

Staci Rodriguez
Room 210 - 5th grade
Highland Park Elementary
2019-20

Grade Level/Class Description

Your child is now in the 5th grade -- Welcome! My name is Staci Rodriguez and this is my 28th year of being an educator. You can find out more about my classroom and myself by going to my website. Please bookmark it too because you will find you will need it often this year. It is <https://mrsr210.weebly.com/>

You will find links to spelling, math, reading etc. on this site. It will also be a place for a general link for signups.

It will be an exciting year, filled with new challenges; we have an interesting curriculum. In **math**, we will be continuing all that your child was taught in 4th grade and taking it one step further. **It is critical that your child knows his/her multiplication tables and basic math facts. I will NOT be teaching these but rather expect the students to come to class knowing these facts because everything we do this year builds on these facts.** In **language arts**, your child will be increasing his/her reading comprehension, fluency, vocabulary, and writing skills. We will explore the concepts of landforms, magnetism and electricity, matter, and heredity in **science**. U.S. History is the topic for **social studies**. It is a fun and exciting curriculum in the 5th grade. We have a busy year planned!

Goals:

I have many goals but here are four in a quick nutshell:

1. Help students to improve their ability to read and write (and type) fluently.
2. Help students to improve their skills in mathematics.
3. Help students to become responsible and independent learners.
4. Help students to think critically and become problem solvers both socially and academically.

Grade-Level Goals and Objectives

Utah has developed a Core Curriculum in alignment with the Common Core which outlines standards of learning that are essential for all students at each elementary grade level. The curriculum includes ideas, concepts, and skills to provide a foundation on which subsequent learning may be built. The curriculum for each grade level can be accessed on the Utah State Office of Education's website at: <http://www.uen.org/core/>

Instructional Materials

Our main texts for math come from Eureka Math Common Core math series. Although it does not include a lot of parent "help" or instruction. You can login to <https://greatminds.org> and find many resources to help you understand what is being taught in the classroom. Create a free account and enter your Access code: **HWH14WB** in the product key space. Once there you can find: Road Maps, homework tips, and other resources. You can also find HW workbooks online on my website to print out.

Our reading basal is Wonders series from McGraw-Hill. Students have weekly stories and words. We will be writing many essays as well. *(We will test every other week in vocabulary, comprehension & spelling)*

We will use the McGraw Hill United States social studies series with ISBN#0-02-149137-2.

Students will be given a soft covered science book that is specific to our curriculum. You can also find it online. <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/154zrLB31M7Fve6zvSR6tqT7bCJ96BY50>. We also do MANY hands-on experiments and lots of updated readings. *I will be asking for donations throughout the year for some science projects.*

We will be using the Internet, the LCD projector, a SMART board, DVD's, CD's, laptops, and many forms of technology in the classroom. We will be using websites like Newsela, Mystery Science and projects using Nearpod and Sway.

Each student will have the privilege of using the school's desks, books, and notebook computers. These things belong to the school and each student is expected to take care of them. Please also ensure that each week library books are returned to the school library.

Instructional Practices

I will use various styles of teaching with your child. I lecture whole class, teach in small groups, use paired teaching, and cooperative learning in groups. We will engage in discussion, writing activities, presentations, and any other style of teaching that is appropriate.

Course Requirements (Assignments, Attendance, Tardies, Discipline, Etc.)

Homework:

Homework is intended to help students and to reinforce what they learned during the day. Students will have homework every day, and it will be due the following day at 8:25 a.m. It is imperative that students don't fall behind with their homework. Now is the time to develop good study habits. All homework is due the following day unless indicated. If a child has an excused absence, they will have two days for every day absent to complete the assignments.

Your child needs to write his/her assignments in a planner each day. Please check this planner so that you are aware of their assignments. I will NOT be publishing what is assigned each day. If your student has trouble with remembering what homework is, here's an IDEA: have your student get 1 or 2 phone numbers of classmates as a backup to check what is due the following day.

