

Mr. Smith's

Third Grade Rockstars!

12.06.21

How's it Going?

Are you on the right track?

Lesson completion, Lesson completion, Lesson completion. This is the focus for the remaining 4 weeks of first semester. If you have finished all 4 core classes (Math, Science, Social Studies, and Language Arts) and are happy with your final grades, you may request to have 2nd semester sections opened from me. It may take a full day or two to have those changes reflected on the student's scheduler, so please be patient with me!

Students should be around 85% complete with semester courses and 42% 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!

I have been experimenting with new monthly check-in procedures with all students. You did not notice, but I have been performing multiple Curriculum-Based Assessments (CBAs) with each one-on-one contact I have to ensure student-understanding of content. This has allowed me to capture several data points. Thank you for keeping up on your required monthly check-ins and for appearing to ones I schedule for you.

"I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." – Thomas A. Edison



Important: Focus for rest of semester

- If you have 10 Time to Talk sessions, you do not need to attend any more. It is your responsibility to ensure those 10 are met. There are 4 scheduled for this week and a bonus one for Friday to capture an additional one if needed.

-Participation in Time to Talk will be added to students' Gradebooks in their Math course under the heading of "Participation." It will be worth a total of 30 points. Each session a student has attended, they earn 3 points. If they have attended 10, they will get all 30 points. If they have attended only 5, they will be getting 15/30 and so on.

-If you have intervention for reading and/ or Math, you must be completing those.

-Mark your Calendars for Wednesday the 15th for a special Christmas Program hosted by yours truly for ALL Elementary students!

LiveLesson Schedule and Assessments

I will be adding 2 new LiveLesson social interaction opportunities 2nd semester for all students: Story Time and History Mystery. Both will be short (around 30 minutes each) and will be optional.

Monday: Open Office 1pm PT / 2pm MT

Tuesday: Language Arts: Supporting Ideas 9am PT / 10am MT, Math: Regrouping (Addition and Subtraction) 10:30am PT / 11:30am MT, Sources of Strength (Mrs. Ward LL room) 1pm PT / 2pm MT

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

Thursday: GT Language Arts: Spelling Strategies 9:30am PT / 10:30am MT, Science: Mammals 10:30am PT / 11:30am MT, Time to Talk 12pm PT / 1pm MT

Friday: Art: TBD 10am PT / 11am MT, Time to Talk 12pm PT / 1pm MT, Open Office 2pm PT / 3pm MT

Important takeaways:

- Added new Time to Talk session for Fridays to LL schedule. This can be used for a 2nd session in the week!
- Lesson Completion focus!
- Required monthly check-ins!
- Elementary Christmas Program Wednesday, December 15th... more to come!
- Finishing courses and happy with your grade and want to move on? Ask Mr. Smith what to do next!



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.