

Dear 5th Grade Parents,

Let's talk about resources that will help you and your child keep up with what's happening in Language Arts and Social Studies this year.

- 1.) **Assignment Notebook:** All of my students are required to write the day's assignments for Reader's Workshop, Writer's Workshop, Grammar, and Social Studies in their assignment notebooks. Copying that day's activities gives them ownership of that day's objectives and keeps them organized.
- 2.) **[Class Calendar and Link to Assignment Notebook](#):** I update the class calendar page on my website weekly with a bullet pointed list of that week's teaching points and activities. I also provide a link to that week's assignment notebook above the calendar. This will help you and your children know what we're working on in class.
- 3.) **[Google Classroom](#):** I make frequent use of Google Classroom. Students can access their Google Classroom accounts at home if they provide their Eanes email address and Blue Jays password.

Let's talk about homework. There's an impressive body of research suggesting there is no correlation between written homework completed outside of school and academic achievement in elementary school; therefore, I do not assign written homework. I do assign written work at school to be completed at school.

The only homework I give is this: the kids need to read for two hours each week at home on a Monday - Sunday basis. They may divide this time up however they want to (30 minutes on Monday, none on Tuesday, an hour on Wednesday, none on Thursday, etc.), but to keep up with the class, they need to read two hours a week at home. They need to read the same book at school and home. There is an impressive body of research suggesting a strong correlation between academic achievement and reading outside of school.

During August and September, it will only be an hour of reading at home. We will work up to two hours each week as stamina improves.

My keeping the class calendar and the assignment notebook up to date on my webpage is how I keep you informed about what's going on academically in my class weekly. I will email other announcements and requests as the need arises.

Yours,  
Mr. Merritt