

Dear Student,

I would like to officially welcome you to the fifth grade. I am really excited about this school year and I think we are going to have an awesome time. My name is Mr. Siwek and I will be your Language Arts. I am also in-charge of the Digital Media Club and SMS Times (a school newscast). I know you may be a little nervous about coming to the new middle school, but you will quickly discover our middle school is a great place for learning.

Your Mathematics teacher is Mr. Thompson. Your Science and Social Studies teacher will be Mrs. Ransom. We are here to help you become a better student and citizen and we expect you to do your best at all times. We have a simple motto, "Give 100%, get 100%".

Being a fifth grader is a big responsibility because you will be required to work more independently and complete more challenging assignments. It will be your responsibility to keep-up with assignments and complete your work by required due dates. To help make this a little easier, our classroom has a website: mrsiwek.weebly.com. The website will quickly become your new best friend because it will tell you what we are doing in class, due dates, and you can download extra copies of assignments if you are missing something. There are also games, a calendar of events, videos, and all sorts of extras to help you in and outside the classroom.

Also, I know sometimes you may be confused or misunderstand something in class. That's okay! All of us need some extra help or assistance from time to time. However, PLEASE ask questions or simply let us know if you need extra help. The only way I can help you is if I know what you need help with.

I look forward to seeing you on the first day of school.

Best wishes,

Mr. Siwek



Dear Parents/Guardians,

The 2013 -2014 school year will be starting soon and I would like to take a few minutes to introduce myself. My name is Jason Siwek and I will be your child's Language Arts . This will be my fourth year teaching 5th grade and I am excited for the school year to begin. Throughout the school year your child will continue to develop his/her reading and writing skills.

My classroom and teaching practices are designed to challenge students to meet 21st century problems. Therefore, all students will be using digital tools to create, research, and collaborate on various assignments and projects. This will include reading and responding to our classroom forum, online book reviews, creating digital picture books, and etc. I understand some homes may lack a computer or Internet access. Don't worry, your child will have the necessary time and resources to complete these activities at school.

An important tool for our classroom is our website: **mrsiwek.weebly.com**. On our site you will find a classroom calendar for current and upcoming activities. You will also find copies of assignments, which may be printed. Our student forum is located on the site, as well as the link for online quizzes. In order to keep students safe from outside influences, parts of our site require a password. The password is: **2014siwek**. Please do not distribute this password. The website is updated on a regular basis, so please check-out the site to keep informed. You can also keep updated by following our classroom Twitter.

Moreover, our classroom is designed to help **each** child become a better reader and writer. This is why your child will be placed in small reading groups that focus on his/her needs. Your child will be in a small group with five other students. Each group will meet directly with me at least twice a week. However, as a whole classroom we will be reading numerous texts. We will begin the school year with the novel *On My Honor*. Each time we read a novel, students will have a literature guide to complete, along with an extension activity. Furthermore, your child is required to read each night for 20 minutes. By the end of the each week, your child must complete a reading online log.

Your child will also be responsible for a variety of writing projects. All writing projects will be completed using the Internet service known as Google Drive. This service will allow students to digitally write from almost any computer with Internet access. Instructions for how to access Google Drive can be found on our website. Google Drive requires a password, which will be given to your child once school begins. If you ever forget or lose the password, please let me know.

Finally, I like to teach from a hands-on perspective. This means students will complete a variety of projects and simulations. Your child will also have numerous homework assignments that require your direct assistance. These assignments are important for future classroom discussions and activities.

I know this will be an exciting school year and I am looking forward to helping your child reach his/her maximum academic potential. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Jason Siwek
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mrsiwek.weebly.org

