



Southmoor Elementary School

August, 2009

4th/5th Grade HGT

Mr. Fell

Welcome back!

Ms. Hopley and I are very excited about working with the 4th/5th Grade HGT students and their families!

Your student should have brought home by now a class schedule that details the daily academic routine. For your reference, I have listed the subjects that each of us will be teaching:

Mr. Fell: Mathematics, Science, Technology, Geography

Ms. Hopley: Reading, Writing, History, Spelling

Reading, writing, mathematics, and Specials are taught by grade level (i.e. 4th graders are together for mathematics). All other subjects are mixed 4th/5th grade levels.

In my class, both 4th and 5th grade students will be starting out with Everyday Math Volume 2 at their respective grade levels. Students will be moving as quickly as possible into the next grade level. Most days, students will be given a startup exercise called the Puzzle of the Day. This is a math related brain stretcher that will hopefully challenge even the ablest mathematician in our group. In the spring, students will be doing a math related project that will require some internet research. The project length will have self-selected topics, a display board, and several pages of information on the display board. Students should expect math homework assignments Mondays through Thursdays. Neither Ms. Hopley nor I assign homework on weekends. Students will be given every opportunity to make up missed work due to excused absences or family emergencies.

This fall, students will be exploring human systems. We plan to bring in several speakers from the surrounding medical and university communities to discuss various topics in this area. Students will also do a Science Fair project this fall. Students can self-select their Science Fair topic subject to teacher approval. The topic can be in any scientific area and is not limited to human systems. One of our parents has a doctorate in Molecular Genetics and will be one of our first guest speakers. He will be talking about the Scientific Method—the key framework for creating an excellent Science Fair project.

Technology is a powerful tool for discovery and research. Students will be using the school computer lab for a variety of purposes such as research, simulations, and communication. One of the first applications will be exploration of bogus science—it's causes and descriptions. Finally, students will be learning about the impact of the U.S. Western Movement in the 1800's on our cultures.

Birthday Celebration Guidelines:

If you wish, you may bring snacks to school for a birthday recognition. Mr. Fell and Ms. Hopley's classes celebrate their student birthdays separately. We honor the birthday person the last 15 minutes of the day—3:30 to 3:45. For your information, Mr. Fell's class count is currently 20 students. Two students have food allergies—one to peanuts, the other to candy cherries.

Important Upcoming Events

Curriculum Night, Wed., Sept. 2nd:

Grades 3-5 are 7:00-7:30. Mr. Fell and Ms. Hopley will be discussing the same information presented at the 4th/5th Grade HGT Picnic on August 26th. Grades ECE-2 are 6:30 to 7:00.

S.P.R.E.E., Thurs., Sept. 3rd, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 (approx.):

Have your student wear outdoor clothing including tennis shoes or other comfortable shoes that can get dirty. Children should also bring sunscreen and a bag lunch. Should the need arise, we will send home any additional information as needed at least 2 days prior to the trip. Parent volunteers are welcome to attend this local event. Please contact Ms. Hopley for details.

School Picture Day, Tues., Sept. 8th

Thanks for being involved!—Mr. Fell