



Dear 5th Grade Parents,

Welcome to 5th Grade! I cannot wait for this new school year to start. Fifth grade is a year of exciting growth and opportunity for you and your child. My name is Arlene Bowler, and I am excited to share that I will be your child's fifth-grade teacher for language arts and social studies. This will be my ninth year at The Meadowbrook School. I received my Bachelor of Science in Elementary and Special Education from Temple University in 2012. I continue to seek professional development to quench my love for learning and provide the best education for your children. I have recently completed the Science of Writing and Reading at AIM Institute, Responsive Classroom, and Google Education.

My name is Kelsey Harp. Mathematics is my passion, so I am very excited to have your child again for math! This will be my seventh year at The Meadowbrook School. This will be special for me, as it will be the first time all three of my children will be in the same school!! I love the beach and all things Philadelphia sports! My husband and I love attending Phillies and Eagles games together. As a family, we love going to the beach, biking, hiking, and being outside! I am going to work to build a strong positive relationship with your child, but also between your child and mathematics. Math sometimes gets a bad rap and an eye roll from people, but I want your child to be so confident and fluent in math that numbers are second nature to him or her. But in order to do that, I ask that you include your child in things at home that involve math. Are you getting a new fence? Have your child help measure and estimate the amount and cost of fence you will be ordering. Are you doubling a recipe? Have your child help you figure out the new amounts of the ingredients and measure them out.. Have your child figure out the change they should receive if they are ordering an ice cream treat and given \$5. These are just a few ideas. We do more math than we think on a daily basis, so thinking about it outloud can help us build number sense in children.

During fifth grade, there are so many exciting events and activities. Students have preschool buddies, get to create sugar skulls, a science field trip, a field trip to Gettysburg and Valley Forge, and get to collaborate with the sixth grade on some great projects!

Fifth grade is such an important time in your child's life. They are becoming independent, finding themselves, and gaining a sense of responsibility. I am so excited to be able to nourish them during this phase of their life. Throughout the year, we will be focusing on keeping a growth mindset, treating everyone with respect, and becoming more responsible both in and out of the classroom.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer. I'm looking forward to spending more time with your children and watching them grow! Feel free to contact me for any reason at [abowler@themeadowbrookscool.org](mailto:abowler@themeadowbrookscool.org).

Sincerely,  
Arlene Bowler and Kelsey Harp

## 5th Grade Supply List

- ~8 plastic folders
- ~3 Spiral Notebooks
- ~3 Composition books
- ~3-inch hardcover binder
- ~Clipboard
- ~4 Glue sticks
- ~2 regular black Sharpies (permanent marker)
- ~2 thin black Sharpies
- ~4 pack of dry erase markers
- ~A 12 pack of pencils (Ticonderoga, Mirado Black Warrior, and USA Gold are brands that work best)
- ~2 erasers
- ~1 pack of Post-It Notes
- ~Markers
- Crayons
- Colored pencils
- ~Scissors
- ~Scotch tape
- ~Highlighter
- ~A bottle of hand sanitizer
- ~A box to put extra supplies in to keep in their cubbie
- ~2 boxes of tissues
- ~2 containers of cleaning wipes
- ~1 bottles of hand sanitizer
- ~Earbuds (NOT headphones, please)
- ~A wired or wireless mouse for Chromebook

# **INCOMING FIFTH GRADE SUMMER WORK**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Over the summer, my hope is for your child to maintain the skills learned this past year and strengthen their knowledge base by reviewing concepts.

I strongly encourage the continued use of the online math program IXL. Students should be very familiar with finding their recommended skills, and know how to complete the diagnostic assessment to get additional recommended skills. If they are stuck on a particular skill, they may send me an email, and/or search the topic on Google and there should be a variety of instructional videos to help. It is vitally important for math that your child has their math multiplication facts memorized from through 12. Students should also practice long division and subtraction with borrowing. This will allow your child to focus on the new content that will be taught this year rather than focusing on recalling their facts.

Students will be required to keep a math journal over the summer. The journal requirements are outlined in the math letter. If you have any questions about it, or need help coming up with ideas, please reach out to our Math Teacher, Kelsey Harp at [kharp@themeadowbrookschool.org](mailto:kharp@themeadowbrookschool.org).

Students should also be able to independently read chapter books and answer comprehension questions in complete sentences. Text evidence and their own knowledge can be used to support their thinking. Understanding the book is just as important as being able to read the words! Students should also be able to write at least three paragraphs of information on a given topic.

Over the summer, your child should read ***at least two books*** and answer questions about each of the books. For each book, questions must be answered in paragraph form. I hope that you will encourage your child to read as many books as possible over the summer. Reading can be a very pleasant experience for your whole family. Read a book together or ask your child to answer open-ended questions about their independent reading.

The reading **book reports are due on the first day of school**. We will all enjoy sharing our favorite books during the first week of school.

Have a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing all of you soon!

