

# WELCOME, GRAY WOLVES!

Dear 5th Grader and Family,

You have made it to the oldest grade at Lower Campus! You are joining the fifth-grade team with me and our new fifth-grade teacher, Danielle Yzaguirre. We are both excited to have you in our classes this school year. We have lots of incredible things planned to make this school year exciting and memorable.

So, welcome to an incredible year! I am looking forward to meeting and getting to know you further. Now that school is only a week away, you will need to know about a few things that will help you be prepared for the school year and for Distance Learning.

## **1. Read a Book**

Reading is the magic doorway into other worlds. I hope you have found that doorway and have been exploring those other worlds all summer. When school begins, students will need a book to independently read each school day. If you need a book, please let me know. I have a classroom library with books available to be checked out.

## **2. Make Art and Music**

Bring your love for being creative and expressive to the 5th Grade! During the school year, you will have music and art classes, even during Distance Learning. Art will be all around us, in our History, Science, Writing, and even Math. Remember, everyone is a musician, a dancer, a singer, a painter, a storyteller, an actor. So don't be shy to express yourself. Be ready to join in with your talents.

## **3. Create a Work Space**

To begin the school year with success, students will need to create a dedicated and quiet workspace at home to complete their Distance Learning work. After this last Spring, studies and personal observations show that when you create a quiet workspace, separate from other living spaces, it increases focus and engagement. This could be a spot at the kitchen table, a corner in the living, or a nice seat on your porch.

#### **4. Make and Follow a Routine**

As we experienced last March, the shift in routine was hard, but dedication to creating a new one eventually made learning at home much easier. So, please sit down with your student and discuss a routine that will work for both of you. Be flexible and make sure to make changes to help it work.

#### **5. Check Your Email**

Since we are beginning with Distance Learning, email and ParentSquare will be my first lines of communication. This means that both parents and students will need to check their emails daily. Students will need to be comfortable checking their email regularly throughout the school day to read communications from me and other teachers. They will be using the same school account and password. If your student needs help remembering, please let me know.

By following these suggestions of reading, making art, and preparing your space, you will be ready for many great things in the 5th grade. In the meantime, please use your remaining days of summer to the fullest by having as much fun as you can and try something new. See you when instruction begins on **August 20th!**

**If you have questions, please feel free to email me using the contact information below. I will be hosting a virtual Back to School Night meeting on Tuesday, August 18th @ 5:00 pm. This will be an excellent time to discuss and field any questions you have about the school year. A Zoom meeting link will be provided in a future email.**

Sincerely,  
Mr. Brennan

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