

## Welcome to Fifth Grade!

### GETTING TO KNOW MRS. HANSEN

I am married to Steve Hansen, a drafting and architecture teacher at Provo High School. We have four children—McKay (24), Kylie (21), Addie (18) and Zach (14). I am beginning my 29<sup>th</sup> year of teaching. I have worked with third-, fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-graders at two other elementary schools in Provo School District—Westridge and Timpanogos. I am beginning my tenth year at Spring Creek Elementary. In 2003, I completed my Master's Degree at BYU in Teacher Education. I have an EMints (Technology) endorsement and an ESL (English as a Second Language) Endorsement. I am currently finishing up a Gifted & Talented Endorsement. In my spare time, I love to read, write in my journal, do mental math, travel, spend time with my family, and—believe it or not--create lesson plans!

### PARENT/VOLUNTEER VISITS

If you would like to volunteer to help in our classroom on a regular basis, please e-mail me at [laurieh@provo.edu](mailto:laurieh@provo.edu) .

### DONATIONS

I am requesting a \$10 donation to purchase weekly Scholastic *Scope* and *Scholastic News* magazines and to help with other classroom expenses. However, no students will be excluded from participating in an activity because s/he has not made a donation.

### STUDENT SUPPLIES

Students are not required to provide their own school supplies.

Optional items as school begins...

- \*a box of colored pencils
- \*several highlighters (various colors)
- \*a package of small and/or medium-sized Post-It notes
- \*a large box of Kleenex (to share with the class)

Later in the year...

- \*extra pencils and pencil top erasers
- \*a four-pack of dry-erase markers

The following items should be kept in a study area at home: scissors, a glue stick, colored pencils and/or crayons, a ruler, and an inexpensive calculator.

## CURRICULUM AND DIFFERENTIATION

The fifth grade curriculum is based on the Utah State Core.

Periodically, students will be placed in grade-level cross-class grouping patterns and will have the chance to work with other Spring Creek fifth-grade teachers. In order to hold students accountable for their behavior when working with other teachers, those who are following class and school rules and procedures have the opportunity to earn "Bee" Cards or "House Points." Students who are not following rules and procedures will be required to fill out a reflection form. If a student repeatedly misbehaves and ends up filling out three reflection forms, s/he will make a phone call home and may also need to visit the principal to resolve the issue.

## GRADING

Students will be graded according to their ability to meet district and state benchmarks and standards. Often, students will work alongside the teacher to develop the rubrics, or criteria, that will be used to evaluate their work. Students who have not yet met these standards will be given multiple opportunities to revisit and improve their work.

## HOMEWORK

Each week your student will be expected to do the following homework:

- Read 30 minutes per night, five nights a week; Record the reading in a log.
- Do several math assignments each week (this will be in addition to any math work s/he didn't finish in class).
- Respond to several Homework Chart questions, and—from time to time—a short writing prompt.
- Do a short spelling practice activity each night (if needed).

Fifth grade teachers will be working together to create weekly homework packets. Homework will be assigned on Monday and should be returned Friday morning as school begins. Students who complete and submit their homework on time will be able to attend a class or grade-level "Friday Fiesta," typically held on several Friday afternoons each month. Those who don't will attend a study hall to complete their work.

Homework assignments should usually take about an hour to complete. If you feel your child is spending an inappropriate amount of time on homework, please contact me.

Routines are important for establishing good study habits. Please provide your child with a regular time and a quiet area to complete homework each day.

## HOME READING PROGRAM

I will be sending home a book each week on your child's independent reading level. Informational books do not need to be read cover to cover. Just have your child read the bits that are the most interesting. These books should be on your child's independent reading level. In other words, your child should be able to read these books without any help from you. Encourage your child to return an assigned book (when finished), and trade it out for a different title. When not reading an assigned book, please remind your child the book should be kept in their backpack, in the gallon-sized Ziploc bag.

## DISCIPLINE

Our class rules help us live Covey's seven habits:

### The Seven Habits

- 1-Be proactive
- 2-Begin with the end in mind
- 3-Put first things first
- 4-Think win-win
- 5-Seek first to understand, then to be understood
- 6-Synergize
- 7-Sharpen the saw

The following rules will be posted in our classroom. During the first few weeks of school, I will help students understand the need for each rule, and also encouraging them to generate multiple examples of what each rule "looks like" and "sounds like".

