is defined as work assigned by the teacher to be completed at home. Schoolwork is defined as work that was unfinished at school, therefore, the child brings the work home to complete it. This may happen if a child has missed school for an illness or on an occasion where the child did not finish the work during the time provided in school.

Homework must be effective if it is assigned and effective homework assignments must be prescribed in a certain way. For example, an effective use of homework would be the teacher sitting down and thinking 'Ray has trouble with number placement, so I'm going to give him five problems on number placement.' Then the next day the teacher sits down with Ray and asks, 'Was this hard for you? Where did you have difficulty?' Then the teacher gives Ray either more or less material based on what was learned. This type of effective homework is very different compared to all children receiving the same math worksheets to compete on a nightly basis.

Lastly, we'd love to see kids get the opportunity to play with family and friends, take the dog for a walk, help out around the house, and get outside as a part of their nightly routine.

Communication

Your child's teacher will be utilizing Powerschool and Seesaw for communication purposes with families. Seesaw is a communication platform that connects teachers with students and parents to build amazing classroom communities.

In the event we were to transition to a hybrid model this year, a morning message will be sent out each morning to families and students on their Seesaw accounts. We encourage parents and students to read the message carefully and contact your child's teacher if you have any questions. Students will also need to check their student app regarding daily assignments. Other announcements will also come through Seesaw on an as needed basis.

Your child will bring home a "Take Home Folder." Your child's Take Home folder will likely contain important information from the office or other important forms that you need to look through. If your child is the youngest child in the family or the only, they will be receiving the important papers from the office (1 set per family). Please empty and return the folder on the following school day.

Daily Schedule for Fifth Graders

8:30 - Arrival
8:45 - Attendance / Announcement/ Morning Meeting
9:15 - Block I
10:15 - Block II
11:15 - Recess/ Lunch
12:05 - Quiet Time
12:30 - Block III
1:10 - Specialists (CH,NP) (CB - Block III continuation)
1:50 - Specialist (CB) (CH,NP - Block III continuation)
2:30 - WIN
3:00 - Clean Up/ Closing
3:15 - Announcements / Dismissal

Specialist Schedule

Mrs. Benning's Specialist Rotation:

Day 1: Art / Media

Day 2: Music

Day 3: P.E.

Day 4: Art / Media

Day 5: Music

Day 6: P.E.

Mr. Haugen's Specialist Rotation:

Day 1: Art / Media

Day 2: Music

Day 3: P.E.

Day 4: Art / Media

Day 5: Music

Day 6: P.E.

Mrs. Poechmann's Specialist Rotation:

Day 1: P.E.

Day 2: Art / Media

Day 3: Music

Day 4: P.E.

Day 5: Art / Media

Day 6: Music

Orchestra lessons and large group rehearsal will be held on Day 1. Mrs. Herold will reach out with lesson times.

Band lessons will be held throughout the week. Large group rehearsal will be held on Day 1. Ms. Idhe will be reaching out with lesson times.

Student Technology Resources

Our classroom will use lots of technology! Students will use all of the technology available to us throughout the year to expand their knowledge of technology and how it can be used constructively in our daily lives.

From time to time, homework may be assigned that requires the use of a computer, tablet, or smartphone. Please let us know if you do not have access to technology and we can plan for appropriate accommodations. Educational applications are available through Clever.

All of the programs are resources that help students master state-specific, grade-level academic standards.

Students will be expected to use technology appropriately and will lose their privilege should they choose not to follow the school guidelines.

Log in information and passwords will be listed in your child's planner/ binder.

Recess

Students will have 25-30 minutes of recess daily. Here are the guidelines for when we would have recess indoors due to cold weather.

- If the temperature is below ZERO students will stay in.
- If the wind chill is below -10 F students will stay in.

Birthday Celebrations

Keeping our district wellness policy in mind, we ask that students not bring in food to celebrate birthdays. If you would like to share a treat with the class you might consider small trinkets, a class book or game for the classroom, etc. instead of food. Please use the Stonebridge Directory for sending birthday party invitations.

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Parents can assist by following arrival and dismissal procedures listed below. These procedures can be found on the Stonebridge website under the Parent Resources section.

Classes begin at 8:45 a.m. with dismissal at 3:15 p.m.

- All Students: 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.
- School Patrol: 8:15 a.m. and 3:35 p.m.

We have no supervision outside of these times.

AM Traffic Reminders

Our morning busses drop off on Owens Street south of the school entrance and arrive at approximately the same time. This results in some of our busses waiting where the carpool lines up north of the school entrance. It is important for parents to wait behind the busses and be signaled in by our traffic controller. We have had a number of near accidents with cars taking a right turn in front of the bus in order to get into the school entrance. This will be a temporary delay as the busses will move forward as soon as the space is available.

- Once into the school parking area, proceed towards the school entrance following to the right.
- Stay in line, pull ahead to the marked carpool sign.

- Pull away promptly to keep the line moving.

PM Traffic Reminders

Afternoon announcements are made at 3:15 p.m. Messages for students should be called into the office no later than 2:45 p.m.

The end of the day can be very hectic. We are asking you to make appointments outside the school day. If you need to pick your child up early, plan on some extra time. Park your car in the parking lot without blocking other vehicles and be mindful of the handicap spots and crosswalks. You will need to activate the intercom upon arrival and one of our office staff will sign your child out. Your child will meet you in the vestibule.

- All Stonebridge students need to exit the building at the end of the day from the main front entrance doors.
- Students are not allowed to meet vehicles in the parking lot.
- Parents need to use the carpool line.
- You will not be able to make a left turn when the traffic controller is in the intersection.

There are four types of dismissals at Stonebridge:

1. **Walkers:** Students who walk home. If you are meeting your child at school, please wait outside or in the vestibule.
2. **Bus:** Students who ride the bus.
3. **Carpool:** Students who are picked up in a vehicle.
4. **Adventure Club:** Students who attend on-site child care.

Students are released in a gradual manner to facilitate safety in the hallways. Adventure Club students go to the cafeteria. Walkers and bussers go out first. Carpool students wait in the gym until busses have left the parking lot, which is no later than 3:25 p.m. Carpool students are escorted outside to meet their rides.

Carpool/Pick Up Vehicles

- Line up on the west side of Owens street (along the curb), just north of the school's entrance.
- Wait for our traffic controller to signal you in.
- Please do not block driveways or crosswalks.
- Once into the school parking area, proceed towards the school entrance following to the right.
- Stay in line, pull ahead to the marked carpool sign.
- Pull away promptly to keep the line moving.

