

## **2023-2024 Mrs. Chenier's Frequently Asked Questions**

Q: How are the three 5th grade classrooms similar/different?

A: The 5th grade team meets and plans together daily. We are a team! The majority of our units, projects, activities, etc. will be very similar, though we'll each add our own unique twist to things. We have a time each week when all the 5th graders will come together for joint lessons and activities. All three classes attend the same field trips, lunch/recess. The 5th grade classrooms mix for math, music, and world language. Your child will get to know all three 5th grade teachers well over the course of the year.

Q. How does math work in 5th grade?

A: Math is hands-on and collaborative in 5th grade. At the start of each new topic all three classes take the same pre-assessment. It is low stakes and designed to help us see where the needs are in regards to the skills that we need to teach. We then sort students into three groups based on their skill readiness: introductory, on target, mastery. Though at times, we may have two intro groups or three on target groups, it all depends on what the students need. Students do not know the group they are in and the teachers shuffle the level we teach for each topic. This allows for flexible grouping in which we can more easily target instructional needs. All three classes use a similar notebook for math and have the same expectations regarding homework, etc. The students take a post test that is tailored to the skills they need for the topic. The process begins again with each new topic. There is a 5th Grade Math Google Classroom that we use, separate from our Homeroom Google Classrooms, that your child will join.

Q. I have heard that sometimes 5th graders take pre-algebra, how does that work?

A: The first week of 5th grade, students are given problems that will cover the scope of the 5th grade math curriculum to assess their readiness for the year. It is so exciting when they take a similar assessment at the end of the year to discover their tremendous growth over the year! Occasionally, if a student demonstrates full mastery of the 5th grade math program at the start of the year, they are assessed for pre-algebra readiness. Our goal is to ensure students are appropriately challenged and that they develop a love for math. There is no need to study or prepare for this assessment. Students will be developmentally placed so they are able to excel in the setting that is the best fit for them. Most 5th graders end up taking pre-algebra in 6th grade, and leave Emerson two years ahead of their non-Emerson peers. Some 5th graders will take pre-algebra as 7th graders and still be one year ahead of their non-Emerson peers.

Q. What is the **HORSE** Binder?

A. The HORSE Binder is an organizational tool for your child. It stands for **H**ow **O**rganized **R**esponsible **S**tudents **E**xcel. It contains our Student Planner (Peek at the Week sheets), login info, subject folders, and more. It should go home each day and return the following day to school.

Q. What is the difference between the Google Classroom and the Classroom Website?

A. I maintain a Google Classroom for students. Students should join using their Emerson Google Account and enter classroom code: **rhe5gnd**. If your child is new to Emerson, they will get logged in as soon as they receive their school email account. Having the Google Classroom allows for some assignments to be submitted electronically, manages resources in one place for students, and allows for quicker feedback for students. Parents can sign up to receive a Guardian Summary that gives you updates on your child's Google Classroom.

Parents can use the Classroom Website resource in my email signature to access classroom pictures, daily schedule, our Peek at the Week planner, and links to projects, websites, and newsletters. My website address is <http://5chenier.weebly.com/>

Q: How does homework work?

A: Homework will be listed on the Peek of the Week sheets in your child's HORSE Binder, in the classroom on the homework board, and on the class website. Homework is assigned on Fridays and due the following Friday (unless otherwise noted). Students will typically have 3-4 tasks each week to complete. The homework routine is designed to allow students to practice things we do in class, as well as develop time management skills in preparation for middle school. Please communicate with me if you feel the homework load needs to be adjusted for your child.

Q: How many projects should we expect?

A: There will be 3-4 major projects and 4-5 minor projects this school year. Minor projects span 1-2 weeks, while major projects require significantly more time.

Q: Why don't I see a lot of completed papers coming home?

A: Students store most completed work in a folder in the classroom. That folder is then used to generate a student portfolio that will be shared in June. Rest assured, I will contact you if your child is having a work completion challenge.

Q: Will my child take tests in 5th grade?

A: Yes. Students will take a variety of tests this year. Some of the tests will allow students to show mastery, progress, comprehension, and understanding of skills and content. Other tests will serve as a way to practice test-taking strategies and to learn how to "study" for a test. The Junior Scholastic (JS) test is an example of focusing more on the process of test preparation rather than the end product of a test. All tests will be listed on the Peek at the Week sheet in the HORSE binder. We also review in class prior to the test.

Q: How much help should I be giving my child?

A: You know your child best. Some children need more parent scaffolding and support than others. I would encourage you to start to step back at some point this year to allow your child the opportunity to become more responsible. Some steps will feel like giant leaps of faith, while other steps may be tiny. Some will be able to make that step in the first trimester, while others will need to make it later in the year. **Encourage your child to contact me in class or via email if there is a question or concern, rather than doing it for them.** Before you know it, your child will be in middle school!

Q: My child is not feeling well, but is worried about missing a day of school, any advice?

A: Please reassure your child that I will help her/him catch up on anything missed while absent. It is very important to keep your child home if she/he is ill to prevent the spread of illness. My top priority for students who feel unwell is to have them rest and recover. If there is work that they miss, I will post it in the Google Classroom for them to access, if they feel well enough to work at home.

Q: How important is it that my child is at school by 8:15am?

A: We start our morning promptly at 8:15am. If a child comes in tardy, she/he has already missed important information/instructions. Students who arrive early always seem more relaxed and ready for the day as it prevents that uneasy, rushed feeling. Our Morning Meeting starts promptly at 8:15am and is a crucial part of building our classroom community.

Q: My child has a hard time organizing so I clean out her/his binder, is that okay?

A: We have a dedicated time each week for organization of lockers, cubby, and binders. Please leave this work to your child.

Q: Can I bring in treats for my child's birthday?

A: You may bring in birthday treats. Please send all necessary supplies required to serve and eat the treat. Pre-cutting items at home is appreciated! Please be allergen aware to be inclusive. If your child has a summer birthday, let's celebrate their half birthday!

Q: Will I receive a weekly classroom newsletter?

A: I do not send weekly newsletters. Instead, you will receive monthly email updates of curriculum and classroom happenings. In between the monthly updates, you can access class info via the Classroom Website resource at your convenience. I will send timely email reminders of important information and field trip info via email. You can sign up to receive Guardian Summaries through our Google Classroom.

Q: What is the best way to contact you?

A: Email is the best way to reach me, [echenier@emerson-school.org](mailto:echenier@emerson-school.org). Email is checked and answered M-F, typically 7:00am-3:45pm. In order to maintain balance with my family, I do not check or respond to emails on the weekend or evenings.