

St. Mary School Escondido, CA



1/10/12

Volume I, Issue 5

Upcoming Tests/Projects

- 1/11 Science Test
- 1/12 Unit 5 Vocab Test
- 1/13 Spelling Test
- 1/18 Social Studies Test (ch. 5-6)
- 1/19 Grammar Test (adjectives)
- 1/25 Math Test (Ch. 5)

Announcements

- **1/16/12** No School- MLK Day
- **1/17/12** Milk Program Starts
- **1/19/12** Team Day- wear your blue shirts!
- **1/19/12** Sports Assembly-2pm
- **1/25/12** 3rd Grade Bake Sale & PTG Meeting 6:30pm
- **1/26** Riley's Farm Field Trip!
- **1/29-2/3** Catholic Schools Week: Look for more information in Family Envelopes.
- Happy Birthday to Demi and Shanell who's birthdays are this month!

Wish List

- 30 small, individual white boards for the classroom

What's New in 5th Grade!

Miss Fedrick's Corner

Hello Parents!

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas Break and a Happy New Year. Thank you again for all the thoughtful gifts, cards, and prayers. Things are getting off to an exciting start here in Room 8. Our Riley's Farm field trip is right around the corner. Our students will be getting a hands-on look at the American Revolution through mock battles and workshops. Please get those permission slips into me as soon as possible. I will be making final decisions about drivers by the end of this week—Thank you to all of you who have volunteered!

Your students have been doing an excellent job on adding and subtracting mixed numbers in Math. I encourage you still to have them help you cook dinner using recipes so they get a hands on approach on applying their skills. We have also started our second round of Literature Circles. I have them split into 5 groups and each group is reading a different book. Literature circles provide a way for students to engage in critical thinking and reflection as they read, discuss, and respond to books.

I would like to incorporate more art in our classroom. If you have any ideas or would like to come teach a lesson, please let me know and we can work out a time.

Please continue to encourage your students to read as much as possible. I now have an AR Goal Chart in my classroom. Every time they complete a book, take an AR test on it, and score 85% or above, they receive a sticker. As soon as they reach 25 tests, they get to pick a prize.

Your students have been doing a wonderful job this year. However, I do need to start preparing them for 6th grade. The homework load will be increasing slightly and I am putting a heavier emphasis on their handwriting. I am also going to keep encouraging their organizational skills. It would benefit your students if you also encouraged organization and time management at home.

Thank you again for all your help and support! If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to email me or set up an appointment with me. Have a wonderful New Year.

Sincerely,
Miss Fedrick

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Classroom Guidelines & Expectations

Classroom Guidelines:

1. Be Respectful
2. Be Responsible
3. Be Resourceful

We will be defining each of these guidelines in depth in the classroom to make sure each student knows exactly what they mean. Once we have defined and come up with examples for each guideline I will type up a master copy for each student to have.

Expectations:

- All work (Math will be expected in pencil) must be written in blue or black ink.
- Each day an assignment is late I will take off **20%**. I will **not accept assignments over a week late.**
- Missing work due to an absence must be made up in no more than the number of days absent.
- Absence: If a student is absent, I must receive a note (the next day he/she gets back) in regards to why the student was not in school.
- Students will have homework Monday through Thursday in most subject areas. Occasionally there will be an assignment over the weekend.
- Vacations during school days: **I will NOT write lesson plans ahead of time.** You will make up all school work upon your return to school.
- Any student caught cheating will receive a ZERO on the assignment and an automatic Step 3 (please refer to Miss Fedrick's Step Program handout) In addition, student(s) will be sent to the Principal and a phone call will be made to the parent(s).
- **Steps:** Students will receive a warning/steps for the following but not limited to infractions
 - Talking out of term (disrupting the class)
 - Chewing gum/eating/drinking in class
 - Yelling in the classroom
 - Disrespect towards others
 - Bullying
 - Uniform infraction
- **Detention:** Students will receive automatic detention for the following but not limited to:
 - Extreme disrespect toward others
 - Unexcused tardy 5 times or more
 - Continuous disruption in class
 - Cheating on an assignment

Grading Scale– 2011-2012

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	59 and below

Homework:

Homework will always be worth 20 points. Students will either receive a $\sqrt{+}$ for full credit, $\sqrt{}$ for 17 points, $\sqrt{-}$ for 14 points, or an INC. (incomplete) for 10 points.

Attendance Points:

For each assignment/project we do in class, students will receive an attendance point if present that will count towards their overall grade in that subject.

Websites

There are two main websites I will be using this year. They are Spellingcity.com and Tenmarks.com

Spellingcity.com is a spelling website. Each week I will upload their spelling words. They have the ability to click on the word to hear how it's pronounced, play games to familiarize themselves with the words, and take spelling pre-tests. I will require that they take a spelling pre-test each Thursday night since our spelling tests will be on Fridays. My spellingcity website page is <http://www.spellingcity.com/afedrick/>

Tenmarks.com is an excellent math website. Your student will be given a log-in username and password at the beginning of the year. They will have the ability to practice math that is related to the CA content standards for 5th grade. You and your student can monitor their progress and unlock games once they master a skill (such as decimals or fractions).

Rewards

- If a student does not receive a step or missing assignment for **the week**, they will be given a ticket to write their name on and put in a jar. I will then pull out 5 and the names called will be given some sort of treat.
- I also use tickets to reward excellent behavior. If a student is quiet, on task, being helpful, or doing some act of kindness I will give them 1-5 tickets for them to write their name on. They can then put these in my "ticket jar". **At the end of the month** I will pull a certain number of tickets. Those students picked will be allowed to get a prize out of my prize box.