

5TH GRADE

NEWSLETTER

August 31st-September 4th

General Reminders

Students should be charging their Chromebooks every night at home.

Classroom snacks must be nut free.

Character Trait of the Month

RESPECT

is seeing value
in all people and things
& treating them with care

Brave
People

Important Information:

Link to the Parent Portal for Curriculum and Instruction:

<https://katyisd.instructure.com/courses/804981>

Please make sure you have completed your child's
House shirt Google Form



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Google Forms

Birthday List

Birthday List: If you would like your child to celebrate his/her birthday with friends from the grade-level, then you can click on the link below to share your contact information. This is how you can reach out to other families regarding birthday party invites and playdates. Invitations cannot be passed out at school.

Add your child to the birthday list by **August 31, 2026**. Your teacher will send a PDF of all responses to you if you completed the birthday form on September 1st.

House Color Shirt

[House Shirt Link](#)



Important 5th Grade PTA Information:

To receive important 5th Grade PTA information, [complete this form](#).



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Student Calendar

SEPTEMBER

2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1 SOCCER STARS OF KATY 	2	3	4 KDE PEP RALLY	5	6
7 NO SCHOOL LABOR DAY	8 SOCCER STARS OF KATY  CHOIR SIGN UP CLOSES GENERAL MEETING AND VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION BOOK FAIR FAMILY NIGHT 	9 BOOK FAIR	10 CHOIR PARENT MEETING BOOK FAIR	11  Book Fair DEADLINE FOR RDR APPLICATIONS	12	13
14 BOOSTERTHON KICKOFF DURING SPECIALS LUNCH VISITOR START	15 CHOIR SOCCER STARS OF KATY 	16	17  CHOIR	18	19	20
21 WDD START CHESS 	22 CHOIR SOCCER STARS OF KATY  RDR	23	24 CHOIR 	25 GLOW RUN	26	27
28 CHESS 	29 SOCCER STARS OF KATY 	30				

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SEPTEMBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 PK/K: DAY 2 1-5: DAY 2	2 PK/K: DAY 3 1-5: DAY 3	3 PK/K: DAY 4 1-5: DAY 4	4 PK/K: DAY 1 1-5: DAY 5	5
6	7 No School Labor Day	8 PK/K: DAY 2 1-5: DAY 6	9 PK/K: DAY 3 1-5: DAY 1	10 PK/K: DAY 4 1-5: DAY 2	11 PK/K: DAY 1 1-5: DAY 3	12
13	14 PK/K: DAY 2 1-5: DAY 4	15 PK/K: DAY 3 1-5: DAY 5	16 PK/K: DAY 4 1-5: DAY 6	17 PK/K: DAY 1 1-5: DAY 1	18 NO SCHOOL STAFF PD	19
20	21 PK/K: DAY 2 1-5: DAY 2	22 PK/K: DAY 3 1-5: DAY 3	23 PK/K: DAY 4 1-5: DAY 4	24 PK/K: DAY 1 1-5: DAY 5	25 NON- ROTATION DAY GLOW RUN!	26
27	28 PK/K: DAY 2 1-5: DAY 6	29 PK/K: DAY 3 1-5: DAY 1	30 PK/K: DAY 4 1-5: DAY 2			

5th Grade TEAM (6)

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6
Art	Abrahamson	Simpson	Arcuri	Stevens	Feese	Zawistowski
Library	Arcuri	Stevens	Feese	Zawistowski	Abrahamson	Simpson
Music	Feese	Zawistowski	Abrahamson	Simpson	Arcuri	Stevens
PE	Simpson	Arcuri	Stevens	Feese	Zawistowski	Abrahamson
PE	Stevens	Feese	Zawistowski	Abrahamson	Simpson	Arcuri
PE	Zawistowski	Abrahamson	Simpson	Arcuri	Stevens	Feese

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What's Happening in Class?

Math

Our study guide is due Tuesday, September 1st and our test on Place Value and Adding and Subtracting Whole Numbers and Decimals is Wednesday, September 2nd. We will start our next unit on Multiplication on Friday.

Science

This week, we will be learning about matter and magnetism then moving on to conductors and insulators! We will also have a quiz over lab safety on September 1st.



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What's Happening in Class?

