

5N Class Handbook 2017-2018



Welcome to fifth grade! I am excited to have the opportunity to work with, teach, and learn from your child every day for the next nine months. This guide has been created to help you understand some of the routines, procedures, and goals of fifth grade. Please keep this throughout the year as it will answer many of your questions. Additional information will come through the *Norton News* newsletters that are sent often and emails. The Northpoint Handbook is another good resource as it contains more detailed information about our school.

Your fifth grader will be the best resource for questions about our class. Trust them! The best way to contact me is through my e-mail at nortonan@myunit5.org or at school 557-4420. Please check our website at <http://www.unit5.org//Domain/2257> or through the Northpoint website.

The greatest gifts you can give children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence.
– Dr. Denis Waitley

Philosophy

I believe that every student has a right to learn each day and can succeed in fifth grade. It takes a village to raise a child and we all need to work together to make that the best village for the child. My role as the teacher is to help guide the student. My role is to help guide students to learn to find, use, and work with information to make them each successful in life.

Behavior/Discipline

My goal is for the students and me to create a classroom environment that encourages mutual respect and cooperation and provides opportunities for students to make choices regarding their behavior. Our classroom uses the following guidelines for behavior.

- ❖ We respect one another.
- ❖ We are ready to learn.
- ❖ We are responsible.
- ❖ We are a hands off school.

These guidelines are the same as the Northpoint *Get Your Armorr On* plan. Students are allowed four checks a day with ascending consequences as follows:

- 1st check – warning by teacher
- 2nd check – conference with teacher
- 3rd check – loss of recess, parents notified
- 4th check – principal's office

When they have good behavior they may receive "Norton Notes" that may be used in the classroom to purchase extra rewards. Some of these rewards include special privileges or small items in class.

To celebrate our accomplishments students are able to earn BRAG TAGS. These tags are earned for many different things ranging from cooperation, listening, meeting goals, to improving on skills. They are stored on rings and taken home at the end of the year and also used as a memory book of the year.

Tardiness

We promptly start each day at 7:45. Students who walk in late do not start the day with the right attitude needed to learn. We begin the day with warm ups to get our brains active. Please help your child be ready to go each morning.

Attendance

It is very important that your healthy child be in school each day. Please make every effort to have your child in school on time each morning. Much of what we do occurs in class with a hands-on environment. Our time in class cannot be replicated. I can get paper/pencil assignments ready, but cannot recreate the learning that occurs during class time. If your child is sick, he or she needs to be home. Please follow the fever free for twenty-four hours policy. Absences due to vacation are marked unexcused.

Make-up Work

When your child is absent I record assignments missed on a sheet placed at his/her desk. Students have twice the number of days they were gone to make up the work. For example, if two days are missed, they will have four days to get the missed work turned in. It is the student's responsibility to turn in the make-up work. Please keep in mind that it is impossible to recreate a day in class. Much of what we do is not a textbook/worksheet type of activity that can be sent home. Some activities just cannot be made up. Chronic absences affect learning and success. The following is Northpoint's policy as stated in the handbook:

Make up work and assignments...When students are gone from school, please follow the below guidelines.

One daily absence: Call before 8:00 AM to get the same day's homework, if any. Calls after 8:00 AM and homework, if any, will be ready the following day.

Extended absences/trips: Give at least 1 week notice. Homework will not extend more than 1 week. All work is expected complete upon return.

Homework

Homework is part of the learning process and should help learning, not hinder it. Your child should not have more than 30-40 minutes (average) a day of homework. It is my goal to use every minute of class time during the day. Students are given time during the school day to begin or complete assignments. On days that students do not have homework he/she should be reading a book, correcting assignments, or reviewing concepts we are studying. I feel that family time is very important. *If your child is consistently spending large amounts of time on homework, it is likely they are not using work time wisely or seeking help from me when needed. Please let me know if this becomes a concern.* I feel strongly that fifth graders learn to manage their time, set goals, and work with a deadline.

