

\* “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

2025-2026

# Meet the Teachers

\* **Ms. Bridget**  
\* *Language, Social Studies  
(4<sup>th</sup> Grade), and Life Skills*

\* **Ms. Mafe**  
\* *Math, Social Studies (5<sup>th</sup>  
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

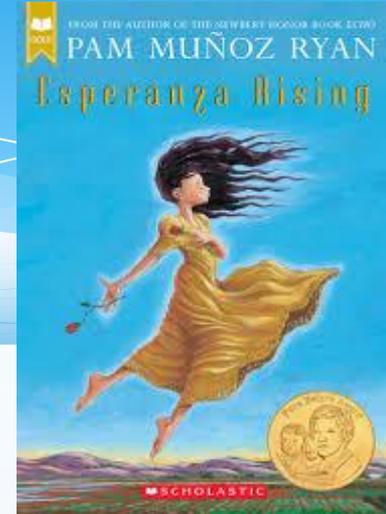
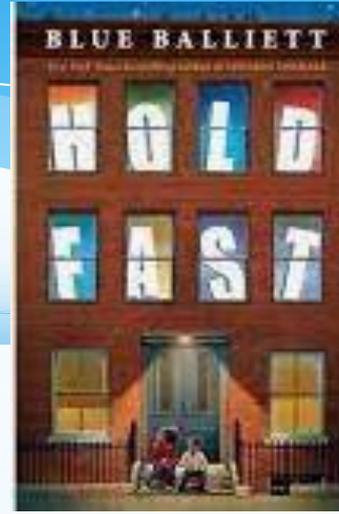
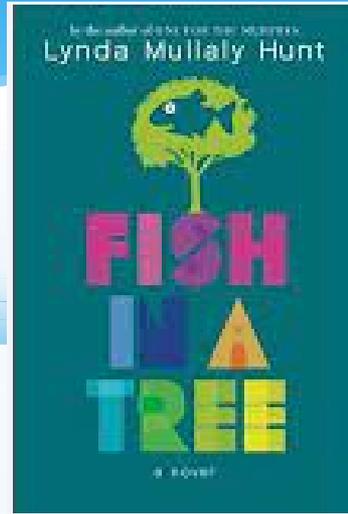
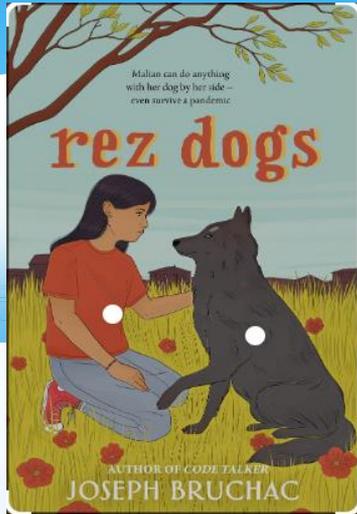
- \* Spanish