Language Arts and Reading

We will be reading a novel, *White Fur Flying*. We will be using this novel to review and practice important reading skills such as looking at characters, tracking how stories go, and understanding conflicts.

In writing, we will begin writing a personal narrative.

Social Studies

In Social Studies, we will begin exploring the regions of the United States and the geographical elements in each region.



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Information About Health TEKS and Lessons

In accordance with Texas Education Code 28.004 and Senate Bill 9, 5th grade students will receive instruction on the required health TEKS specific to abuse prevention and violence prevention.

Under Texas statute, parents/guardians must provide consent for their student to participate in the lessons that address the topics of abuse prevention and violence prevention.

On Tuesday, September 1, 2026, parents/guardians will receive information via email on how to view associated lessons and record their decision for student participation in these lessons.

Below are the windows for both the parent consent and when lessons will be taught:

Parent Consent Window: September 1, 2026 – September 30, 2026

Instruction Window: November 3, 2026 – December 17, 2026

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Dear Parents of Students in Fifth Grade:

The district's Gifted and Talented screening opportunity for 5th grade students *not* currently participating in the elementary Challenge program is open. Your digital signature on the Secondary Parent Checklist begins the screening process. It also gives the district permission to test your child and provide services beginning in the fall of sixth grade. Secondary gifted program options are available in Math, English Language Arts and Reading, Science, and Social Studies.

If you would like to refer your child to be screened for GT services, complete and submit the electronic form "Secondary Parent Checklist" by **September 2, 2026**. You can access the electronic parent checklist through your *Parent My Katy* at <https://launchpad.classlink.com/katyisd> or scan this QR code:



Log in with your parent username and password. Then type "Gifted" in the search bar, and the tile will appear.

Checklists will **NOT** be accepted after September 2, 2026.



Placement decisions for referred students will be sent to parents electronically through the parent My Katy in December. Identified students will enter the program in the fall of 2027.

If you do not wish to refer your child for screening at this time, the next opportunity for GT screening will be in the spring of the sixth grade for possible service to begin in the fall of seventh grade.

Refer to Frequently Asked Questions on side two for more information. If you have questions, please contact the Challenge teacher at your child's elementary campus.

Danielle Sanchez

Director of Gifted/Talented and Advanced Academic Studies

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Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Secondary GT Service

If I do not request GT screening for my child, are there other options for advanced academic courses in junior high?

Yes; 6th grade students who are ready for the challenge of advanced coursework may enroll in Katy Advanced Program (KAP) courses in English Language Arts, Math, Science, and/or Social Studies. These courses offer advanced curricula and are designed to prepare students for future success in Advanced Placement courses in high school.

Does my child need to be tested to enroll in KAP courses in 6th grade?

No, enrollment in KAP classes is a decision made by the parent and student after careful consideration of factors such as successful mastery of 5th grade coursework, state assessments, work and study habits, and extracurricular time commitments. Students who enter KAP courses commit to staying in these courses for at least one semester.

What is the difference between KAP and GT?

In Katy ISD, students who are identified as gifted in a particular content area are served through the delivery of KAP curriculum, which is appropriate for the needs of gifted learners. They enroll in courses titled "KAP/GT." Usually, students in a KAP/GT course are clustered within a larger KAP class, although occasionally campuses are able to schedule classes which consist entirely of identified GT students. Teachers of KAP/GT courses have received the required training in the education of the gifted, and are aware of the unique learning needs of gifted students. Identified GT students often form close bonds with other identified students, providing them with a means of meeting some of their unique social and emotional needs.

Is there a grade-point difference between KAP and KAP/GT courses?

No. Both types of courses receive what is called a weighted grade point, meaning that a grade of A in the course counts for five grade points rather than the traditional four grade points. A grade of B would count as four grade points, and so on. Grade point averages are not usually significant in junior high, but become more important with high school credit courses.

How can I find out more about advanced coursework in junior high?

More information is available on the Katy ISD GT website:
<https://www.katyisd.org/Page/4407>



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JOIN THE

DRAGON TIMES

STAFF!

OPEN TO ALL
3RD THROUGH
5TH GRADERS!



TELL STORIES. SHARE IDEAS.
MAKE AN IMPACT.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:



WRITE & REPORT

Cover school news, events, features & more



TAKE PHOTOS

Capture the moments that matter



DESIGN & CREATE

Bring stories to life with design, graphics & layout



BUILD YOUR SKILLS

Gain experience, collaborate, and have fun!