- In addition to the normal homework students should be reading 30 minutes every night. This will help allow students time to practice reading and to help complete their 40 book challenge during the school year. This is a practical goal and all students are capable of doing it. Please continue to help them reach this goal.

Assignment Books

Fifth graders are required to use an assignment book. When an assignment is given, students are to write it in the appropriate space. If the assignment is completed in class, they will check it off. If no assignment is given, they will record that. Students may add what took place in class that day, but that is not required. At the beginning of the year I will check each assignment book before students leave. As the year progresses it is the student's responsibility to make sure the assignment book is complete. The assignment book should come home each evening for your review. I encourage students to take work home, even if it is complete, so that you may see what we have been doing and students can double-check it.

- I also update the class website daily with the assignments. Please use this as a double check.

Late Assignments

When an assignment is late or missing a late assignment slip (Pink Slip) will be sent home to be signed & returned with the work. Each student will fill out the pink slip themselves and explain why they did not complete the assignment. This helps the child to take responsibility for their work. Please don't hesitate to jot me a note if a problem is encountered with an assignment. We go over our assignment books together before leaving each day.

Grading

This year I will be doing full Standards Based Grading. To find out complete information please check the link on the website. There are rubrics, companion documents and guide sheets available. <http://www.unit5.org/Page/12636> to find to go the Unit 5 Website, students and Parents, then standards based grading on the left

I will try my best to give at least one week's notice for all tests. Study guides will be provided for some units, but students should still continue to study materials for the test and listen when we review specifics for a test. For example- We will highlight pages in our math journal for review for math tests. We will spend class time working on study skills. I do not assess every assignment.

Report Cards and Progress Reports

Ratings will be available on Teacher Ease at the end of each trimester (twelve weeks).

1st Trimester available Nov. 10, 2017

2nd Trimester available March 2, 2018

3rd Trimester available the last day

Your child is welcome to check grades with me if there is a concern. *Access by parents and students is available through Teacher Ease- this is a new reporting program. You will be able to check your student's progress in all subject areas with the parent access. Please check here often, I try to update on a weekly basis.*

Please remember that report cards and progress reports are one glimpse of a child's progress. *Straight 4s or 3s are not the standard, though they may be a personal goal.* The important thing is that your child is progressing, learning, growing, and maturing. If those things are happening, and they are meeting or exceeding expectations, then they are where they need to be! Please encourage best effort and celebrate successes.

Communication

I believe that honest and open communication from the beginning can help prevent and solve a lot of problems. I welcome your comments, questions, and concerns. A *Norton News* newsletter will be sent periodically. The newsletter is sent as an e-mail attachment so please send your address to nortonan@myunit5.org. I update our web page daily with assignments, pictures, and other information <http://www.unit5.org//Domain/2257> or through the Northpoint website. Please check the class website first if you have questions about things happening. I also check my e-mail regularly, throughout the day. REMIND APP- please sign up for this APP... I use this most often to communicate home. *One of our classroom jobs is "class blogger". This job allows a student to update a sentence or two on the class website for an event that happened for the day. Please check this often to see our current events.

Technology

Technology has a big role in our classroom. I maintain the 5N website and post assignments daily. Students will use the Microsoft Office 2010 programs Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and Publisher. This year the fifth graders will also have electronic file folders on the Google Cloud and have a school Gmail account. They will use Google docs, save to their folder, and upload documents.