- \* Chinese

# Language Arts

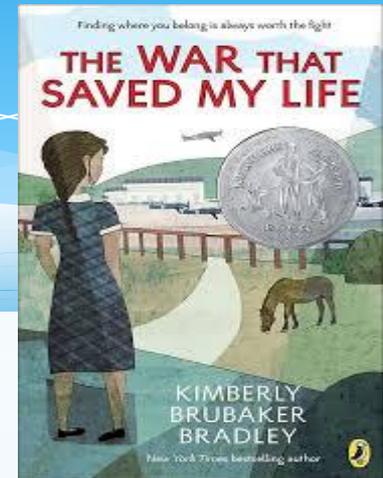
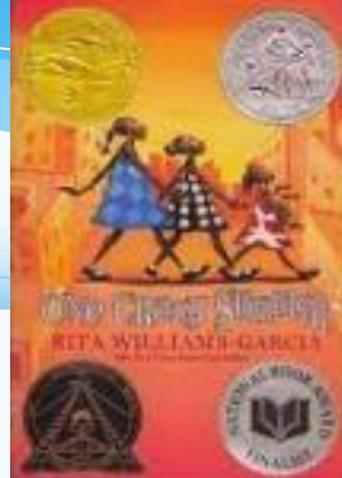
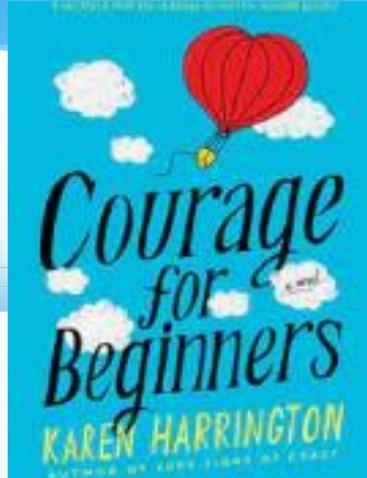
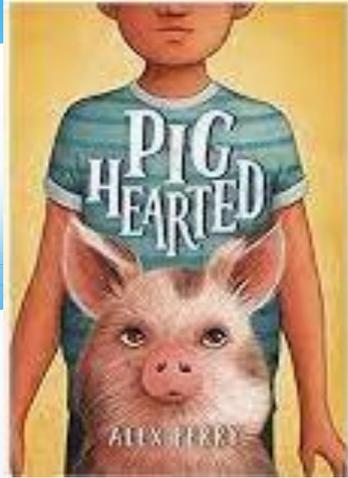
- \* Grammar Workshop [www.grammarworkshop.com](http://www.grammarworkshop.com)
- \* Vocabulary Workshop [www.vocabularyworkshop.com](http://www.vocabularyworkshop.com)
- \* Spelling [www.spellingcity.com/montessoriacademies](http://www.spellingcity.com/montessoriacademies)
- \* Literature
  - \* Creative Writing and Journaling
  - \* Accelerated Reader
  - \* Book Reports
  - \* Montessori Materials
  - \* IXL Language [www.ixl.com](http://www.ixl.com)
  - \* Reading for Concepts
  - \* Paired Passage
  - \* 5-a-Day
  - \* Close Read

# 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Book Reports



- \* **Rez Dogs** by Joseph Bruchac (September 22nd)
- \* **Fish in a Tree** by Lynda Mullaly Hunt (December 1st)
- \* **Hold Fast** by Blue Balliett (February 16<sup>th</sup>)
- \* **Esperanza Rising** by Pam Munoz Ryan (April 20th)

# 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Book Reports



- \* **Pig Hearted** by Alex Perry (September 22nd)
- \* **Courage for Beginners** by Karen Harrington (December 1st)
- \* **One Crazy Summer** by Rita Williams-Garcia (February 16<sup>th</sup>)
- \* **The War that Saved My Life** by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley (April 20th)

# 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 & Daily Math

- \* IXL Math – Topic Lessons

[www.ixl.com](http://www.ixl.com)

- \* Xtra Math

[www.xtramath.com](http://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

# Historical Person Fair

- \* Students will choose a historical figure and will complete research based on the requirements listed in the packet.
- \* Project is due on October 20th .
- \* State Fair is October 23rd .
- \* Information will be distributed in September.

# Science

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Topic 1:

\*Energy and  
Motion

### Topic 2:

\*Waves

### Topic 3:

\*Human Uses of  
Energy

### Topic 4:

\*Patterns of  
Earth

### Topic 5:

\*Structures and  
Functions

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

### 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

### Topic 6:

\*Matter and  
Energy in  
Ecosystems

# Science Fair

## 4<sup>th</sup> 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 23rd
- \* Science Fair: February 26th



# Business Fair 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

- \* JA Biztown visit on October 7<sup>th</sup>
- \* 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 23<sup>rd</sup>

# 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

- \*Vocabulary Workshop – 1 unit is assigned per week; all pages are completed as a whole group. Quizzes will be on Thursday.

- \*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:  
4<sup>th</sup> grade must complete 6 skills with a minimum Smart Score of 80  
5<sup>th</sup> 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

- \* 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 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 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 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.

# 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.

# 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!