Sincerely,

Arlene Bowler

## **SUMMER BOOK REPORTS**

*Please answer these questions on a separate piece of paper in paragraph form. Use 5-8 sentences for each paragraph. You may write neatly or type up your answers about each of the two books.*

Please make an attractive cover for each book that includes the title of the book, the author's name, and your name.

Paragraph One: What is the plot of your story? What happens throughout the book?

Beginning: setting, characters, background information

Middle: main events, problem or conflict, the climax (turning point/exciting part of the story)

End: falling action and resolution

Paragraph Two: Pick your favorite or least favorite chapter in your book, and write about it. Be sure to include why you picked this chapter. Support your thoughts with evidence.

Paragraph Three: If you could be one character in the book, which one would you be? Make sure you support your statements with details from the book and use character traits.

Paragraph Four: What is the theme of this book? I.e. forgiveness, good vs. evil, bravery, teamwork, etc. Provide examples from the book and explain how they connect back to the theme you chose. Remember books can have more than one theme.

Paragraph Five: Make connections - How does this book connect to yourself? How does it connect to another text that you have read? How does it connect to the world?

Dear Families,

This summer I am asking your students to keep a math journal. Each student will be asked to complete at least 10 journal entries. This can be kept in a spiral notebook or composition book and we will continue to journal in it over the 2024-5 school year.

Students need to recognize math in the world around them and make connections between their everyday experiences and math. Attached are some ideas for entries, but these are not the only options students can write about. Each entry should be at least half a page detailing the connections between the experience and math; or the entry can be a collection of data represented in a chart, table, or graph with some observations about the data. Students are encouraged to use illustrations/pictures to support their solutions/explanations.

Here are some ideas for math journal entries. These are ideas, you are welcome to complete them, or you can use them to spark ideas of your own!

- Ice Cream Math- You want to get a 2-scoop ice cream from an ice cream shop. How many different kinds of 2-scoop cones can be made with 10 flavors?
- More Ice Cream-What ice cream is the best deal? The cheapest price per scoop (take the price and divide by the number of scoops you are buying. What is the cost per scoop in the 2, 3, 4, etc scoops?
- Mini golf- If you go mini golfing, be sure to keep an accurate scorecard. Create a line plot with your score on each hole. What score did you get most often (mode)? What was your maximum score? What was your minimum score? What was your average number of shots per hole?
- A Day in the Life- Keep a time schedule of everything you do for 24 hours (not every little thing like I tied my shoe, but all of the major activities for the day) with a start and end time. Be sure a complete 24 hours are recorded. Then group each activity into a category (such as sleep, leisure, eating, chores, movement, etc). Find the total time (in hours and minutes) of each category. What activity did you spend the most time doing? Least? How much more time did you spend on the longest activity versus the shortest? Include other observations about the time you spend on activities.
- Sleeping- Record the time you go to bed and the time you wake up each day for a week, and calculate the number of hours and minutes you spend sleeping each night. Create a table and bar graph to represent this data.
- Sports- playing a sport this summer? Keep track of one of the statistics in your sport. Examples- for each game record the number of hits and at-bats you had, and at the end of the summer, calculate your batting average by dividing the number of hits by the number of at-bats. Basketball- record the number of points you score each game, and at the end of the season, find your average points per game by dividing the number of points by the number of games played.
- Road trip? Going on a trip this summer? Predict what color car you will see most often, then create a tally chart to record the color of each vehicle you pass. Are all the colors about the same? Which color was most often? Least often? What was the difference between the most often and the least often? Did the most popular color surprise you?

- Beach-record the water temperature each day for the week. What was the average temperature? What was the range in temperatures (highest minus the lowest)? Was there a mode? If you record for longer than a week, put the temperatures on a line plot. Were any of the temperature outliers (not fitting in with the others)?
- Sudoku- print and cut out a sudoku for your journal and complete it!
- Extreme tic tac toe- teach someone at home how to play extreme tic tac toe and keep the game boards in your notebook. Have a family/friends tournament if there are enough people around to play!
- Geometry- Go on a continuous geometry scavenger hunt. Take photos of different geometry concepts, print them out, glue them into your math journal, and write what they are showing. See a tree branch that connects to the trunk forming an acute angle? See symmetry out in nature? Do you see things that are parallel or perpendicular? Are there any 2-D or 3-D shapes you see? Include angles, rays, parallel lines, perpendicular lines, shapes, lines intersecting, etc. Be observant!

Feel free to come up with your own ideas. I can't wait to see all the fun ways you have interacted with math this summer! If you have any questions, please email me [kharp@themeadowbrookschoo.org](mailto:kharp@themeadowbrookschoo.org). Feel free to send me a picture of an entry you are extra proud of and excited to share!

Thank you for your help and support in your child's education.  
Have a great summer!

Kelsey Harp  
Upper School Math Teacher  
Math Support & Enrichment Teacher