

Mr. Smith's

Third Grade Rockstars!

9.27.21

How's it Going?

Are you on the right track?

Can you believe we are already a quarter of the way through 1st semester?! Time sure flies when you are having fun! I feel like the luckiest teacher at this school to work with such great students and families. Thank you for making this an enjoyable adventure already!

Students should be around 28% complete with semester courses and 13% complete with year-long courses. Use this as a guideline for keeping on pace with successful completion- especially if you joined our class after the first official day of school.

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!

Is your student struggling with Lesson completion? Has it become a challenge to get them motivated? Then please ask ME to step in and HELP! Another advantage of booking time with me is that I can provide additional learning opportunities and support to aid in student success! Please, please take advantage of this and reach out to me NOW... don't let your student fall between the cracks!

**"Change is the end result of all true learning."
-Leo Buscaglia**



Renaissance Testing

Important:

New students and those that missed your scheduled IRI and/or STAR testing day need to make these up still. If you are not already scheduled for testing with an interventionist, please contact me to set this up.

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.**

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 STAR Testing disrupting our LiveLesson schedule. Good news, we are baaaaaack! Here how the week looks:

Monday: NO OPEN OFFICE

Tuesday: Language Arts: The Fox and Little Red Hen 9am PT / 10am MT, Math: Using Known Facts to Solve Unknown Facts 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: Sell Me This Pen! 10:30am PT / 11:30am MT, Time to Talk 12pm PT / 1pm MT

Thursday: Time to Talk 8am PT / 9am MT, Science: Magnets 10:30am PT / 11:30am MT, Time to Talk 12pm PT / 1pm MT

Friday: Art: Paper Pumpkins 10am PT / 11am MT (colored paper, scissors, glue), Open Office: 2pm PT / 3pm MT

Important takeaways:

- IRI and/ or STAR testing needs to be completed for some- set this up with me!
- Remember to schedule a contact with me for the month! Our first one NEEDS to be in my LiveLesson room for activities
- Students are required to attend and *participate* in 10 Time to Talk LLs each semester to pass. Some of you have yet to attend one. Please make this a priority when planning your week- I have 5 sessions between Wednesday and Thursday to choose from.
- Get those monthly check-ins scheduled!



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.