- Student accounts:
 - o IXL- math practice site
 - o Esuite/Connect Ed- math practice, online games and online textbook for math
 - o TCI- Social Studies, online text book and additional practice, we also often take our social studies unit tests on the computer through this system
 - o Classroom Organizer- classroom library online and checkout system
 - o Google Drive- online document storage
 - o Google Gmail account- student school monitored email account
 - o Google Classroom- our online classroom for assignments and class communication
 - o Prodigy Math- math practice with a game focus, selected by teacher

Textbooks

Your child has a textbook for math and social studies. There are two consumable math journals in addition to the hardback Student Reference Book. Students are encouraged to take the Student Reference Book home each night they have a math assignment. (This resource book is also available online.) The Social Studies text will also be available online. Any book may be taken home as long as it is returned the following school day. Our textbooks are a good resource; however there will be times when we are using other resources or activities that do not require the use of the text. We may be using primary sources, authentic activities, or other secondary sources. Most of our work will be completed in class and stored in our notebooks at school- they are welcome to come home, but are needed daily.

Daily Schedule

This year we are not changing classes and I will be teaching all topics covered. We follow this general schedule each day:

Morning

Writing, Math, Science/Social Studies

Lunch/Recess – 12:00-12:50

Afternoon

Reading, Science/ Social Studies, Word Work, SWORD

1:45pm-2:15pm

5th Grade band and orchestra- following the school day

Specials

PE – daily 10:05-10:30 am w/Mrs. Leake

Music –Tues. 12:55-1:20 & Wed. 10:50-11:15

Art – Friday 11:10am-12:00pm

IMC Technology – Thurs 8:00-8:50am

Gadgets and Stuff

No toys or electronic equipment is allowed in the classroom unless given specific permission by me. This includes trading cards, video games, desk decorations, i-Pods, gadgets, stuff, etc. If it is not part of our school supplies, please keep it at home. Students may bring e-readers with parent permission. Thank you! We just don't have the room or time for these distractions.

Birthdays

It is the policy at Northpoint to not allow birthday treats in the classroom. There are numerous food allergies and liability issues that have led us to this policy.

As my birthday gift to each student they will receive a coupon to choose a free \$5 book out of our book order. This can be used during their birthday month (half-birthday) or can be saved for a later date. LET'S KEEP READING!

Conferences

If you would like to schedule a conference or would like to discuss your child at any time please contact me to set this up. We are all working together to make them successful.

Snacks

We have a four-hour morning that is often constant academic work. We try to stop around 9:00am for a short snack/bathroom break/silent reading time. Your child can bring a quick, healthy snack for this time and enjoy it while having some down time to read a book of his/her choice. We have NUT ALLERGIES so please keep this in mind when sending in healthy snacks. If your child forgets his/her snack, he/she will NOT be allowed to call home.

Book Orders

Book orders will come home periodically. If you are interested in ordering, fill out the order forms and send a check payable to the appropriate book club. Please, do not send cash as I cannot send that in the mail. I like to have a four-day turnaround on the orders so I can promptly place the order and receive it. (This is our best way to add to our classroom library. Please help support us.)

First Grade Buddies

We are buddies with Mrs. Olson's first graders. We will meet every other week on Mondays for about half an hour to participate in a variety of activities. This is a great experience for the fifth graders as they become the role models for the younger students. The fifth graders get to become the teacher as we read, write, play math games and more.

Supplies

Please double check the supply list to make sure your student has the materials needed. Tissues, pencils, and paper tend to be items that we use frequently and may need to be replenished during the year. Every student will need a scientific calculator. A good one to purchase is the Texas Instruments TI 30 XIIS. It will be the same one used in middle school.

Curriculum

Reading

We will use reading workshop mini-lessons, a variety of novels, and primary source documents in reading. Students are expected to have a 3-5 books in their book bin at their desk to read during independent reading time. Fifth graders learn skills to become critical readers and thinkers. Word analysis skills and vocabulary strategies are emphasized to help build comprehension. Often our novels will focus on a time period we are studying in social studies to help us connect to content area reading as found in our social studies text. We will use research skills to gather information, organize it, and present it in an effective manner. From the beginning we will learn to cite sources used and to put information in our own words. These lifelong skills will help avoid plagiarism, a concept all fifth graders need to understand.

