

# Mr. Smith's

Third Grade Rockstars!

9.20.21

## How's it Going?

*Are you on the right track?*

After your fourth week of school, students should be around **22% complete with semester courses and 11% complete with year-long courses**. If you were enrolled after the first day of school or find yourself falling behind in Lesson completion, please use these numbers as a guideline to help you stay on the right track!

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!*

The focus of this week is all about STAR Testing! You have all already been assigned a testing day and time and it has been placed on your Calendars. Remember, [this is in my Zoom room!!](#) Schedule:

**Monday, September 20 at 1pm PT / 2pm MT (Last names A-D)**  
**Tuesday, September 21 at 9am PT / 10am MT (Last Names E-K)**  
**Wed, September 22 at 9am PT / 10am MT (Last Names L-R)**  
**Thur, September 22 at 9:30am PT / 10:30am MT (Last Names S-Z)**

\*Webcams are required and have 7-digit student ID number ready!

**“Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow.” – Anthony J. D’Angelo**



## Mandatory State Testing

*Important:*

If you have been recently added to our classroom, you have been assigned your IRI testing already and have received a WebMail informing you of this. Please be sure to complete this.

For STAR Testing, students will be completing **both** the ELA and Math portions. Each test takes roughly 20-30 minutes to complete although some students may finish sooner or later.

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. Students will also take tests in January and at the end of the school year. Completion of these tests is required. **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

## *STAR Testing Week!!!*

With STAR Testing this week being the primary focus, our LiveLesson schedule will look a bit different with some classes not occurring at all. Here is the LiveLesson schedule for the week:

**Monday:** no Open Office

**Tuesday:** Math: Distributive Property 10:30am PT / 11:30am MT

**Wednesday:** Time to Talk 8am PT / 9am MT, Social Hour: Day of Calm/ Relaxation 10:30am PT / 11:30am MT, Time to Talk 12pm PT / 1pm MT

**Thursday:** Time to Talk 12pm PT / 1pm MT, IRI Makeup Testing 1pm PT / 2pm MT

**Friday:** Art: Free Draw and Showcase 10am PT / 11am MT (draw whatever you'd like and share)

Open Office: 2pm PT / 3pm MT

Important takeaways:

- STAR Testing is the focus!! Zoom Room!!
- This week, there are **NO** Language Arts, GT Language Arts, or Science LiveLessons
- Remember to schedule a contact with me for the month! Our first one **NEEDS** to be in my LiveLesson room for activities
- With only 3 Time to Talk sessions available this week, it is critical that you attend one- especially if you have yet to attend one. You *must* attend *and* participate in 10 each semester to pass this course



## 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.