Each night your child will be expected to read a minimum of 20- 30 minutes. Sometimes he/she will be assigned an article from a website called NEWSLA. We have found this to increase reading scores a great deal. I assign 2 articles per week, and they are mainly done in class. However, students sometimes do not finish them or would like to redo for higher scores. This is completely fine, providing they are not missing multiple assignments.

In 5th grade, every student must write a persuasive, narrative, and informative essay using quotes and comparing texts in the essay. For students to perform well on this assessment, they need a lot of practice both typing and writing. There will be a lot of writing in the 5th grade.

Each night your child will have math homework. This is the third year of our math program so students should be used to bringing home the soft book and returning it for review the following day. We will circle problems in class. Only circled problems will be reviewed.

Your child is expected to write down homework in his/her planner nightly. Please review and sign after COMPLETION of homework. This will help your 5th grader with being organized and responsible. It will be prep check in the morning if planner is filled out according to my “planner” and signed by a parent.

Your child will be expected to study his/her spelling words a few times per week.. Fridays will be the days we test in reading and spelling (usually bimonthly depending on the writing we are doing). Spelling City is a great way to study spelling words. Please refer to my website for links etc.

You may also login to PowerSchool at any time using your student’s school computer login to view assignments. I keep this updated regularly and it should be open for access in September. I will also periodically send home grade sheets with scores for you to look over. If I feel there is an issue of your student getting way behind, I will contact you.

Parents, please look closely at the papers that I send home. As parents, you need to ensure that your child is being responsible. Please don’t take this lightly. Your child needs your help. Please ask him/her about homework and help him/her return it the following day. Please keep corrected papers in an envelope or in a “box under the bed” each trimester so that if I make a mistake your child can show me the corrected paper. I will help them on the school end, but we must be a team to help your child achieve successful organizational skills this year.

Any assignment that is not turned in will lower your child’s final grade. Children can also redo any assignment for a better score/grade within a two-week time period if all other missing assignments are completed first.

Grading Procedures

3 Exceptional Performance

(Student performs consistently at or above grade level standards)

2 At Standard

(Student achieves grade level standards with minimum support)

1 Approaching Standard

(Student demonstrates increasing knowledge of grade level standards with additional support)

P Progressing

(Student is below grade level standards but progressing at an acceptable rate)

N Need For Improvement

(Student is performing below grade level standards, potential, or expectations)

NA (Not Applicable)

As a school we follow a discipline program called PBIS.- Positive Behavior Intervention System. In the first few weeks of class, I will set up a Class Constitution that will enable students to add to my basic rules listed below. As a community, we will establish rewards and consequences. I use a daily chart where students move up or down – kind of like *Chutes and Ladders* -- based on behavior and class participation. Each day starts anew. We have frequent class meetings where we work on problem solving issues that our community comes across. The students will run these sessions.

Classroom rules: 3 R's of Rodriguez (This directly relates to our school's rules to Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Ready, Be a Good Friend)

1. Be Respectful
2. Be Ready
3. Be Resourceful

As a fifth grade we do a social skills program where we discuss problems as a community. I also teach social skills in coordination with the guidance counselor. Please ask your student what we are working on each week.

Consequences:

1. Warning.
2. Time out for 5 minutes at the back of the room.
3. Time out in another classroom, in another seat, or a recess for 10 minutes.
4. Time out for up to 20 minutes.
4. Call/email home to parents.
5. Loss of privileges (any of the following: field trips, PE, parties, activities, parties, art time, eating with friends, or recesses etc.)
6. Meeting with principal, vice-principal, or other office administration.

*Severe clause

Any action that disrupts the learning in the classroom will result in a visit to the principal's office, and the administrators may deal with the students, as they feel appropriate.

Physical Education Class:

Each week your child will participate in a PE class. Your child should come dressed appropriately to participate. Girls, please do not come in short skirts or dresses that will prevent you from participating. It would be a good idea to come to school in appropriate shoes---NO FLIP FLOPS.

