

# Mr. Smith's

## Third Grade Rockstars!

12.13.21

## How's it Going?

### *Are you on the right track?*

Lesson completion, Lesson completion, Lesson completion. This is the focus for the remaining 3 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 2<sup>nd</sup> semester sections opened from me.

**Students should be around 90% complete with semester courses and 45% 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](#)

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. I have been performing multiple Curriculum-Based Assessments (CBAs) with each one-on-one contact 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.*

**“Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself.” – George Bernard Shaw**



## Important: Focus for rest of semester

-LiveLessons are shifting towards the use of NearPod. Last week's trial was a success!

-All Time to Talk Participation grades are current as of 6am this morning. We are entering week 14.

-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.

-LiveLessons may alter slightly the remaining 2 weeks of 1<sup>st</sup> semester in January. Look out for that!

# LiveLesson Schedule and Assessments

Social Hour is being supplemented by our Elementary Holiday Sing-A-Long on Wednesday. This has already been added to all Planners.

**Monday:** NO OPEN OFFICE

**Tuesday:** Language Arts: Linking Words 9am PT / 10am MT, Math: Elapsed Time 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, Time to Talk 12pm PT / 1pm MT, Holiday Sing-A-Long 1pm PT / 2pm MT

**Thursday:** GT Language Arts: Review 9:30am PT / 10:30am MT, Social Studies: Declaration of Independence 10:30am PT / 11:30am MT, Time to Talk 12pm PT / 1pm MT

**Friday:** Time to Talk 12pm PT / 1pm MT

## Important takeaways:

- No Open Office this week
- Lesson Completion focus!
- Required monthly check-ins!
- [Elementary Christmas Program Wednesday](#)
- 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
  - o *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.