

* “Motherhood (parenting) is about raising and celebrating the child you have, not the child you thought you would have. It’s about understanding that he is exactly the person he is supposed to be. And that, if you’re lucky, he just might be the teacher who turns you into the person you are supposed to be.” –Joan Ryan

WELCOME TO UPPER ELEMENTARY



PARENT ORIENTATION

2024-2025

Meet the Teachers

* **Ms. Bridget** – Language, Social Studies (4th Grade), and Art

* **Ms. Mafe** – Math, Social Studies (5th Grade), and Spanish

* **Ms. Grisel**– Science, Spanish, and Art

FRIDAY



- * SPELLING TEST
- * SUNSHINE MATH
- * SPEED TEST
- * LIFE SKILLS
- * PE - wear PE shirt; don't forget deodorant
- * ART

Our Daily Routine

- * Language

- * 4th Grade 8:30-10:15
- * 5th Grade 10:15-12:00

- * Math

- * 4th Grade 10:15-12:00
- * 5th Grade 8:30-10:15

- * Social Studies

- * 4th Grade Tuesday/Thursday
- * 5th Grade Monday/Wednesday

- * Science

- * 4th Grade Monday/Wednesday
- * 5th Grade Tuesday/Thursday

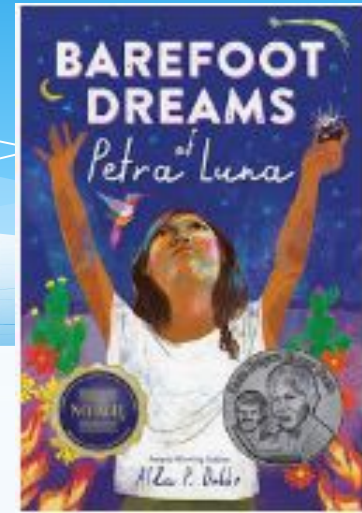
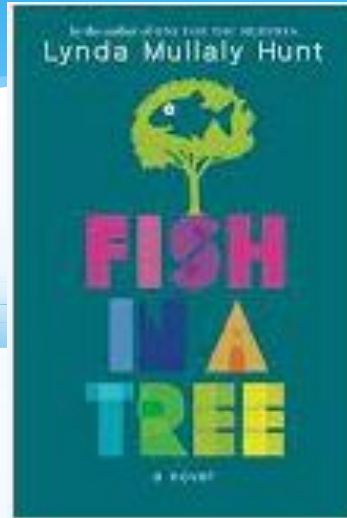
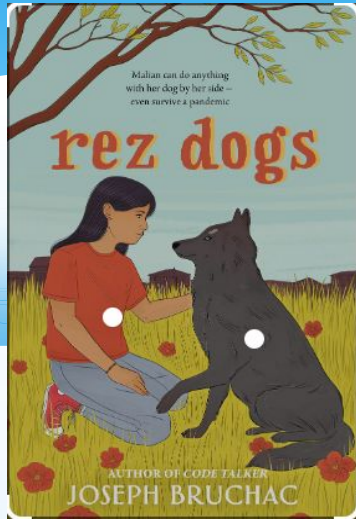
- * Spanish

- * Chinese

Language Arts

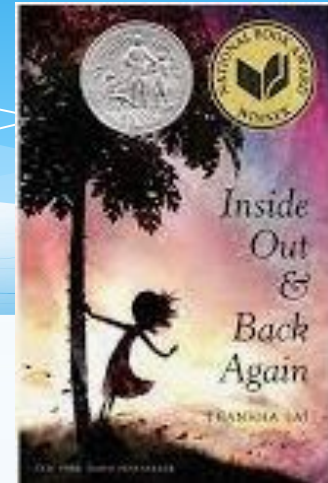
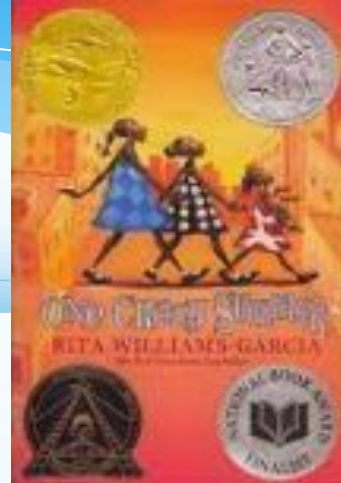
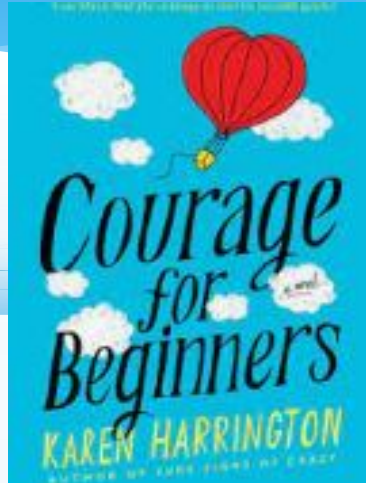
- * SRAs
- * Grammar Workshop www.grammarworkshop.com
- * Vocabulary Workshop www.vocabularyworkshop.com
- * Spelling www.spellingcity.com/montessoriacademies
- * Literature
- * Creative Writing and Journaling
- * Accelerated Reader
- * Book Reports
- * Montessori Materials
- * IXL Language www.ixl.com
- * Reading for Concepts
- * Paired Passages
- * 5-a-Day
- * Close Read

