



HAMPSTEAD HILL ACADEMY

Fifth Grade Language & Science – 2020 - 2021

Teacher: Hayley Ruppenthal

Grade Level: 5th

Subject: Language/Science

Contact Information: hrippenthal@hha47.org, Bloomz App

Welcome!

Welcome to 5th grade at Hampstead Hill Academy! An exciting year is ahead of us as we work together to make learning a positive experience for your child. Your involvement and consistent monitoring of progress is a must in the success of your child and I encourage you to take an active role in his/her education and behavior. Your child should find school to be an exciting place for building a lifelong love of learning. They should be checking their email and Google Classroom daily. I look forward to getting to know you and your child throughout this school year. Together, we will make this time a successful step for your child. Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions, concerns, and comments. The following pages contain helpful information about my classroom.

Introducing Myself

I will be your child's 5th grade language and science teacher! This will be my second year at Hampstead Hill Academy and my eighth year teaching in Baltimore City Schools. I moved to Baltimore in 2010, when I began pursuing my Bachelor's degree at Towson University. In 2019, I earned my Masters' degree from Johns Hopkins University in Supervision and Administration. In my free time, I enjoy traveling, spending time with family and friends, baking, and creating things with my Cricut.



Language

The goal of fifth grade language is for students to develop the skills necessary to write coherent, focused, and text-based essays in English Language Arts. This will be done by following the SLA Reading Mastery Language Edition curriculum. Students will start learning about topics such as subject-verb agreement, punctuation, and elements of a sentence. Students will learn different styles of writing, including descriptive essays, narrative (story) essays, letter writing, and persuasive or argumentative writing.

During virtual learning, language will look different than it typically does. Since the language program reteaches skills students continue to learn in Reading, students will only receive reading instruction for the first 10 minutes of every class. This time will be used to teach, reteach, and assess skills that should be mastered at the conclusion of fifth grade.

Language Supplies

1 notebook

Science

During quarters 1–3, students will discover scientific concepts through two programs; Full Option Science System (FOSS) Next Generation curriculum and Activate Science. In class, students will read articles about the topics (using NEWSOLA), conduct experiments, and hold discussions to investigate the world around us and scientific patterns of the world. The acquisition and use of scientific vocabulary is going to be imperative to students' success. Students will keep a science journal (using a composition book). In Quarter 1, we will be studying Living Systems, which focuses on the interaction of the different systems of the earth—hydrosphere, geosphere, biosphere, atmosphere. It then narrows focus onto the biosphere and different ecosystems.

In Quarter 2, we will be studying the Earth and Sun. This module asks students to grapple with the question of how do the systems of earth create a sustainable environment for life? In Quarter 3, we will be entering a module on Mixtures and Solutions. This module focuses on how substances go together and react with each other. These three quarters are structured to prepare the fifth-grade students for MISA—the Maryland Integrated Science Assessment. More information about the MISA will be provided as we get closer to the assessment in March (still to be determined).

Science Supplies

1 composition notebook (journal)

Quarter Grade Breakdown

Each Quarter's grade is broken down as:

- 60% Classwork./Exit tickets
- 30% Assessments
- 10% Participation

Student Behavior and Expectations:

All students are expected to follow Hampstead Hill Academy's school-wide expectations, which state that students are to be respectful, responsible, safe, caring, and friendly. Online expectations include the following:

1. *Be prepared* - Join the Zoom meeting on time with the materials you need. Complete assignments by 7:45am each morning.
2. *Be respectful* - Listen to the speaker. Be respectful of everyone on the Zoom meeting.
3. *Be appropriate* - Come dressed appropriately. Raise your hand for permission to speak. Share questions and relevant ideas. Don't type or share silly comments.
4. *Be a learner* - Participate by listening to your teacher and classmates. Share your ideas. Try your best!

Be in control - Work in an environment where you can focus. Make sure you are in control of your body on video and do not distract others.

Newsletter – Please visit <https://hha47.org> to view the monthly HHA Parent News Magazine.

Homework – Students will not receive “homework” during virtual learning. However, there will be occasions when assignments cannot be completed during the allotted class time during zoom. It will be the expectation that this work is completed and submitted by 7:45 AM, the next morning.

Make-Up Work – Missing work will be accessible on google classroom. Students will be given an equal amount of time to finish missing work (if the student missed one day, they will have one day to complete work) **if the student has provided an excusable reason for missing class from as parent or guardian.**

Coach Class – Ms. Ruppenthal will be available for Coach Class every day from 1:15 – 2:05. This time may include

- Online Zoom session open to any student with questions.
- Targeted small group sessions with those required to attend

**This will be specified each week

5th Grade Distance Learning Student Schedule	
9:00-9:30	Homeroom
9:30-10:30	Core 1
10:30-11:30	Core 2
11:30-12:15	Lunch Break
12:15-1:15	Core 3
1:15-2:05	Independent Work Time Teacher Office Hours
2:10-2:50	Resource

Progress Reports

Your child will receive a progress report each quarter (mid quarter) to keep you informed of his/her grades. The first progress report will not be issued until the middle of first quarter.

Please continue to check your child's google classroom and infinite campus for updates to their grade.

- Infinite Campus: <https://baltimore.infinitecampus.org/campus/portal/bcps.jsp>

Ongoing Communication

- **Grade Level Website:**

Contact Information:

If you ever need to get in contact with me throughout the year there are numerous ways for you to do so. You can expect a response within 24 hours, Monday-Friday or first thing, Monday morning. You can:

- Email me at: hruppenthal@hha47.org
- Send a message using BLOOMZ

** It should be noted that **all school communication** is moving to the app Bloomz. This is a transition from the way communication has traditionally occurred. During transition, I will be available through email, but as a school we are moving to solely communicating on Bloomz.

Good communication between parents and teachers is key to a successful year. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your support. I know this will be a great year for all of us!