224 Amber Lane

De Soto, TX 75115

972.223.8757

Mr. Emory Price, Principal

Mrs. Whyndii Dunn, Assistant Principal

August 25, 2014

Grading Period 1

school house

Amber Terrace Elementary

# 5th Grade Newsletter

**School Website Link**

<http://www.amberterracees.desotoisd.org/> This web link provides information regarding class work, homework, projects, and events. Click on school staff, then a teacher’s name to access class information.

**Homework Policy**

Students will receive homework Monday – Thursday. Homework will be checked for completion daily, and grades will be taken weekly. Study guides will be given to prepare for assessments.

**Projects & Campus Fairs**

Students will be required to complete 1 project each six weeks. Students are encouraged to participate in campus and district fairs (i.e. Science Fair, Constitution Week, Literacy Fair, Technology Fair, Black History Essay Contest, Oratorical Contest, Spelling Bee, Math Competition).

**Agendas**

Fifth graders are encouraged to become more independent and responsible. Each child will be given an agenda, in which they will write daily assignments and reminders. To help foster the responsibility of organization, please review and sign the agenda nightly.

**Folders**

Each student will have a Tuesday folder. The folder will have graded papers from the previous week. The left pocket of the folder will contain work to keep at home. Please sign and return work located in the right folder pocket.

Greetings,

Welcome to 5th grade! We are so excited to be a part of your child’s learning experience this year. Our goal is to enhance students’ learning through small and whole group instruction, positive feedback, hands-on learning experiences, and recognizing outstanding character. This year we will be participating in a wide range of activities such as the science fair, spelling bee, holiday and cultural programs, and field lessons.

To start off the year right, we are sending you this newsletter to help you understand our homework requirements and classroom procedures in conjunction with other vital information that will enable us to make this a very positive and rewarding year. We feel open lines of communication between the parent, student, and teacher are key to promoting an educational climate that is conducive to learning. We are looking forward to working with you and your child. Together we can make a difference!

Please feel free to contact us at any time if there is a question or situation you would like to discuss. We look forward to building a relationship with you and your child and providing the best education that we are capable of giving.

With your help, this year will be one of the best educational years your child has had thus far. Thank you for allowing us to help mold your child into the best person that he/she can be. If you have any questions or suggestions please feel free to contact us. Conferences are by appointment only.

5th Grade Team

**Reading/ELA**

Ms. Forge ext 215

[Keegan.Forge@desotoisd.org](mailto:Keegan.Forge@desotoisd.org)

Bilingual

Mr. Gordon ext 204

[Richard.Gordon@desotoisd.org](mailto:Richard.Gordon@desotoisd.org)

Science

Ms. Minor ext 200

[Sharay.Minor@desotoisd.org](mailto:Sharay.Minor@desotoisd.org)

Social Studies

Mrs. Roddy ext 213

[LaValda.Roddy@desotoisd.org](mailto:LaValda.Roddy@desotoisd.org)

Math

Mrs. Williams ext 208

[LaToya.Williams@desotoisd.org](mailto:LaToya.Williams@desotoisd.org)

News & Events

 Sept. 1: LABOR DAY/No school

 Sept. 9: Goals Night 6:30-8:00pm

 Oct. 6: Staff Development No school for students

## Grading Policy

A = 90-100 \* B = 80-89 \* C = 70-79 \* F = Below 70

**Subjects:** Reading/ELA, Math, Social Studies, & Science

**Categories:**

Daily Work 70% - homework, classwork, common assessments, minor projects, participation, journals, etc.

Major Grade 30% - tests, major projects (requires multiple days of independent work), research papers, benchmark tests

## Additional Information

**Birthdays** – We love to celebrate birthdays! Please send **precut** or **individually packaged** treats. They will be distributed to the class **at the end of the day** (3:00pm).

**Lunch** – I encourage you to come and have lunch with your child. Lunch is 12:20-12:50pm.

**Conference** – Our conference time is from 11:00-11:50am by appointment only. Conferences can also be scheduled before school, after school, or by phone.

**Field Trips –** Your child will have the opportunity to participate in a great field trip this year. I encourage parents to [**volunteer**](http://www.chisd.net/?DivisionID=2010&DepartmentID=11723&ToggleSideNav=ShowAll) as chaperones. **The volunteer application process is now completed online on the Desoto ISD website.** Once you complete the volunteer application process, you may ride the school bus **if** transportation is available. Younger children are not allowed to accompany you. Field trip cost and location will be given at a later date.

To manage student’s behavior, each teacher will have a clipboard and color code system. Each time a student’s behavior needs to be corrected we will make a note of it and a consequence will follow. The color system is as follows green = good day, yellow = warning, and red = consequence/parent contact. We will also keep record of each student’s daily color.