4th Grade Book Reports



- * **Rez Dogs** by Joseph Bruchac (September 17th)
- * **Fish in a Tree** by Lynda Mullaly Hunt (December 3rd)
- * **Hold Fast** by Blue Balliett (February 11th)
- * **Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna** by Alda P. Dobbs (April 29th)

5th Grade Book Reports



- * **Pig Hearted** by Alex Perry (September 17th)
- * **Courage for Beginners** by Karen Harrington (December 3rd)
- * **One Crazy Summer** by Rita Williams-Garcia (February 11th)
- * **Inside Out and Back Again** by Thanhha Lai (April 29th)

Book Reports

- * Three book reports will be assigned per year over a 6-8 week period with a formal report. The fourth book report book will be project based.
- * Discussion is held on the day **after** the read by/test passed date on the handout.
- * An optional book report **rough draft** will be due on the Tuesday after the discussion. A mandatory **final draft** will be due one week later.
- * Please purchase books ahead of time; ebooks and audiobooks are allowed, but not preferred.

Math



- * Montessori Math with Materials

- * Geometry

- * Word Problems

- * Montessori Sequence Cards

- * Group Lessons

- * Sunshine Math

- * Speed Tests

- * IXL Math – Topic Lessons

www.ixl.com

- * Xtra Math

www.xtramath.com



Social Studies

4th Grade

Historical Literature Read Aloud Connection

- **The Missing Gator of Gumbo**
Limbo by Jean Craighead George
- **A Land Remembered Vol. 1 & 2**
by Patrick Smith

5th Grade

Historical Literature Read Aloud Connection

- **The Birchbark House** by Louise Erdrich
- **Heart and Soul The Story of America and African Americans**
by Kadir Nelson

- * SS Interactive Notebook
- * Geography
- * Transcribing information

State Fair Project

- * Students will choose a state and will complete research based on the requirements listed in the packet.
- * Project is due on October 21st .
- * State Fair is October 24th .
- * Information will be distributed in September.

Science

4th Grade

Physical Science

- ❖ Matter
- ❖ Energy
- ❖ Light and Sound
- ❖ Magnetic Power
- ❖ A world in Motion

Life Science

- ❖ Cells and Organisms
- ❖ Heredity and Diversity
- ❖ Ecosystems
- ❖ Plants of the World
- ❖ Earth's Animals
- ❖ Our Body Systems
- ❖ Science and Medicine

Earth Space Science

- ❖ Oceans and waterways
- ❖ Soil
- ❖ Weather and Climate
- ❖ Natural Disasters
- ❖ To Protect and Conserve
- ❖ Solar System
- ❖ Science and Technology

5th Grade

Physical Science

- ❖ All About Matter
- ❖ Heat
- ❖ Light and Sound
- ❖ Electricity and Magnetism
- ❖ Motion
- ❖ Technology in Society

Life And Science

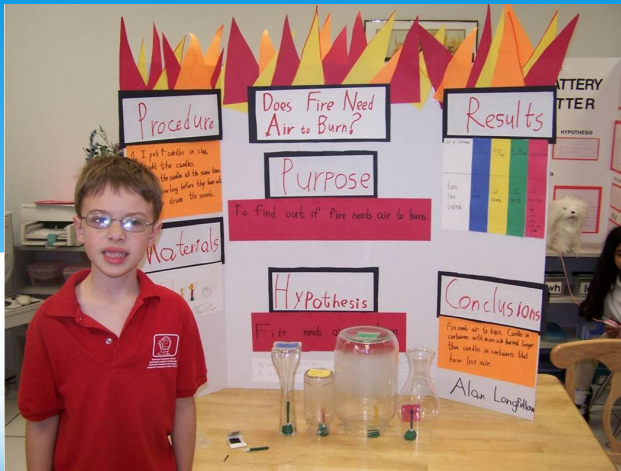
- ❖ Cells and Microbes
- ❖ Plant Kingdom
- ❖ Animal Kingdom
- ❖ Prehistoric Life
- ❖ Systems of Life
- ❖ Being Human
- ❖ The Amazing Brain