Things that parents can do to help:

1. Volunteer in the classroom. – esp. for Hands on Science classes! (Refer to the sign up emails I send out)
2. Read all notes sent home by the school or by the teacher and check my emails that are sent out.
3. Provide a positive learning environment and study time at home.
4. Attend parent-teacher conferences.
5. Understand and support school and classroom rules.
6. Assure that your child is in school, and on time, every day.
7. Plan vacations during school breaks.
8. Ensure that your child reads every night.
9. Review math with your child every night.

Technology

We live in a world where technology is at our disposal. This year we will learn to use technology as a tool to improve our educational experience.

Please also bookmark my website and read my emails to keep yourself in the loop. We move quickly in room 210!

We also have a class Instagram account called **HP_Room_210**. You can follow that too to see what is happening.

Other important things:

If your child is too sick to go outside for recess, they are too sick to come to school. If you email me I am happy to place work up front for you to come get. Give me until lunch and it should be up there. **All students will go outside for recess** because there is nobody in the classroom to supervise them. Your child should come to school with a coat, gloves, and boots during the cold months. The only way that your child will be permitted to stay inside the school during recess is if there is a medical requirement that they must follow or if he/she is getting extra homework help.

One way to ensure that your child will be healthy is by eating well. I allow students to eat a **healthy** snack during class if they choose to do so however their snack may not be chips, cookies, nor candies. I also encourage them to bring a water bottle to leave on their desk. Keep in mind that they are to use the bathroom during recess and not during instructional hours.

The school is not the place to bring personal toys. If your child brings toys or candy to school, I will take them (it) away and will not give it back until the parent comes in to get it and assure me that it will not be brought back to school. Please leave all personal items at home. I understand that some children have a cell phone. Although it is against district policy to have one in the classroom, as long as I never see it or hear it, I'll never know your child has it.

Backpacks and jackets must be kept in the lockers. It presents a safety hazard to have them in the classroom. *Please do not purchase backpacks that do not fit in the locker.* I will not allow them to be in the room. The backpacks with wheels do not fit in the lockers and should be kept at home.

When your child is absent, you must either call the school or send a note to let the office know why he/she is not at school to verify it as an excused absence. 801-481-4833 ext. 210

Please keep your phone number and address updated in the office and with me. In case of emergency, it is important that I can contact you.

Fieldtrips:

I like for the children to have many opportunities to visit a learning site. These visits cost money, and my budget is limited. I will ask for donations to assist with the cost of fieldtrips and activities. You are **never** obligated to donate, and your child will never be excluded if they don't pay. I am always looking for parent volunteers to assist with these fieldtrips. If you are interested, please let me know when I send out a request.

One more thing . . .

All of us are humans, and we all make mistakes. If you have a concern about something that is happening in the classroom or with something that I have done, please contact me before or after school. You can call me at 801-481-4833 ext. 210 or email me at staci.rodriguez@slcschools.org. Remember that during the day I am busy teaching the children, so the best way to reach me is to call me before school or send an email. It is always better to talk about any concern and resolve it before it grows into a problem. I will check my email M-F when I am at school. I don't always check my emails at night because I have my own two kids and am usually spending the evening with their studies, etc. so please don't rely on my evening/weekend responses.

Please read all this information before signing and returning the last page to me. Thank you for your support and for the opportunity to teach your child this year. It is going to be GREAT!

Sincerely,

Mrs. R

Mrs. Staci Rodriguez



Open Disclosure Document - 5th grade Mrs. Rodriguez
2019-20

Student's name: _____

I have read and understand the open disclosure document.

_____ Yes, I give permission for my child to participate in field trips and activities.

_____ No, I do not give permission for my child to participate in field trips and activities.

I have read the goals and rules of the classroom, and I agree to follow them. I promise to do my homework every night and turn in my assignments every day.

Student's signature: _____

Parent's signature: _____

Return only this cut out to Mrs. Rodriguez