



Mountain Oak School

Fifth Grade 2014-2015

Dear Fifth Grade Parents,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you and your child to the Fifth Grade class at Mountain Oak School.

Fifth grade is a golden year for many children who reach a new point of balance in their development. It is the “heart of childhood” a time which many children can develop special skills and knowledge in areas of interest, face new challenges and open themselves up to the tremendous diversity and richness to be found in the multitude of world cultures. The curriculum in a Waldorf-inspired Fifth Grade reflects this wonderful time in the child’s development. Units of study include an exciting look into the history of some of the “seed cultures” of our modern civilization, including the ancient cultures of India, Persia, Mesopotamia, Egypt and Greece. The culminating experience in this broad historical survey will be participation in the regional Pentathalon, held in Flagstaff, at which fifth graders will meet and compete with students from Waldorf schools throughout Arizona in traditional tests of skill and prowess from Ancient Greece.

We will also survey and study the geography of our very unique nation, the United States, with its majestic continental sweep of broad regional diversity. Scientific studies will feature the world of plants as the sustainer of life on a planetary level. Woven throughout these studies will be music, movement, poetry and literature, as well as instruction that targets the mastery of 5th Grade Core Curriculum Standards.

School begins this year a little earlier than has been customary for Mountain Oak, on August 12. A good way to begin refocusing your child’s energy from the broad expansiveness of Summer Vacation toward the more inward energy of school and study is the round of back-to-school shopping, which includes perhaps new clothes and shoes for the new school year as well as some supplies. Attached with this letter is a supply list. As you can see, the focus of these materials is keeping student’s work organized. We will be doing a lot of writing this year. Besides daily journal writing, the students will be drafting summaries, narratives, and creative writing compositions, then editing, revising and proofreading their work. Much of this work, including math and main lesson work, will need to be homework, as the scope of this year’s curriculum is very broad and the students will need to do more work than often will be possible during class time. Organization is so important in setting your child up for success, and for avoiding work in progress being lost between school and home.

Communication and teamwork between home and school is also a key to student success. To this end, I have scheduled our first parent meeting for Wednesday, August 20 at 6:30 PM. Please mark the date on your calendar and plan to be there!

In the meantime, have a wonderful summer. I am looking forward to seeing both new and old friends for an exciting Fifth Grade year in August.

Sincerely,

John Marcus, 5th Grade Teacher

Mountain Oak 5th Grade Supply List

2014-2015

- Pencil sharpener with holes for big and small pencils, with container for shavings
- 2 Erasers
- pencil case
- 2 two-pocket folders, preferably plastic—this will be for bringing homework to and from school
- 2" three ring binder—this will be for class notes and for writing drafts.
- 1 marbled cover journal
- 2 packages of 3-hole punched lined paper (one for home, one for school)
- 2 packages of 3-hole punched plain paper (one for home, one for school)
- One package of dividers
- 2 packs of 3"x5" white, lined, index cards (one for home and one for school)
- Water bottle
- Hat
- Sunscreen if needed
- 6" student protractor
- 12" ruler