

Mr. Smith's

Third Grade Rockstars!

9.7.21

How's it Going?

Are you on the right track?

After your second week of school, students should be around **11.6% complete with semester courses and 5.6% 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](https://www.youcanbook.me)

The focus of this week is all about IRI Testing! You have all already been assigned a testing day and time and it has been on your schedule for at least a week already to prepare you for this. Remember, [this is in my Zoom room](#)!! Here is the schedule:

Tuesday, September 7 at 9am PT/ 10am MT (Last Names A-D)
Wednesday, September 8 at 9am PT/ 10am MT (Last Names E-K)
Thursday, September 9 at 9am PT/ 10am MT (Last Names L-R)
Friday, September 10 at 8am PT/ 9am MT (Last Names S-Z)

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

“Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere.” – Chinese proverb



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

IRI Testing Week!!!

With IRI 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: Labor Day (no school)

Tuesday: Math: Factor Patterns 10:30am PT / 11:30am MT

Wednesday: Time to Talk 8am PT / 9am MT, Social Hour: Legos and Block Build-Off! 10:30am PT / 11:30am MT, Time to Talk 12pm PT / 1pm MT

Thursday: Science: Forces and Motion Wrap-Up 10:30am PT / 11:30am MT, Time to Talk 12pm PT / 1pm MT

Friday: Art: Line Cityscapes 10am PT / 11am MT (paper, pencil, crayons, straight edge)
Open Office: 2pm PT / 3pm MT

Important takeaways:

- IRI Testing is the focus!! Zoom Room!!
- This week, there are NO Language Arts or GT Language Arts LiveLessons
- Math Time to Talk Begins (required)
- Remember to schedule a contact with me for the month! Our first one NEEDS to be in my LiveLesson room for activities
- [Friday afternoon 12pm PT / 1pm MT Zoom field trip](#) for north Idaho families (or whoever else wants to join!)



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.