### Class Rules

BE SAFE (habits 1, 2) *REACH OUT*

BE KIND (habits 1, 2, 4, and 5) *REACH OUT*

BE RESPONSIBLE (habits 1, 2, and 3) *REACH IN*

CHALLENGE YOURSELF (habits 1, 2, 3, 6, and 7) *REACH HIGH*

### Consequences

- a verbal warning
- fill out a reflection form; become part of a school work crew
- A call or a note home; If a serious or a repeated offence, a conversation with the principal

### Rewards

- Verbal praise, prizes (pencils, pencil-top erasers, books, a homework pass, etc.), and recognition in front of peers.
- "Bee" cards or raffle tickets for outstanding academic performance or behavior. (The principal typically does drawings over the intercom on Mondays.)
- Group or class points towards an in-school privilege, such as a lunchtime activity with the teacher, or a class party.

## ATTENDANCE, TARDINESS, AND ABSENCES

I am committed to preparing and teaching interesting and engaging lessons and expect my students to come each day prepared to learn. Please make sure your child gets enough rest each night, eats a nutritious breakfast, and arrives at school on time.

Students are expected to be in class at all times, except in case of illness or a family emergency. If your child is returning to school after an absence, please send a written note explaining the reason for the absence. During school hours, please do not use your child as a babysitter for younger siblings.

## RECESS

On good weather days, all students are expected to go outside for recess. Please help your child dress for the weather each day. It would be helpful to label the inside of your child's jacket, coat, gloves, scarf, and hat with a permanent marker.

## BIRTHDAYS

You are welcome to send a healthy snack to celebrate your child's birthday. However, in accordance with district policy, all snacks must be store bought and individually wrapped. If you do choose to send a snack, please send enough for the entire class. Birthday recognition and snack distribution will occur during the last few minutes of school. Please do not allow your child to bring and distribute birthday party invitations at school unless all students in the class are invited.

In the past, some students have preferred to celebrate their birthday by donating a book to the classroom library instead of bringing a treat for their classmates.

## BOOK ORDERS

I will be sending home book orders several times throughout the year. As a teacher and a parent, I have found that book orders are an inexpensive way to add to a home library or purchase birthday or holiday gifts for relatives or friends. I often offer free books to parents who order a minimum amount from the book orders.

## LEAVE ME AT HOME

Personal items (e.g., cell phones, iPads, iPods, DS's, cameras, and toys) should remain at home. Leaving these items at home prevents them from being lost or stolen, or distracting students from learning.

I will do all that I can to help make this a stress-free year for you and a successful year for your child. Feel free to contact me with any concerns or questions that arise. I can be reached at school thirty minutes before or after school or by e-mail at [laurieh@provo.edu](mailto:laurieh@provo.edu).

Sincerely, Mrs. Hansen

## TOP TEN SURVIVAL TIPS FOR FIFTH GRADE

1. STAY INFORMED. On Mondays, check your child's backpack for the weekly homework packet. Throughout the week, also check for school notes.
2. ATTEND STUDENT/EDUCATOR/PARENT (S.E.P.) CONFERENCES with your child each time they are scheduled.
3. IF POSSIBLE, VOLUNTEER IN THE CLASSROOM, AND/OR VISIT THE SCHOOL WHEN POSSIBLE. (Feel free to come and eat lunch with your child from time to time.)
4. MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD IS HERE EACH DAY ON TIME. TRY TO AVOID CHECKING YOUR CHILD OUT EARLY.
5. KEEP YOUR CHILD PHYSICALLY FIT. Help your child get a good night's sleep each night and a nutritious, filling breakfast each morning. Find ways for your child to stay active after school and on the weekends.
6. READ WITH YOUR CHILD EACH NIGHT. Talk about books you are reading individually or as a family.
7. HELP YOUR CHILD PRACTICE THE WEEKLY SPELLING WORDS.
8. IF NEEDED, PRACTICE MULTIPLICATION AND DIVISION FACTS AT HOME WITH YOUR CHILD.
9. SPEND TIME WITH YOUR CHILD OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL. Consider trips to the Provo or Orem Public Library, BYU museums, Thanksgiving Point farm or museums, Utah Lake or Provo Canyon. You might even consider a trip to Salt Lake to visit the Great Salt Lake, the Bingham Canyon Copper Mine, The Living Aquarium, the Hogle Zoo, the Clark Planetarium or the Children's Museum at the Gateway.
10. BE ENTHUSIASTIC about this year - it will be one to remember! ☺