

* “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
2026-2027

Meet the Teachers

* **Ms. Bridget**

*Language, Social Studies
(5th Grade), and Life Skills

* **Ms. Mafe**

* Math, Social Studies
(4th Grade), and Spanish

* **Ms. Cheyenne**

*Science 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

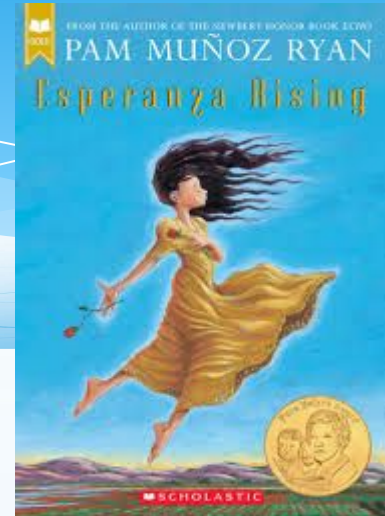
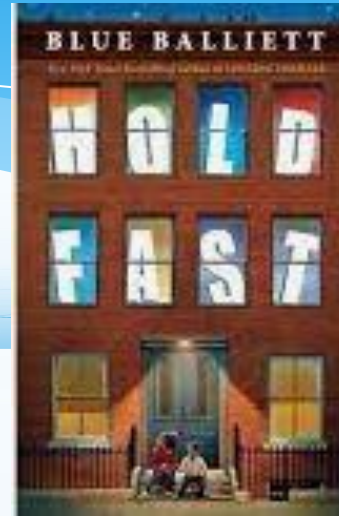
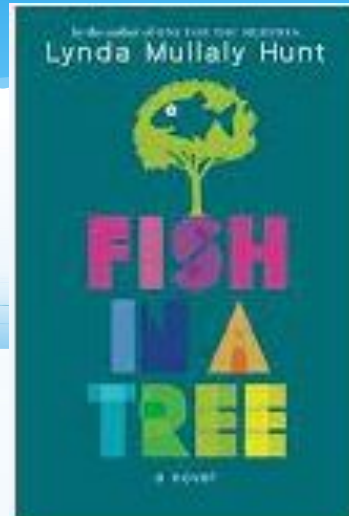
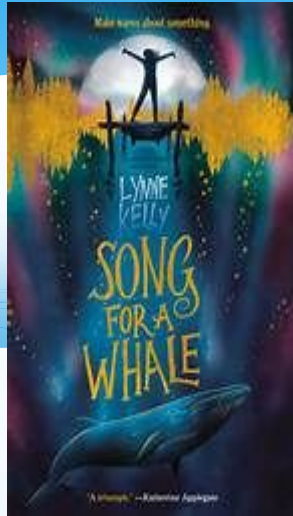
- * Spanish

- * Chinese

Language Arts

- * 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 Passage
 - * 5-a-Day
 - * Close Read

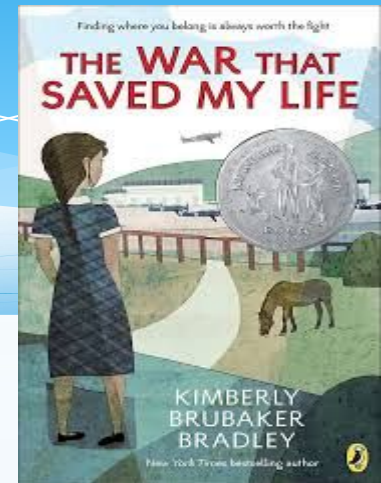
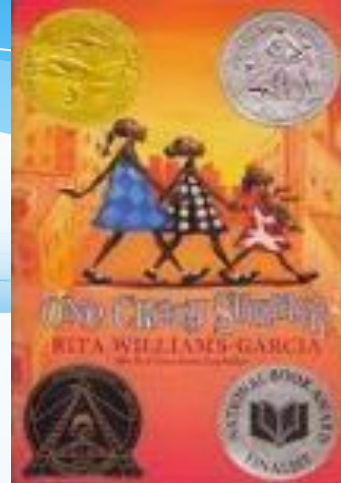
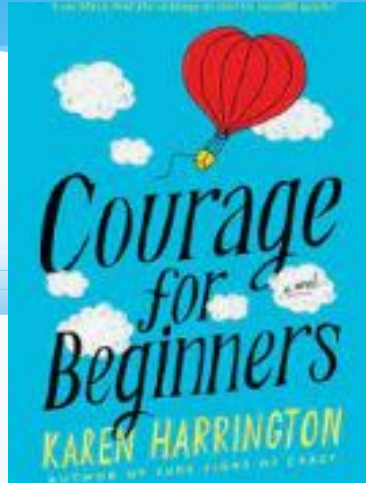
4th Grade Book Reports



- * **Song for a Whale** by Lynne Kelly (September 21st)
- * **Fish in a Tree** by Lynda Mullaly Hunt (November 30th)
- * **Hold Fast** by Blue Balliett (February 15th)
- * **Esperanza Rising** by Pam Munoz Ryan (April 19th)

***The book should be read and the AR Test passed by these dates.**

5th Grade Book Reports



- * **Pig Hearted** by Alex Perry (September 21st)
 - * **Courage for Beginners** by Karen Harrington (November 30th)
 - * **One Crazy Summer** by Rita Williams-Garcia (February 15th)
 - * **The War that Saved My Life** by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley (April 19th)
- *The book should be read and the AR Test passed by these dates.

