



Pre-K

We aren't sure how November went so fast! Our Pre-K students had the best month learning about the season of fall, different fall activities, and celebrating Thanksgiving. This month, we will be focusing on letters G, N, and P and their beginning sounds. We will continue to practice identifying numbers 0-10, counting up to 30, and reviewing our 2D and 3D shapes. We will be learning about the holidays, doing lots of fine motor activities, and creating memories together. We will also be working on our writing. Thank you for all the additional help you provide your child at home with his/her learning. It makes such a difference! Happy December!

Kindergarten

Foundational Skills:

- letter sounds
- blends
- letter formation
- segment sounds in words (make, write, take apart cvc words)
- segment words in sentences
- tricky words

ELA:

- Characters, setting, main events of a story
- problem/solution

- topic/ key details
- sequencing
- writing (sentence starters)

91

Math:

- addition / addition strategies

1st Grade

First grade will be working on subtraction and shapes the next few weeks. We will be working on vowel team sounds and discussing past and present tense verbs. We will be engaging in various holiday activities.

2nd Grade

Second grade is so excited for December! In reading, we will begin a new unit. In this unit, students will continue to learn new spellings and apply those spellings through their reader, "The Job Hunt." They will also continue to practice grammar, spelling, and writing. Be sure to practice spelling words with your student weekly.

In math, we will begin measuring, comparing, and estimating length. This would be so fun to practice at home if you have a tape measure, ruler, or meter stick! As always, your child can practice math skills at home through IXL. Reach out to your child's teacher for login instructions.

We are currently reading lots of books about how plants grow. Ask your child about the life cycle of plants!

It is so important that your child reads for at least 20 minutes every day, especially over winter break. Encourage them to find something they enjoy and set a timer. They will get used to it, and will begin to enjoy reading more and more. Thank you for your support!

3rd Grade

Dear Parents,

We have some exciting and important work happening in class over the next few weeks!

Reading and Social Studies

In **social studies**, we will focus on memorizing key facts and information that are important for our understanding of the subject. This practice will help solidify what we've been learning and strengthen students' recall skills.

In **reading**, we will review essential skills that have been taught so far, including identifying the main idea, analyzing characters and how their actions influence story events, understanding text features, and other critical reading strategies.

As **benchmark testing begins on December 10th**, we will also dedicate time to discussing and practicing test-taking strategies. Our aim is to help students feel confident and well-prepared for their assessments.

Math and Science

In **science**, we will be learning about **climate**. Weather refers to the day-to-day conditions in a specific area, such as temperature, precipitation, and wind. Climate, on the other hand, describes the long-term patterns of weather in a region over many years. This distinction will help students understand how scientists study and predict changes in our environment.

In **math**, we are diving into **fractions**! Students will learn how to identify, compare, and work with fractions in different contexts. You can support their learning at home by incorporating fractions into everyday activities, such as:

- **Cooking or baking:** Have your child help measure ingredients like $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of sugar or $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of flour.
- **Sharing food:** Divide a pizza or a cake into equal parts and discuss fractions (e.g., "You ate $\frac{1}{4}$ of the pizza!").
- **Shopping:** Discuss discounts or portions, such as "This sale is $\frac{1}{3}$ off" or "We'll save $\frac{1}{2}$ for later."

These real-life applications help reinforce fraction concepts in a fun and meaningful way!

Thank you for your continued involvement in your child's learning journey. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or ideas.

4th Grade

In reading we are working on first and secondhand accounts and then summarizing. In writing we are continuing informative essay writing. In math we are working on fractions. In social studies we are continuing the effects of the Revolutionary War and the government. In science we are learning the layers of the earth.

We begin benchmark testing on Monday, December 9th. Please encourage your child to do their best and make sure they have a good night's sleep, have their glasses if they wear them, and are at school each day unless they are sick. It is hard on the kids to have to make up their tests later.

Please continue to check your child's folder each night for any important papers, as well as homework. Also, please make sure your child is reading a book of choice for 15 minutes each night and practicing their multiplication facts. Please make sure your child has a coat with their name in it as the weather gets colder. We will go outside most days and they will need a coat.

5th Grade

5th grade had a blast at Biztown. Students each had a different job and worked hard to ensure they fulfilled the demands of their positions. They had a couple breaks to eat and spend their hard earned money.

ELA just finished a unit on recess. Students worked hard comparing and contrasting two texts. They had to find reasons and evidence to support the authors' claim on the benefits of recess.

5th graders just finished n
decimals.

