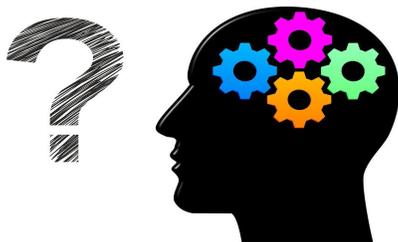


# *Fifth Grade Newsletter*

## *Hunter GT/AIG Magnet Elementary*

### *September 2019*

Welcome to fifth grade at Hunter GT/AIG Magnet Elementary! During the first week of school, we worked on **growth mindset**. These mini-lessons emphasized a positive outlook where students can achieve their goals through hard work and dedication. Growth mindset is based upon the work of renowned researcher, Dr. Carol Dweck. Students started with an overview of the brain and using the power of yet. For example, in a fixed mindset, a student may say, "I cannot solve this math word problem." However, with a growth mindset, the student's thinking shifts to "I have not solved this word problem YET. I need to change my strategy for approaching it." Students also worked with their cooperative teams with transforming fixed mindset statements to growth mindset statements. We also viewed video segments about mindset and resilience. Additionally, students discussed the effort checklist. We will be continuing to encourage the concept of a growth mindset throughout the school year, especially with situations that challenge the students' thinking. It is not "I don't have it." Instead, it is "I am working on it and I do not have it YET." Thank you for your support at home encouraging the use of growth mindset thinking and vocabulary.



#### **Schedule Information**

The school day begins at 9:15 am and concludes at 3:45 pm. Students attend two electives, which will be held Mondays through Thursdays. The first elective will be held from 1:30-2:10 and second elective will be held from 2:55-3:35.

Fifth grade classes have a special class with their homeroom from 9:20 am-10:00 am on Mondays and 1:30-2:10 on Fridays. Special classes rotate through the year and include music, dance, drama, art, technology, and physical education.

Lunch this year will be held from 12:30 pm-1:00 pm for Ms. Tucker and Ms. Worley. Lunch will be 12:35-1:05 for Ms. Wooten and Ms. McKay. Thirty minutes of recess will be held after lunch.

#### **Snacks**

Students are also allowed to bring a HEALTHY snack to eat during their basics class time.

#### **Technology**

Hunter is a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) school. From online vocabulary programs to the new DreamBox math program to Google Classroom, the integration of technology will be able to provide an enrichment to the learning experience for students. We are always excited about this BYOD opportunity.



## Upcoming Dates

- \* Friday, September 27: Radical Reader Assemblies
- \* Monday, September 30: Teacher workday
- \* Monday, October 01: 1st quarter interims will be sent home
- \* Tuesday, October 30: End of 1st quarter
- \* Wednesday, October 19: Teacher workday
- \* Thursday, October 17: Yearbook pictures (information will be sent home in early October Monday folders)

## Curriculum Updates

### Mathematics

The mathematics curriculum is based on the state of North Carolina standards. Prior to each unit, students will be taking a pre-assessment to determine prior knowledge on each content area. The results of these pre-assessments will help us determine math placement in order to **differentiate** instruction. In class, there will be several math groups operating at the same time. Each math group will have an engaging yet challenging task to complete for a grade. Tasks will include real life **connections** and the use of manipulatives (i.e. Cuisenaire rods, Angle Legs, fraction circles). Lessons will also include project-based learning where students develop projects to show mastery of a math standard. Math groups will alternate meeting with the teacher to ensure accuracy of understanding. Mrs. Dillon or Mrs.

Parham, AIG teachers, will also be working with students in the classroom to enhance instruction. During the first quarter, the fifth grade curriculum focuses on data and graphing, volume, using models to explore properties of multiplication and division, and using models to multiply and divide fractions. We will also be emphasizing math talk and problem solving skills. We are looking forward to an awesome first quarter in mathematics!

We are also excited to implement **Number Talks** in the classroom, which enable students to explore various strategies to solve mental math problems.



In Single Subject Acceleration 6+ mathematics (SSA), students will be working on Area and Surface Area. The unit study guide will come home Monday September 23 and the test will take place on Thursday, September 26. Our next unit is Introducing Ratios.

### Science



The science curriculum is based on the NC Essential Standards. We are working diligently on investigating weather systems. Students have been using various weather resources to record data and make

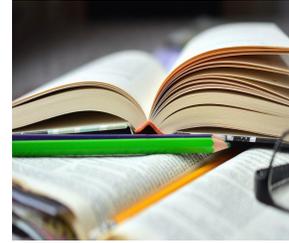
predictions about the upcoming weather conditions. Students are also studying seasons and why they occur. Next, we will further analyze weather data from various locations to explore the impact of altitude on weather conditions. Graphing will be integrated into this study. We will also explore convection using an amazing demonstration of air movement in the atmosphere. Investigating weather is a highly engaging unit in fifth grade!

### **EL**

All 5th grade students in Wake County will use the EL curriculum for language arts. During the first quarter, students will study the concept of human rights and will explore threats to human rights using the text, *Esperanza Rising*. The EL curriculum consists of two components: module lessons and ALL (Additional Language and Literacy). During the EL lesson, students will all read the same complex texts. During the ALL Block, students will be broken into differentiated reading groups. Mrs. Parham will help facilitate a book club during ALL block as well. The first books will be *Refugee* by Alan Gratz, *Stella by Starlight* by Sharon Draper, and *The Jacket* by Andrew Clements.

### **Social Studies**

In social studies, we will be working on learning our states and capitals. We will integrate music into this content area by playing various social studies songs to assist students in remembering all of their states and capitals. Students will also learn about the geography of the United States and how to read and use maps.



### **AIG Updates**

Nominations to be considered for AIG testing in October (fall testing window) are due by email to Angie Parham ([aparham@wcpss.net](mailto:aparham@wcpss.net)) by October 3, 2019. The School Based Committee for Gifted Education will review your child's data and decide appropriate next steps. Decisions will be sent by letter in the Monday Folder the week of October 7th. No need to nominate if your child is already identified. Nominations are for adding a second area or if your child does not have an AIG identification. Please remember students can only test once every 12 months.

### **Website of the Month**

Check out the following website for information about fostering a growth mindset with your scholar:  
<http://www.mindsetworks.com/webnav/parenttips.aspx>

The website contains informational videos specifically geared toward helping parents encourage a growth mindset with their children.

### **Effort Checklist**

Each week, students will complete an effort checklist in their math/science/social studies class. Students should be putting forth their best effort on assignments and this checklist is an excellent self-monitoring tool that is also checked by the teachers. Ask your child about his/her effort checklist each

week--sign the checklist (which is located in your child's planner).

### **Homework Policy**

Students will use their planners to write down the homework assignments. They should be working on assignments nightly.

### **WCPSS Parent Resource Link**

There is a great resource for parents about the Wake County Public School System. You can access it at <https://www.wcpss.net/parents>.

### **Fifth Grade Team**

Suanne McKay, [smckay@wcpss.net](mailto:smckay@wcpss.net) (ELA)

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