Earth Space Science

- ❖ Structure of Earth
- ❖ Shaping the Earth
- ❖ All About Soil
- ❖ Finding Solutions
- ❖ The Water Cycle
- ❖ Exploring Our Solar System

Science Fair

4th Grade



- * Students will choose a topic for their experiment.
- * Due dates for different topics TBA, information will be sent home at the end of October.
- * Final experiment due:



Business Fair 5th Grade

- * JA Biztown visit on October 8th
- * Students choose a product to start their own business.
- * Due dates for different topics TBA, information will be sent home at the end of October.
- * Final project due:

Language Classwork Due Tuesdays

- *Close Read- 1 story is assigned per week; students complete the subsequent questions as a whole group.
- *Creative Writing- genre assignments are given on a biweekly basis. New assignments will be introduced on a Tuesday, rough drafts and finals will also be due on Tuesday.

Language Classwork

Due Wednesday & Thursday

- *Vocabulary Workshop – 1 unit is assigned per week; all pages are completed as a whole group
- *Grammar Workshop- 2 lessons are assigned per week; all exercises are completed as a whole group
 - *Students are responsible for completing the notes in the learn box independently.
- * Journal-2 topics are assigned each week; students are required to write a paragraph (7-9 sentences) coinciding with each topic.
- * Paired Passage- 1 story is assigned per week; story and 10 following questions will be completed as a whole group.
- * 5-a-Day- 1 week of 4 days per week; questions are completed at the start of class as a whole group.

Homework

- *Reading for Concepts – 3 stories per week; checked Thursday
- * Spelling – **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday** write each word 2 times, 6 times total; checked Thursday
 - ***Friday** Spelling test
- * IXL Language- skills highlighted each week must be completed to a Smart Score of 90 or higher
- **Any classwork not finished within the class time allotted will need to be completed that evening, as homework, for half credit.

Math Homework Due Thursday

- * IXL Math – Students are required to complete the skills assigned in their planner each week. IXL Math may only be completed during the school week, Monday through Thursday.
- * Each grade is assigned a required set of skills per week as following:
 - 4th grade must complete 6 skills with a minimum Smart Score of 80
 - 5th grade must complete 7 skills with a minimum Smart Score of 90

If the skills were completed before being assigned , then the student must complete the total amount of skills per week- totaling to 6 or 7, respectively.

- * XtraMath – done on a daily basis, Saturday – Thursday until all levels are completed. (4 times/week)

Attendance Policy

* Excused absences during the school year will be handled in the following way:

* Students will have 1 school day per day out to make up any work or tests missed. For example, a student who missed class on Wednesday/Thursday will have Friday/Monday to have their work completed in order to receive full credit.

Unexcused absences during the school year will be handled in the following way:

* Notice must be given 2 weeks in advance so that work can be prepared.

* The work assigned must be completed prior to leaving to ensure full credit is given.

* Tests will be taken the day the student returns.

Technology Enhancements

- * 4th and 5th graders need to bring Wi-Fi compatible tablets/Chromebooks to school everyday.
- * The students will use their tablets mostly for homework, but will also be tasked in multiple subjects to enrich lessons periodically.
- * **Please be sure to have devices charged nightly.**

Online Procedures and Guidelines

- * Students will be instructed on their responsibilities and restrictions for the use of technology.
- * Students and parents both sign the iPad/Tablet User Agreement.
- * Please make sure that all personal content on individual devices is appropriate for school environment – no mature rated games.
- * Social media should not be accessed during school hours or on school premises.
- * Messaging between devices is prohibited during school hours or on school premises-including parents.

Online Procedures and Guidelines

- * Students may not use a device to take pictures/videos of their classmates.
- * Students may not use/touch another person's device or password.
- * Devices are to be kept in the students cubby and not be left anywhere else in the classroom or school.
- * Montessori Academies is not responsible for lost or damaged devices.

Other Reminders

- * **Class begins at 8:30 am. We begin lessons promptly.** If your child is late/absent please understand that they will have to make up this work as part of their homework. Lessons cannot be recreated.
- * **Class ends at 3:00 pm. Upper Elementary dismissal is between 3:05-3:30.** If you arrive early please park and wait until your child arrives at the gate.

THANK YOU

We look forward to an exciting year full of challenging discoveries and new learning experiences. We appreciate your support and help throughout this journey!