Writing/Language

We blend the mechanics and structure of writing with creativity through the use of many resources. Students will learn about the 6 + 1 Traits of Writing this year which include inspiring ideas, shaping organization, sparking voice, expanding word choice, developing sentence fluency, strengthening conversations, and spotlighting presentation. We will write across the curriculum during reading, social studies, math, and science. It is important to note that spelling will be assessed throughout the curriculum. Spelling is a part of our writing and will be instructed through word study.

Science

New Curriculum and Standards this year. We are now following the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) - this work through hands-on exploration to solve problems. The topics are: Structure and Properties of Matter, Matter and Energy in Ecosystems, and Earth and Space. Hand on activities, experiments, and a textbook are just a few of the resources used to help students think like scientists and engage in discovery.

Social Studies

Many different resources are used in fifth grade as we study United States history. Our text, primary source documents, multimedia, and simulations are few of the resources we will explore. Students will understand events, individuals, and movements that shaped our country's history. We will explore the responsibilities of a good citizen and the development of America's political ideas and traditions. It is my goal to have students apply critical thinking skills to analyze and interpret the many areas of social studies. Students become part of the story as they are active participants in the learning process. The year is divided into the following themes:

- ❖ Native Americans and Exploration
- ❖ Colonial America
- ❖ The American Revolution
- ❖ Early Government
- ❖ Westward Movement
- ❖ The Civil War
- ❖ Twentieth Century

Math-

Students have two consumable math journals and a hardback student reference book. Our math curriculum is designed to guide students to become mathematical thinkers. Your child will explore, learn and practice mathematics in a range of settings including whole class, small groups, partners and individually. They will learn to work cooperatively and independently as they solve problems based on real-life situations. A variety of games are used to reinforce concepts and increase mental math skills. Our curriculum includes the following content:

- Numeration and Counting: saying, reading, and writing numbers; counting patterns; place value; whole numbers, fractions and decimals
- Operations and Relations: number facts (computation); operation families; informal work with properties
- Problem Solving and Number Models: mental and written arithmetic along with puzzles, brain teasers and real-life problems
- Measures and Reference Frames: measures of length, width, area, weight, capacity, temperature and time; clocks; calendars; timelines; thermometers; ordinal numbers (first, second, etc.)
- Exploring Data: collecting and ordering data; tables, charts and graphs; exploring uncertainty; fairness; making predictions
- Geometry: exploring two- and three-dimensional shapes
- Rules and Patterns: functions, relations, attributes, patterns and sequences
- Algebra and Uses of Variables: generalizing patterns, exploring variables, solving equations

Math boxes and study links are used for assignments. Math boxes provide the spiraling review of skills. We have a practice page, not taken as a grade, and a partner page, which is graded. The practice page includes pages in the Student Reference Book (SRB) to use for help. Study links are used for independent practice on the focus concepts of the day's lesson.

During Math Block students will be working in a variety of settings and on a variety of skills. We will be working in small groups to get additional support in a smaller setting, this allows students to ask more questions and excel faster. On different days we will be working in a variety of "rotations" to practice skills. Some days may have all the "rotations" and other days we might only do 2 "rotations".

M- Math facts, usually flash cards or IXL practice

At your Seat – working independently

T- Teacher Choice – working in a group with the teacher

H- Hands On- normally a group activity or game

Whole class- we will also have whole class instruction and exploration time

Online Textbooks

Students will be able to access the [Everyday Math Online](#) site. Each student will have an individual user name and password for the site. Features of the site include an online Student Reference Book (SRB), Everyday Math games, fact practice activities, and the ability to print Study Links at home. There will be times when I will assign a game to be played for homework, but this is a wonderful site for additional practice and reference. We will also have a user name and password for our [online social studies](#). Students will have a label on the inside of their assignment books with all sites, user names, and passwords needed for access. Links can also be found on our webpage.

LET'S HAVE A WONDERFUL YEAR!

Please keep in touch.

We are all working together to help make each student successful