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**Welcome to Fifth Grade**

August 8, 2016

Dear Parents and Students:

We are so excited to start this exciting year of growth and learning with our new class! We look forward to getting to know each and every one of you as we begin our learning adventure together. This will be a year of transition for students, one in which students take on more of the responsibilities for their academic success. The goal of this shift in responsibility is to prepare students for the middle grades where students will be responsible for work assigned by multiple teachers.

Students will be responsible for completing assignments on time, as well as turning them in on time. We follow the school handbooks guidelines very closely for late work as well as absent work. If a student is absent it is his/her responsibility to check the class agenda and make up missed assignments. If a test was missed, due to an excused absence, the student is responsible for scheduling a time to make up this test. Tests can be made up at lunch or before and after school. Tests that are not made up will earn a score of zero. One missed test can lower a student’s score drastically.

Students are responsible for turning in all class and homework assignments. If a class assignment is not completed in class the student must finish it at home. An incomplete homework assignment can be completed in opportunity club the day it is due. Three incomplete homework assignments in a week will result in a detention.

**There are some infractions of the rules that will result in an automatic detention. These are as follows:**

**Chewing gum on campus**

**Talking in line or at dismissal**

**Bullying or disrespecting another student (name calling, exclusion from activities, using property without permission etc…)**

For smaller infractions of the rules students will earn a signature on their responsibility card. Three signatures in a month will result in a detention. Students will also earn a signature for not being prepared for class or leaving their work area messy or unorganized, not having their agenda or not having their responsibility cards signed every Thursday night. Three detentions in 15 school days will earn one half day of on campus suspension as outlined in the school handbook. The Fifth Grade Team follows the policies and procedures outlined in the student handbook very closely.

There will be four book reports due this year. Students are responsible for managing the time it takes to complete these assignments, in addition to the daily homework assignments. Each quarter an assignment sheet will go home outlining the requirements for each book report. Please keep these handy so students know the due dates for each part of the assignment. If a student has the option of doing a report on the computer that report must be printed at home. Teachers will not print reports for students for **ANY** reason.

Each month students will be responsible for memorizing a memory piece out of the packet that goes home at the beginning of the year. Students are responsible for choosing the correct number of memory pieces from each of the four categories of poems. Each poem will be recited in front of the class. Students who are not prepared by the due date will earn a score of zero. Students need to be careful that they are choosing the correct number of poems from each section. If a student loses the memory piece packet, he or she will have to print another one from the fifth grade website at **http://paintedrockacademy5thgrade.weebly.com**

There is one Social Studies project during the school year. The project requires the student to create a model of a North American, Native American dwelling. They can use whatever materials they want, and they must do a one page write up about the dwelling and the chosen tribe. There are examples of last year’s projects in the library.

We expect students to take pride in these projects. It is important that they are done neatly and correctly. Projects will be graded on neatness as well as accuracy. It is the student’s responsibility to set aside time to work on these long term assignments. Please discourage your child from waiting until the last minute to complete these important assignments.

Students are responsible for obtaining a parent signature every night in their assignment agenda. By signing the agenda, the parents are documenting the fact that all assignments in the agenda have been completed. Not having the agenda signed twice in one week will earn a detention. The agenda is a way to keep home/school communication lines open. We will sometimes staple notices inside the agenda to be sure that parents see them so please check the agenda and sign it every night.

We are looking forward to a fun filled year of learning with students and families. By working together, we can guarantee academic success for each student! If you need to reach your child’s teacher, you can email us at: AScrip@paintedrockacademy.com or KChristian@paintedrockacademy.com. Our phone number is 623-466-8855, extension 200 and 201, respectively. Please allow 24 hours for a return email or phone call. Also, please understand that we are not able to answer any calls during school hours.

Thank you for your continued support,

Anastasia Scrip and Katherine Christian