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.
- * All students will receive an outline and rubric on the discussion date. **Only students who have passed the test will receive the discussion notes.**
- * 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 & Daily Math
- * 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 Research Fair

- * Students will choose a state and will complete research based on the requirements listed in the packet.
- * In addition to the research packet, students will create a parade float (shoebox size) celebrating their state.
- * Project is due on October 19th .
- * State Fair is October 22nd, from 3:00-4:00.
- * Information will be distributed in September.

Science

4th Grade

Topic 5:

- *Structures and Functions
- *Human Body Systems

Topic 1:

- *Energy and Motion

Topic 2:

- *Waves

Topic 3:

- *Human Uses of Energy

5th Grade

Human Body Systems

Topic 1:

- *Matter

Topic 2:

- *Changes in Matter

Topic 3:

- *Earth Systems

Topic 4:

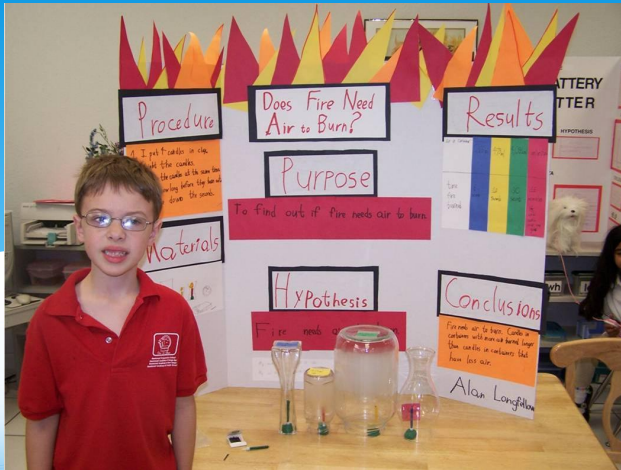
- *Human Impacts on Earth's Systems

Topic 5:

- *Patterns in Space

Science Fair

4th Grade



- * Students will choose a topic for their experiment.
- * Due dates for different topics TBA, information will be sent home in November .
- * Final experiment due: February 22nd
- * Science Fair: February 25th



Business Fair

5th Grade

- * JA Biztown visit on October 30th.
- * Students choose a product to start their own business.
- * Due dates for different topics TBA, information will be sent home in November.
- * Final project due: February 25th.

Language Classwork Due Tuesday

- *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.
- *Spelling- Challenge Word paragraph is completed all together, followed by reviewing unfamiliar words.

Language Classwork

Due Wednesday & Thursday

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*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 prompts are assigned each week; students are required to write a paragraph (7-9 sentences) coinciding with each prompts.

* 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. Students will not be allowed to charge their devices at school; whether they bring their own charger or use a school charger.

Online Procedures and Guidelines

- * **Students will be instructed on their responsibilities and restrictions for the use of technology.**
- * Students and parents must sign the iPad/Tablet User Agreement before a device can be brought to school.
- * Please make sure that all personal content on individual devices is locked during school hours. Only allow access to: IXL, Safari (Internet browsing), Xtra-Math app, and Camera.
 - * Devices will not be allowed in the classroom until they have been locked.
- * Messaging between devices is prohibited during school hours or on school premises, including parent messages.

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 student's cubby and not be left anywhere else in the classroom or school. Students may not have a device in their possession, unless directly instructed by the teacher.
- * Montessori Academies is not responsible for lost or damaged devices.

Homework Reminders

*Students should be the only ones responsible for completing their homework assignments. While help and assistance can be given, we prefer to see what the child knows and is capable of. Mistakes are proof learning is happening!

*Students will be required to complete the assignment again, in the classroom, if evidence of outside involvement is proven.

*The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) or technology tools (calculators) is not permitted in any capacity. Using AI will result in losing the privilege of completing homework assignments outside of class, and a zero will be given as the final grade.

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 3:05-3:15.** If you arrive early please park and wait until your child arrives at the gate.

Classroom Enhancements

We have noticed an increasing need in students needing areas of the classroom they can relax in. Whether to calm themselves, to read a book, or to interact with peers positively. We would also like to help them improve their practical life development.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1RV5R2BACM4AZ?ref_=wl_share



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!

Be sure to follow our new Instagram page, @MontessoriPrepTampa, for important updates and pictures of your students at work and play.