

**Dear Parents,**

Your child will be participating in the following English Language Arts units of study this quarter:

**Playing with Words****Renaissance Thinking****Reading Literature and Informational Text**

When reading stories, students will use details to help them determine the theme, explain how characters respond to a challenge or summarize what they have read. They will compare and contrast specific information from the text and explain how chapters in book, scenes in a play, or stanzas in a poem fit together. Students will distinguish between literal and figurative meanings, identifying metaphors, similes, idioms, adages and proverbs.

Reading Foundational Skills (Word Knowledge and Fluency)

Students will learn to use syllabication patterns to break apart two syllable words and use knowledge of root words, prefixes and suffixes to help them decode words. They will reread text orally to practice appropriate phrasing and reading with expression.

Writing

This quarter, students will focus on writing stories, developing real or imagined experiences by using dialogue and sensory details. They will focus on producing writing that is clear, well organized, and appropriate to their specific audience. Students will use planning, revising, and editing to strengthen their work. With guidance, they will use technology to publish their writing.

Listening and Speaking

Students will discuss and summarize grade-level topics and text. They will follow rules for discussions and will ask and answer questions to contribute to the discussion and elaborate on the remarks of others. Students will use technology to add graphics and sound to their presentations.

Language (Conventions of Standard English and Vocabulary)

Students will explain the function of an interjection (a part of speech that shows the emotion or feelings of an author, e.g., “Good Greif!”) and use them correctly in their writing. They will form and use perfect verb tenses such as *I had walked*; *I have walked*; *I will walk*. They will spell grade appropriate words correctly using references as needed. They will use commas correctly in sentences and determine the meanings of words and phrases from the texts they are reading.

Handwriting & Keyboarding

Fifth graders are expected to maintain legible manuscript and cursive on lined paper with proper proportion, size and spacing. They will use keyboarding skills for a variety of class work. By the end of the year, students should be able to type two pages in a single setting using menu driven commands for formatting and editing.