



Mrs. Miller
Eastwood Elementary School
2009-2010

Hello, and welcome to 5th Grade! I am really excited about all the things we have planned this year, and I am looking forward to working with your children. This should be a great year of growth for them. I would like to take this opportunity to answer some basic questions about what is ahead in the coming months at school.

What are the classroom rules?

Our classroom will be structured to establish a safe, respectful, and interesting learning environment:

1. Respect: We will respect all people and all things.
2. Responsibility: We will be responsible for our assignments and our choices.
3. Honesty: We will be truthful in all that we do.
4. Character: We will strive for great personal character.

When a student **follows the rules** the consequences include gaining personal pride in their performance, having the best opportunities for successful learning, earning good grades, and enjoying fun rewards. When a student **breaks the rules** the consequences include a note (pink slip) or phone call to parents and/or a student writing an action plan, serving detention, visiting the principal, and earning lowered grades.

What is the homework policy for 5th grade?

Homework is critical for your child's success, just as football practice is for the football player or piano practice for the pianist. Homework is due on the date as assigned, and it will be graded.

What is my child's responsibility for completing homework?

We spend the last few minutes of each class period writing the night's homework in student planners. I recommend that parents check their child's homework planner each evening. Your child is responsible to copy the assignments in their homework planner. Your child is responsible to complete each entire assignment, no blanks (giving the "best guess" when unsure), and turn it in when it is due. In math, students are required to show their work.

How can I support my child's homework efforts?

I recommend that you check your child's homework planner, especially early in the year as students develop important routines and establish personal work habits for success. It is important for you to provide encouragement and the time, tools, and setting (quiet, good lighting, etc.) for doing homework. You will also want to make sure that your child is organized and prepared for the next day of class before (s)he goes to bed at night.

TIP: Encourage your child to pack his/her book bag *before* going to bed! Bedtime should be reasonable for this developmental age (lights out around 9:00). Establish rules about choices and time watching TV and playing Video Games, and then enforce them. This is even more important in those households in which there are games and TV in the child's bedroom.

How will my child's other assignments be scored?

Some assignments will be graded in a percentage-based way, while others will be graded on a point system. I will mark incorrect answers, and in some cases write in the correct answer. Some projects will be graded according to a rubric that is set up for that assignment specifically.

How can I follow my child's progress?

You will be able to track your child's assignments and grades on the Parent & Students component of the district's electronic grading system progress book. <http://gb.granite.k12.ut.us/gb/> Please allow a few days for me to grade and post scores for each assignment. Normally grades are posted in a week, but some projects may take longer.

How can I find out what else is going on in class?

I keep lots of classroom, parent, and student resources on my website, as well as student work. <http://www.graniteschools.org/el/eastwood/miller/main2.htm>

Do I need to do something special for my child's class when it is his/her birthday?

No, you do not. If you are bringing in treats for your child's birthday, please let me know a day in advance. While there is not enough time to have a party, we can certainly find time to enjoy a snack and sing "Happy Birthday" during one of our lessons! All birthday treats must already be in individual servings, and complete with any plate, bowl, or silverware needed. Avoid anything that has peanuts or peanut butter that can trigger serious allergic reactions for some children. Keep the district nutrition policy in mind; the more nutritious, the better. Here are some ideas: fruits, veggies, string cheese, granola, raisins, etc.

How can I get in touch with you if needed?

I realize that it is not always possible to get together or talk during the school day. If anything comes up, I hope you will feel comfortable writing a note, or e-mailing me. I truly enjoy talking with my students' parents, and feel that through those conversations students make the most progress in a school year.

What are your contact numbers and addresses?

Phone – 385-646-4816

Email – lhmillier@graniteschools.org

If you have any questions or concerns at any time throughout the year, please let me know.

Sincerely,
Lyne Miller