

# Mr. Smith's

## Third Grade Rockstars!

9.13.21

## How's it Going?

*Are you on the right track?*

After your third week of school, students should be around 16% complete with semester courses and 8% 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 (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!

***New students and those that missed your scheduled IRI testing day and time have a final opportunity to make this short reading test TODAY in my Zoom room at 1pm PT / 2pm MT. This testing time and room address have already been added to your Calendars. If you do not see it on your Calendar, then you do NOT need further testing!***

***\*Make sure Istation is downloaded on your device, web cams must be used, and have the student ID number ready!***

**“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” – Nelson Mandela**



## 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 September 21st. Please be on the lookout for a webmail with details regarding the testing schedule. **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

## *LiveLesson Schedule Back!*

Thank you all for your patience dealing with IRI Testing disrupting our LiveLesson schedule. Good news, we are baaaaaack! Here how the week looks:

**Monday:** IRI Makeup Testing 1pm PT / 2pm MT, NO OPEN OFFICE

**Tuesday:** Language Arts: Text Evidence 9am PT / 10am MT, Math: Story Problems 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: Show and Tell! 10:30am PT / 11:30am MT, Time to Talk 12pm PT / 1pm MT

**Thursday:** Time to Talk 8am PT / 9am MT, Social Studies: Physical Features 10:30am PT / 11:30am MT, Time to Talk 12pm PT / 1pm MT

**Friday:** Art: Paper Balloons 10am PT / 11am MT (square piece of paper-the thinner, the better!), colors to decorate, Open Office: 2pm PT / 3pm MT

Important takeaways:

- I have added a Math Time to Talk session for Thursday mornings. Many of you did NOT attend one in our first week (IRI made this challenging), so be sure to attend THIS week... it is the only required LiveLesson
- Remember to schedule a contact with me for the month! Our first one NEEDS to be in my LiveLesson room for activities
- STAR Testing begins September 21<sup>st</sup>. I will be placing these on schedules just as I did for IRI Testing. Now that we have that first week of testing out of the way, getting underway should be much easier/ smoother so our students can get to work without interruptions or distractions



## 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.