

# Welcome to Fifth Grade Math

*The fifth grade team has been working hard to get ready for the 2020-2021 school year. There has been so much to learn and do, but we are eager to get started. Please give us a little time to get used to teaching online and in-person at the same time. It will surely be a rocky start, but we are confident that we will get it together quickly. It is our goal to give your child the best virtual learning experience possible.*

*We have put together a list of questions and answers as we know them. Things change a lot but hopefully this will give you some sense of what to expect when we return. Schedules are posted on the parent portal. When you find out who your child has for math, feel free to send an email with any questions or concerns.*

## **Who are the fifth grade teachers?**

- Mrs. Harmer - Room 119 - [kharmer@ringgold.org](mailto:kharmer@ringgold.org)
- Mrs. Kristobek - Room 118 - [dkristobek@ringgold.org](mailto:dkristobek@ringgold.org)
- Mrs. Mellili - Room 114 - [smellili@ringgold.org](mailto:smellili@ringgold.org)
- Ms Zeiler - Room 114 - [vzeiler@ringgold.org](mailto:vzeiler@ringgold.org)

*Ms Zeiler is taking over for Mrs. Mellili while she is on maternity leave. We are happy to welcome Ms Zeiler to the fifth grade team!*

## **What curriculum will be used?**

- Fifth grade will be using the EUREKA MATH (Great Minds) curriculum this year for the first time. Khan Academy directly relates to Eureka so you will see most of the lessons and assignments will come from Khan Academy. Parents can access both (free) sites to find out more about how these programs work. [www.greatminds.org](http://www.greatminds.org) and [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)

## **What will the classroom look like this year?**

- In 118 and 119 the desks are turned away from the whiteboards and teacher's desk so teachers will not be using the Promethean board for instruction. We can fit 13 desks in our classroom at 6 feet apart. The district is making every effort to keep our in-person class numbers low, but some classes may be bigger than others. Ms. Zeiler will be using the science lab as her classroom. Her desks are also 6 feet apart.
- Classroom decorations will be minimal. Anything we put up has to be laminated so it can be cleaned.

## **How will instruction be given?**

- Students who are with us online and students who are with us in-person will receive the exact same instruction. All instruction is online.

- We will not be using the whiteboards/projectors in our classroom to teach and there will be limited to no paper transfer.
- Teachers will not be able to walk around the classroom like we normally would nor will students be able to approach the teacher's desk with questions. If a student needs help we will go into a breakout room online. *This is new to us and we will do our best to find a way to work with kids using the Zoom breakout room option.*
- There will be no group work done in person.

### **Are there any new rules?**

- Masks must be worn at all times.
- Students must stay seated and on their computer the entire class time.
- Visits to the nurse will be limited. We've been trained to detect whether or not student symptoms warrant a nurse visit. Procedures are still being worked on so we will update when we know more.
- The administration is working on a virtual restroom pass that we will hopefully be able to implement soon. In the meantime, a plan is being worked on to make sure there aren't too many people in a restroom at one time. Feel free to send us a message to inform us of any medical issues that we should be aware of. Of course, nobody will be denied a trip to the restroom.
- Here is a link to the [Middle School floor plan and the directional hallway plan.](#)

### **Meals**

- Students will eat breakfast in their activity period classroom. They will exit their bus, go to the cafeteria to pick up their breakfast items, then proceed to their activity period.
- Students will eat lunch in the cafeteria. Fifth graders eat lunch at 10:10 am (period 4). There are individual desks in the cafeteria and it is our understanding that students can eat outdoors, weather permitting, if they choose.

### **Moodle**

- Moodle is our new learning platform. A link will be provided to you by the district soon. It is our understanding that there will also be a student training video made available to families. Please be sure to watch the video before school begins, if possible. Moodle is a work in progress for most of us. Please be patient as we learn how to navigate this system. If you have problems, send us a quick email to see if we can help on our end. Issues we can't fix will be referred to the Moodle help desk. You would call 724.938.3241 ext. 225 or email [csihelpdesk@iu1.org](mailto:csihelpdesk@iu1.org). The Ringgold technology department is not responsible for Moodle issues.

## All Students

- A link will be provided on the class Moodle page so everyone can log into class during class time. Moodle tabs will be clearly marked so students will be able to quickly find the Zoom link to join the class and the day's activities/assignments.
- Students must be muted upon entering the ZOOM classroom.

## Online Students

- Be aware that the first week of school will be a bit chaotic for us here at the Middle School. When our online students go to check in, they may be asked to wait in the "waiting area" before they are admitted to the class. Please be patient and wait for a little while. We will do our best to transition as quickly as possible.

## Chromebooks

- Chromebooks must be completely charged before coming to school. The battery life is pretty long on a Chromebook, but please be diligent about making sure they are charged before school. We need them to work all the way through period 9. There will only be a few extra chargers in our classrooms to be used for emergencies.
- Ringgold has a help page for technology. If you have questions about your Chromebook you should send an email to [rsdhelpdesk@ringgold.org](mailto:rsdhelpdesk@ringgold.org)

## What can you do to help get your kids started?

- A few notebooks and a good supply of pencils will be needed for math. We would suggest students also have headphones or earbuds and a calculator (basic is good for now, but we will be doing fractions and decimals in grade 5). We are hoping that as restrictions ease up, we may be able to use materials and be more hands-on, but until then we will provide you with an online calculator app and other digital resources.
- The kids will be on their computer more than ever. It would be a good idea to send a puzzle book, a comic book, a sketch book, or a book they can read for pleasure. These items cannot be shared with others, but it will give the children an outlet that doesn't involve the computer if they have extra time.
- If your child is coming to school, please check out the [orientation video](#) and go over how to open a combination lock. You can even buy a cheap lock that works left, right, left for practice. We don't know if locker procedures will change, but it doesn't hurt to be prepared.

## Tests

- Online and in-person students must take tests during their class time. If a student does not take it during their class time, it will have to be made up during class time at a later date.

*Thank you for your cooperation. We look forward to seeing everyone this week!*