

Mr. Smith's

Third Grade Rockstars!

11.15.21

How's it Going?

Are you on the right track?

Thank you all for making this teaching experience such an enjoyable one and for trusting me with your students. Online education is *not* an easy one to experience and it takes YOUR efforts to make this a success while I am there to support you in any way possible!

Students should be around 70% complete with semester courses and 35% complete with year-long courses. Even for those of you that joined late- this is where you need to aim your Lesson completion to be.

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](https://www.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!

As some of you are falling behind in your required monthly contacts, don't be surprised if you find a one-on-one LiveLesson placed on your Planner/ Calendar AND receive a WebMail from me alerting you of this scheduled meeting. You aren't in trouble, I just want to be sure that I get to spend this valuable time with your student!

**"What if today, we were just grateful for everything?"
– Charlie Brown**



Important: Math Time to Talk Info

We have now finished our first 10 weeks of Math Time to Talk sessions. As a reminder, all students are **required** to participate in 10 Time to Talk LiveLessons each semester in order to promote. So, if you take a look at your student gradebook under Math Time to Talk, you will see how many sessions you have credit for attending and participating in.

Are you short of the required 10? Relax, there are 7 available weeks after this week that students have to catch the missing LiveLessons for Time to Talk. It's important to remember that you get credit for **participation**. Attendance is only half the battle.

If you have credit for 10 Time to Talk LiveLesson sessions, you do NOT need to attend any more the remainder of the semester!

LiveLesson Schedule and Assessments

LiveLesson Schedule

I will be adding a new LiveLesson opportunity come 2nd semester called History Mystery. These will be short (30 minutes or less) and offer students something new and interesting to discuss each week and fascinate them through the weekend.

Monday: Open Office 1pm PT / 2pm MT

Tuesday: Language Arts: Explanatory Essay, cont. 9am PT / 10am MT, Math: Rounding/ Estimation 10:30am PT / 11:30am MT

Wednesday: Time to Talk 8am PT / 9am MT, Time to Talk 9:30am PT / 10:30am MT, Social Hour: Scattergories! 10:30am PT / 11:30am MT, Time to Talk 12pm PT / 1pm MT

Thursday: GT Language Arts: Body Paragraphs 9:30am PT / 10:30am MT, Science: Animal Adaptations 10:30am PT / 11:30am MT, Time to Talk 12pm PT / 1pm MT

Friday: Art: Thanksgiving Theme 10am PT / 11am MT

Important takeaways:

- The first 10 weeks of Time to Talk are in the bag. Do YOU have 10 yet???
- History Mystery coming 2nd semester
- *Many of you don't seem to be checking your WebMails regularly for important information from me. Please be sure you are checking these communications regularly!*



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.