

Mr. Smith's

Third Grade Rockstars!

1.24.22

Here we go!!!

Testing week...

This is Winter STAR Testing Week. This means that your usual content-based LiveLessons are being replaced by testing sessions. Please note your scheduled testing day and time from your Calendar and don't be late! Good news is, your performance does *not* count against (or for) your grade! Easy peasy.

Students should be around 5% complete with semester courses and 53% complete with year-long courses. If you are new to our class for this second part of the year, your year-long course completion may look different. ***The most important thing to remember is that with hard work and dedication, YOU can and will succeed!***

Throughout this year, you will want to keep in close communication with me often. In fact, this is a requirement! I've found that if you utilize my booking page, you can schedule out ALL the required meetings right now and have that out of the way. Here are the ways:

- WebMail
- Phone: 208-370-3628 (text or call)
- [YouCanBook.Me](#)

Connecting with me for monthly check-ins are a required part of attending Connections Academy. Please do not fall behind on these or my unsolicited phone calls will begin. No one likes those!

These valuable check-ins have implications that are beyond the scope of grades and learning. It is equally important to me that we get to spend this time together to grow our relationships and empower students to feel like they are important and belong.

[Click here to schedule now.](#)

“The belonging you seek is not behind you; it is ahead.” – Maz Kanata (The Force Awakens)



Important: Upcoming Items

-The first LiveLesson of each course will offer a sneak-peak of what to expect

-Time to Talk Math will begin for us this Wednesday. Remember to aim for 10 by the end of the semester!

-STAR Winter Testing will be held by me January 24-27 and is mandatory for all to complete

-1st semester grades are Final now and Progress Reports have all been published to your Connexus pages

-2 new additions to your LiveLesson schedule this semester: Monday Story Time and Friday History Mystery! Those are optional and designed for fun and socialization

-Be sure to check out our [classroom website](#) to view past LiveLessons and resources if needed!

LiveLesson Schedule and Assessments

Note: Outside of our STAR Testing this week, Time to Talk and today's Story Time are the only LiveLessons offered.

Monday: Story Time: Maddi's Fridge 12pm PT / 1pm MT, STAR (A-I) 1pm PT / 2pm MT (Zoom)

Tuesday: STAR (J-R) 9:30am PT / 10:30am MT (Zoom)

Wednesday: Time to Talk 9am PT / 10am MT, STAR (S-Z) 9:30am PT / 10:30 am MT (Zoom), Time to Talk 12pm PT / 1pm MT, Time to Talk 2pm PT / 3pm MT

Thursday: Time to Talk 9am PT / 10am MT, STAR Makeup 9:30am PT / 10:30am MT (Zoom), Time to Talk 12pm PT / 1pm MT, STAR Makeup 1pm PT / 2pm MT (Zoom)

Friday: Mr. Smith Out of Office All Day

Important takeaways:

- Time to Talk begins THIS WEDNESDAY
- STAR Winter Testing all this week and is mandatory
- 1st semester grades are final and Progress Reports have been published to your page
- NOTE: if you have not taken the time to completely read page 3 of my weekly Newsletters, please do so now. It will help!



Secrets of Success

- **Complete your Orientations**—Students and Learning Coaches
- *The Best Kept Secrets* are in these presentations. Refer back to them often the first month of school...and any other time during the year. (You can find them in the Virtual Library or in Learning Coach Central.)
- **Set up your study area**—Make it a special place where you do only school work. If a separate space is not possible, arrange your schedule so the space is only used for school during specific times of the day.
- **Daily attendance**—Consistency is important in learning.
- **Begin the first day of school or the day you have access to lessons**—if you have enrolled later—begin even if you do not have all of the books and materials! You have copies of the books online through the links in your lessons. If you get behind, it is hard to catch up. All workbook pages are available as PDFs.
- **Do all your assignments in order.** Complete Portfolios before going on to the next Unit. Don't put off portfolios! Portfolios are intended to take multiple days with instructions for different parts given throughout a unit. Do each part as you are instructed to do so.
- **Decide how you are going to use your Student Planner.** Learning Coaches can enter family outings and appointments and other events that will affect your schooling—monthly calls and LiveLessons.
- **Be available for required monthly phone calls.** You can schedule a set time or you can use You Can Book Me to find the best time for you!
- **Attend scheduled LiveLessons.**
- **Mark the STATE TESTING Dates on your Family Calendar when made available.** ISAT testing will happen in the spring. You will receive more information on this later.
- **ASK QUESTIONS!** If you are new to INSPIRE—it takes a few weeks to get adjusted to this new way of learning. If you are a returning family, it will take some time to adjust to the new curriculum and get back into your school routine. If you have questions—ask. If I don't know the answer, I will find out who does.
- **Clear curriculum modifications with your teacher.** Some families may need to have the curriculum modified for various reasons. Please work with me so that your student continues to meet Idaho Standards while meeting his/her unique needs.
- **School Support/Tech Support—800-382-6010.** You can always call Connections Academy with questions—especially if they are computer or equipment related. I will direct you to these numbers if you are having issues with the materials CA sent.