

Mr. Smith's

Third Grade Rockstars!

8.30.21

How's it Going?

Are you on the right track?

After your first week of school, students should be around 6% complete with semester courses and 3% complete with year-long courses. I will give you a completion update/ reminder with each Newsletter to help you along and plan your weeks. This will serve even more beneficial for those of you that are on the go quite a bit and/ or take some additional vacations.

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
- [YouCanBook.Me](#)

Our classroom Weebly website is a new addition for you this year. To get directly to our third grade page, [just click here](#). This page will grow/ develop over the year. The concept of this classroom Weebly page is to provide a one-stop-shop for resources, assignments, rubrics, LiveLesson recordings, etc. This is all designed to ensure success! I even have a tab with archived Newsletters AND I include our Social Hour and Art LiveLesson recordings!

My apologies once again for the few families that experienced a hiccup in their scheduling last week. If you were one of those families and you'd like me to rerun your Scheduler at the start or end of your day to clean up any "overdue" lessons, just ask!

"Don't let what you can't do stop you from doing what you can do." – John Wooden



Renaissance Testing

Important:

All students are assigned Renaissance pre-tests to start the year. Through the Renaissance website, students will take benchmark tests (Star Math and Reading, or Star Early Literacy) over the coming weeks. These tests are used to help teachers prepare instruction for the school year. Students do not receive grades on these tests. In addition to benchmark tests administered next month, students will also take tests in January and at the end of the school year. Completion of these tests is required.

We will begin testing in earnest in mid-September. Please be on the lookout for a webmail with details regarding the testing schedule. Yesterday, I skipped the first Renaissance lesson for all students because I can provide better information about the test via webmail. **If the Renaissance pre-test lesson is still appearing on your to-do list or planner, you may mark it complete.**

LiveLesson Schedule and Assessments

Slow- Rollout for Year

Last week, students saw their first Social Hour and Art LiveLessons. This week introduces the first content-driven LiveLessons. Math Time to Talks don't start for our 3rd grade students until the following week. More on that in next week's Newsletter. Here is the week's LL schedule:

Monday: Open Office 1pm PT / 2pm MT

Tuesday: Language Arts: Realistic Fiction 9am PT / 10am MT

Math: Place Value 10:30am PT / 11:30am MT

Wednesday: Social Hour: Paper Airplanes!
10:30am PT / 11:30am MT (paper)

Thursday: GT LA: The Banza Project 9:30am PT / 10:30am MT

Social Studies: Dream Community 10:30am PT / 11:30am MT

Friday: Art: Geometric Abstract Art 10am PT / 11am MT (paper, crayons, straight edge)

Open Office: 2pm PT / 3pm MT

IRI Testing is the following week! I will be assigning/ placing students into their testing group and putting this on their calendars within the next day or two. I will be proctoring these in my LL room and will follow this general schedule:

Last name A-D Tuesday 7th 9am PT / 10am MT

Last name F-K Wednesday 8th 9am PT / 10am MT

Last name L-R Thursday 9th 9am PT / 10am MT

Last name S-Z Friday 10th 8am PT / 9am MT

You may want to begin planning for a bit of a face-to-face meet and greet opportunity for our North Idaho families coming up on Friday the 10th at 11am Pacific Time in Post Falls. More information on that soon, but that means I will have a chance to meet YOU... in person! We will have games/ icebreakers/ snacks and other fun items as we continue building our classroom community. If you do not live in North Idaho, news for a special event in your area should come to you soon!



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.