## Behavior Management

Amber Terrace Elementary

book with apple

**Rewards**

Treasure box

Treat jar

Free homework pass

Positive note/phone call home

Assist teacher

Classroom Job

**Consequences**

Warning

Loss of recess

Lunch Detention

Removal from Classroom Job

Student Conference/Parent Conference

Office Referral

## Rewards & Consequences

Rule #1 - Follow directions quickly!

Rule #2 - Raise your hand for permission to speak.

Rule #3 - Raise your hand for permission to leave your seat.

Rule #4 - Make smart choices!

Rule #5 - Keep your dear teacher happy!

## Classroom Rules

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## Reading/ELA

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* Understand and illustrate safety rules of the science lab
* Classroom and outdoor investigations for at least 50% of instructional time
* Classify matter based on physical properties, including mass, magnetism, physical state (solid, liquid, or gas), relative density (sinking and floating), solubility in water, and the ability to conduct or insulate thermal energy or electric energy
* Identify the physical properties of mixtures and solutions through implementing simple experimental investigations.
* Determine whether physical properties change or remain the same
* Identify the boiling, freezing, and melting points of water
* Collect data by observing and measuring using the metric system and construct simple graphs, tables, and charts to organize, examine, and evaluate measured data
* Record and communicate scientific data and observations in their science notebooks, make informed choices in the conservation, disposal of materials, and practice safety during investigations

## Science

* Make inferences about text
* Strategies to identify the intended meaning of words and phrases:

- use a dictionary to determine meanings, syllabication, and pronunciation

- use the context of a sentence

- use context clues, word endings, affixes, and Greek and Latin roots

* After reading a fictional text, complete a story map that includes a description of events, the characters’ roles/functions in the plot, and the point of view in which the story is told
* Authors establish a purpose and plan and use writer’s craft to engage and sustain the reader’s interest and enhance understanding
* Using the writing process, students write an engaging story based on personal events
* Write multiple entries including thoughts, connections, and/or strategies that deepen understanding of fictional texts, poetry, and media

## Social Studies

## Math

* Evaluate the diverse motivations, interests, and needs that brought European explorers and settlers to North America
* Build an understanding of the geographic regions that were settled and an understanding of why people migrate from one place to another
* Understand political and economic relationship between Great Britain and the colonies during the colonial period, including individuals who contributed significantly to the growth of the colonies (understanding these relationships enables students to comprehend the underlying reasons for the conflict that follow)
* **Celebrate Freedom Week**
* Address state and federal mandates for studying the Constitution, Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Independence.
* This unit provides a brief overview of the founding documents that led the United States as it became a free and independent nation.
* Students will explore the meaning and recite the Preamble to the Constitution
* Fact Fluency (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division problem solving)
* Estimate to determine solutions for all four operations within one and two step real-world contexts to help determine solutions
* Multiply three-digit by two-digit factors
* Divide four-digit dividends by two-digit divisors
* Use the standard algorithm for multiplication and division
* Use computational estimation strategies to determine the reasonableness of solutions
* Explore properties of prime and composite numbers
* Examine the meaning of grouping symbols within a numeric expression and simplify numerical expressions based on socially constructed conventions
* Represent and solve multi-step problems algebraically using an equation with a letter representing the unknown
* All operations within this unit are limited to whole numbers

The Preamble to the Constitution

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

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**School Supply List**

2 pkgs. - #2 pencils, 24 count (no recycled)

2 – erasable pens (blue or black)

1 pkg. – map pencils

3 pkgs. – notebook paper, white, wide ruled, 200 count

1 – pencil/supply bag (no box)

2 boxes – facial tissue

2 – plastic folders with pockets and brads (assorted colors)

3 – paper folders with pockets and brads

1 – pair of scissors, pointed (Fiskar preferred)

2 – glue sticks, large

1 – 4 pack of dry erase markers (multicolor)

1 pkg. – 3x5, 100 count, index cards

1 pkg. – manila paper (18x12, 50 count)

5 – composition notebooks

1 – spiral notebook

1 – clear plastic ruler, metric and standard 1

bottle - hand sanitizer (12 oz. or larger)

BOYS: 1 box – freezer Ziploc bags, gallon size

GIRLS: 1 pkg. – graph paper

**Teacher requested materials for special projects:**

* Desoto City Library Card
* 2 – Science Fair Tri-fold Display Board 36”x48”
* 1 – Poster boards 22”x28” (any color)
* 1 – Poster boards with ghost lines
* 1 – USB Flash Drive 4GB

**For home, please keep a supply of:**  
Notebook paper, ruler, pencils, scissors, markers, crayons, glue, construction paper