



WELCOME TO OPEN HOUSE!

Grade 5

Mr. Daniel Pagnataro

Mr. Michael Kane

Ms. Heather Meisenzahl

Goal: Create A Climate For Success

- Belonging
- Significance
- Fun!





GOALS FOR THE YEAR

Academically:

- For students to meet the goals and standards of the Salem School 5th grade curriculum.
- To challenge our students to reach new academic heights, and to become critical thinkers and lifelong learners.

• Socially:

- To maintain a collective culture of mutual respect, honesty, and kindness among teachers and students alike
- To help students become responsible and self-sufficient problem solvers with a high regard for their school and global community.

How Do We Do This?

Belonging Significance Fun



- Morning Greeting
 - Greeting, Sharing, Activity, Morning Message

- Set Up Daily Routines and Expectations
 - Daily Agenda
 - Consistently applied behavioral expectations
 - Logical Consequences
 - Organization
 - Fun Transition-Movement Activities
 - Cooperative Games

- Set goals
- Develop classroom rules that will help us realize those goals
- Foster a sense of competence and a sense of excitement about learning
 - Developmentally appropriate work
 - Differentiated learning tasks leading to success
 - Provide opportunities to use your strengths, but persist with challenges.



Expectations of the Students

- ALWAYS give his/her BEST effort, in everything he/she does
- Be respectful to teachers and students, as well as parents and others
- Follow all classroom rules and procedures, as well as those of the school
- Participate in class
- Maintain responsibility and accountability for his/her learning (that includes homework), as well as his/her own behavior
- Be respectful of school property
- Be safe



Expectations of the Parents

- Support the child's academic and behavioral accomplishments/needs
- Provide ample time for homework assignments and reading
- Check for completion and quality of homework
- See that the child reads regularly. Read with him/her!
Encourage your child to challenge his/her reading skills!
- Reinforce the child's responsibility and accountability for his/her learning and behavior
- Encourage the child to put for his/her BEST effort
- Ensure that the child is well rested and prepared for school
- Maintain open communication with the child AND teacher



Expectations of the Teacher, who will...

- ALWAYS be prepared, organized, and professional
- Get to know and understand each child, and maintain awareness of their educational, social, emotional, physical, and cultural needs
- Consistently enforce rules and procedures fairly and efficiently, as well as recognize positive behavior
- Promote social wellbeing, and teach responsibility and self-sufficiency that can be taken beyond the classroom
- Reciprocate student respect, and maintain overall classroom culture of mutual respect and politeness
- Provide a safe environment in which productive learning can take place
- Encourage students to take educational risks
- Maintain high academic expectations
- Maintain regular, positive, and open communication with students AND parents

Putting it all together!

Implementing significance, belonging, and fun in instruction.

Literacy



- Literacy program consists of a mixture of small and whole group reading lessons. Instruction is primarily student centered and differentiated for the individual learner.
- Reading groups are flexible. Students continue to practice skills from the reading groups independently and in small groups.
- Literacy stations are used as a motivating way to reinforce skills.
- The reading writing connection is highlighted through book projects, journal entries, and group presentations.
- Writing workshop allows an additional time for students to practice narrative, expository, and persuasive writing skills.

Math



- Math lessons are balanced with whole group and small group instruction.
- Use of pre-assessments allows for high level of differentiated instruction.
- Math stations are implemented to reinforce skills in a fun way.
- Manipulatives are used frequently in lessons to allow a concrete, hands-on approach to developing understanding of concepts.
- Problem solving skills are taught and reinforced consistently throughout the year.
- Building independent learning skills throughout the units.

Science



- Lessons are planned with an inquiry-based approach.
- Lessons are a combination of whole and small group instruction with an emphasis on cooperative groups.
- Topics for study are:
 - Earth, Moon, Sun
 - Light and Sound
 - Microscopes and Optical Tools
 - Human Body Systems
- We hope to make use of the nature trail for our later areas of study.

Social Studies



- The theme for Social Studies in fifth grade is “Building Our Country”.
- Essential Questions we will explore are:
 - Why do people leave their homelands?
 - What does it take to build a new society?
 - How does the environment shape how we live?
 - Why do people explore?
 - What is the purpose of government?
 - What is worth fighting for?
- These questions will be investigated by focusing on American history from the ‘first Americans’ through the American Revolution.

Organizational Strategies

- Binders with folders for each subject.
- Fabulous Five
- Homework Collection Routine
- Completed Work Baskets
- Locker Fairy (who will make an appearance tonight!)
- Homework Planners

The Dreaded Homework



- No more than 20 minutes per subject. Please have a parent signature if this went over 20 minutes (stop at 20 min).
- Reading Calendars each month to track silent reading. Twenty minutes per night please!
- Never on Friday. 😊
- Notes are appreciated if work could not be done, or if you have to give extensive help.
- Extra practice at home helps but keep a balance. Fifth graders also need to play outside and get a good night's sleep.

Communication



dpegnataro@salem.cen.ct.gov

(860) 859-0267 Ext. 3142

mkane@salem.cen.ct.gov

Ext.3144

hmeisenzahl@salem.cen.ct.gov

Ext. 3145

We appreciate email, notes, or phone messages.
We'll do our best to answer as soon as possible,
which is usually after school.



Please sign the **log-in sheet** on the back table and feel free to bring home the handouts.

We look forward to working together to make this a great year for your child. Thanks for coming!

Don't Forget to perform your duty as a locker fairy!