

5th Grade September News

ELA (Reading, Writing, and Word Work)

We are so excited to begin a new school year with your children! We are departmentalizing this school year, and ELA instruction (Reading, Writing, Word Work) will be taught during a fluid morning and afternoon block.

HCPS uses the Lucy Calkins curriculum for Reading and Writing instruction. Students will have hands-on learning using novels, newspapers, novellas, short stories, graphic novels, and students will peruse online digital resources. Units typically last 6 weeks. Word Work is embedded into the writing and reading lessons, and focuses on semantics, sentence structure, and grammar. There are not going to be separate spelling lists/tests.

Reading

Unit: "Up the Ladder" Fiction

Established Goals: Readers will be able to independently use their learning to summarize, monitor for sense, envision, predict, and make deeper inferences.

Enduring Understandings

- As a reader, you are in charge of your own reading life.
- Readers engage in meaningful conversations around the stories they read.
- Readers bring stories to life through a focus on envisioning and prediction.
- Readers value their own reading habits, and study these habits to build strengths and set goals.

Essential Questions

- How can we build a strong reading community?
- How do readers develop a reading identity?
- How do readers bring characters to life?
- How can a reader's notebook help grow thinking about reading?

Writing:

Unit: Narrative Craft

Established Goals: Writers will be able to independently use their learning to structure a story of an important moment so that it reads like a story; develop characters, setting, and plot throughout the story, using a blend of description, action, dialogue, and thinking; and apply appropriate grade-level language conventions.

Enduring Understandings

- Writers know and draw on many strategies to generate ideas for narrative writing.
- Writers are decision makers.
- Narrative writers write stories that carry significance.
- Writers study mentor texts to learn and apply effective narrative elements in their writing.

Essential Questions

- What makes for a powerful story idea?
- How do writers make decisions about the work that needs to be done?
- How do narrative writers write in the point of view of their character?

- How can narrative writers craft their writing to communicate meaning and theme?

Science(Earth and Space)

We will kick off the year with a unit in science! Please be aware that we will alternate teaching entire units of science and social studies. We will begin with the Earth Space Science: Earth, Space, and Stars unit. The unit includes concepts focused on the Earth's place in the Universe. In this unit, the students will explore patterns of the Earth's **movement** and **placement** in the Universe as well as the effect that the Moon has on the Earth including the gravitational force that is exerted on Earth. Students will also discover our complex Solar System (the Earth and its planets, the Moon, the Sun and the stars) and how patterns of daily changes in length and direction of shadows, day and night, and the seasonal appearance of some stars in the night sky.

Math: Understand Place Value with Whole and Decimal Numbers

Welcome to 5th grade math! We begin our year expanding upon our knowledge of whole number and decimal place value. Exponents used to represent powers of 10 will be learned to help students understand the relationship between the different place values. Reading, writing in various forms, and comparing whole and decimal numbers will be taught. These skills are prerequisites for our next unit on adding and subtracting decimals.

Social Studies

Since we are alternating science and social studies units and are starting with our Earth and Space unit, we will not focus on social studies this month.