



Language Arts and Social Studies with Mrs. Rawitt

Parents and Students,

Welcome back to school! I am looking forward to getting to know you all this year. This will be my 20th year teaching 5th grade at Hartley. I am so excited to help instill in your fifth grader a love of **READING!** This is the year to prepare for the big step to Middle School so **RESPONSIBILITY** is the key to success.

Independent Reading – In addition to novel studies in class, 5th grade students should read independently for at least 20 minutes each night, take **Accelerated Reader** quizzes, and earn AR points on a regular basis. I will send home AR progress reports every 4 weeks. Please check in with your 5th grader about what they are reading and help them develop good reading habits at home. I love to help students find something they **WANT** to read. If you ever need suggestions, please don't hesitate to ask! Thank you for your support and encouragement at home.

Weekly Comprehension – Comprehension of various text types will help 5th grade students in all subject areas. To practice comprehension skills at home, students will be assigned a digital weekly comprehension story. The story will be assigned on Monday every week. Students should read the story, answer the questions and review scores and missed questions with a parent. You may complete the story on any night of the week, or spread it out over several days. Completed weekly stories are **due by FRIDAY**.

Vocabulary Practice - Learning strategies for determining the meaning of unknown words and phrases is important for strengthening reading skills. We will practice using context clues, understanding figurative language, and breaking words into parts (prefixes, suffixes and root words) to determine their meaning. Beginning on 9/7, students will receive a list of **Greek and Latin Roots** to focus on for two weeks. We will use various vocabulary strategies with the word parts in class, including vocabulary words containing these word parts, their definitions, synonyms, and antonyms. There will be a quiz on this important vocabulary practice every other Friday.

Writing – By the end of the year, students will be able to write, edit and revise narrative, informational and persuasive essays. We will focus on using evidence from multiple texts to support writing and adding elaboration to explain the evidence used.

Social Studies - Students will focus on American History this year, including native Americans, European explorers, the first colonies, the American Revolution, the establishment of the government and the U.S. states and capitals. Study guides will be given to help students prepare for tests and quizzes. Test dates and projects will be listed in Schoology.

Please check your 5th grader's binder and folders **often** to ensure they are staying organized and finishing work. Schoology is a great way to stay updated and informed about what is happening in class, as well as checking the planner every night. Don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns as the year progresses. With your support, I know Ms. Wall and I can send your 5th grader to middle school prepared for the challenges they will face as they make that transition.

Mrs. Rawitt