APPLICATIONS DUE:

★ 9/4 ★

WE WANT
YOU!

- ✓ CURIOUS MINDS
- ✓ CREATIVE THINKERS
- ✓ STRONG WRITERS
- ✓ PASSIONATE STORYTELLERS
- ✓ TEAM PLAYERS



**NO EXPERIENCE?
NO PROBLEM.**

WE'LL TEACH YOU.
YOU BRING THE PASSION.
WE'LL DO THE REST.



YOUR SCHOOL.
YOUR STORIES.
YOUR VOICE.

★ BE INFORMED. BE INVOLVED. BE HEARD.

⇒ **BE A DRAGON.** ⇐

INTERESTED?

SCAN THE QR CODE
TO APPLY TODAY!

LET'S MAKE
HEADLINES TOGETHER.



QUESTIONS?

TALK TO A CURRENT DRAGON TIMES MEMBER
OR SEE MRS. ARCURI OR MS. CARTUSCIELLO.



5TH GRADE

NEWSLETTER



RESPECT

5th Grade Family Connection

Purposeful
People

Overview

This month's focus is Respect. One way to think about Respect is "seeing value in all people and things & treating them with care." Many people feel Respected in different ways and we hope this month inspires discussions with your family about what Respect means to you and how you can practice it together!

Respect is 1 of 3 traits we will focus on throughout the year that helps students Be Kind. Throughout the school, students will be developing skills like perspective-taking, conflict resolution, and leadership.

In The Classroom

Leadership is how we influence others. It's a powerful way to positively impact the world around us. This month, 5th graders will build their leadership skills while practicing Respect.

Leadership skills we are building include:

- Positively influencing others through what we say and do
- Role modeling what it looks like to be a helpful member of the class or school

Another leadership skill we are focusing on is resolving conflict using the Tree of Choices. This is a simple tool to help us approach conflict in a healthy way, which shows good leadership and builds Empathy.

1. Identify the problem

2. Name your emotion

3. Make a choice:

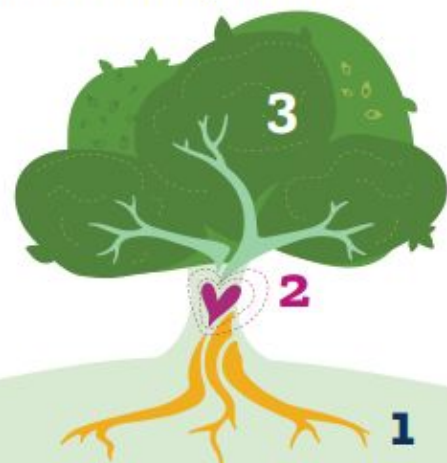
- Move it out
- Talk it out
- Breathe it out

How can you encourage your student to practice leadership at home with other family members?

Conversation Starters



- What does Respect mean in your own words?
- As a leader, why do you think Respect is important?



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RESPECT
PurposeFull Pursuits

PurposeFULL
People

Have some fun connecting as a family this month while practicing Respect. Here are 3 "PurposeFull Pursuits" for you to complete together. How many can you do this month?

Pursuit #1

A fun way to remind students to show Respect to others is to create a non-verbal cue. As a family, come up with a non-verbal way to cue your student to remember to show Respect to others. An example of this would be anytime you raise the "Respect Rooster" on your hand by closing the middle 2 fingers and bringing your pointer finger and pinky finger up, your student would be reminded to practice living out Respect.

Pursuit #2

Review Respect as a family! Remember that in our lessons we are teaching that Respect means to see value in people and things and treat them with care. Agree as a family to set aside a certain time each day this week to unplug from devices and plug into family time. It shows Respect to practice being present in the moment without the distractions that can come from technology. Debrief and discuss this challenge afterward and commit to this practice at least 1 day each week!



Pursuit #3

Find a time to sit in a circle together and celebrate all the ways you have seen each other practice Respect. Take turns sharing responses to the following prompts or make up your own! Remember to practice Respect as you listen to each other.

Celebration Prompts:



- What family member(s) do you want to celebrate for their Respect?
- Share 1 way you have demonstrated leadership.