91

Starting division with

Guidance

Attention Parents/Guardians: If you have received a form from Project Basic, please return those to your child(ren)'s teacher. This class is an extension of guidance. The permission slip is for your child to attend guidance class but with another teacher. This is not intended for them to receive counseling. Please send back the permission slip signed. Thank you.

In Guidance, we are continuing to learn about bullying and cyberbullying. This week, we are learning about bystanders. Your child is learning ways bystanders can help stop bullying.

Why Is This Important?

Bystanders have the power to stop bullying by standing up for others and reporting bullying. Bystanders can also make bullying worse if they join in or don't help. I encourage you to have conversations with your children about bullying and cyberbullying.

What is a bystander?

A bystander is someone who sees or knows bullying is happening to someone else.

What are some things you can do as a bystander to help stop bullying?

- Stand up for the person being bullied and say, "Stop. That's bullying."
- Report or help someone report bullying to a trusted adult.
- Include others by inviting others to join in.

We want every child to feel safe when they come to school. Please have a conversation with your child about the importance of telling an adult when bullying occurs, as well as, the importance of treating others with kindness.

ELL

An ELL (English Language Learner) teacher specializes in helping students who are learning English as a second (or additional) language. The Hillcrest ELL team works hard to support our students in gaining proficiency in English, so they can succeed academically and socially in an English-speaking environment.

Meet the Hillcrest ELL Team:



Ms. Hess

My name is Ms. Hess and this is my 5th year teaching and my 2nd year as an ESL teacher. I enjoy working with students from diverse backgrounds and helping them build confidence in their English language skills. My goal is to not only improve their language proficiency but also foster a love for learning that lasts a lifetime. Whether it's through reading, speaking, writing, or listening, I'm committed to guiding each student on their unique language



Mrs. Hodge

My name is Mrs. Hodge. I was the Hillcrest Librarian for 24 years. My husband is also a retired teacher and coach. Our oldest daughter works for Disney, our next daughter works for Fibernet, and our son does Air Conditioning in hot, hot Florida. I am excited to be part of the Hillcrest ELL team!



Mrs. Kris

My name is Mrs. Kris Lawson. This is my eighth year teaching, my fourth year in Hamblen County, and my first year teaching ELL. I enjoy making connections with students and celebrating their academic progress every day. My goal is for each student to feel important and loved in my class so they are able to reach their fullest potential academically, emotionally, and socially. I am thankful to be part of the Hillcrest ELL team. Go Cowboys!



Ms. Guzman

My name is Yasmin Guzman, this is my first year as a teacher. I was an ELL student in the Hamblen County School system so working with the ELL students at Hillcrest is extremely rewarding for me! My goal for this year is to help students reach their academic potential as an English language learner just as the Hamblen county teachers did for me. I am excited to be a Hillcrest cowboy!



Dr. Witt

My name is Dr. Witt. This is my eleventh year at Hillcrest and my first year teaching ELL. I love building relationships with our students and supporting them on their journey to success! Go Cowboys!



Mrs. Costner

My name is Stacy Costner. I have taught in Hamblen County for 15 years. It is a privilege and joy to work with ELL students. It is amazing to observe the progress our students make on a daily basis. I also enjoy working with the Hillcrest family. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my family. My husband and I are the proud parents of four sons and four daughters-in-law. We also have three beautiful grandchildren.



91

ars. I taught middle school ELA for 15 years prior to joining the Cowboy family as an ELL teacher. I studied at WSCC, Carson Newman University, Lincoln Memorial University, and East Tennessee State University. I am married to Robert who works at WSCC. We have one son, Jackson, who is a senior Forestry Conservation student at UTK. We have a house out in the country with chickens, goats, a donkey, cats, and dogs. I love, love, love to read!



Ms. Upton

Hello Hillcrest Friends! I'm Ms. Upton, and I'm thankful to get to teach ESL with our amazing team. I have taught in the elementary classroom for 26 years. This is my third year here, and the Hillcrest Cowboy family is the very Best!

G-Force

Our G-Force Team met on 11/1 where we drew a winner for the October birthday challenge. This student received a \$10 Walmart gift card! Congratulations and thank you for spreading kindness around Hillcrest! Our G-Force team worked together to choose the winning poster for our October Birthday Challenge contest. The winner received a candy bouquet! Students from the team announced the winners on the PA during morning announcements. The top 20 posters were hung around the school to promote the Birthday Challenge. The G-Force team met for lunch the next day to create posters for the Superintendents Food drive. We have more fun planned for next month to promote kindness in our school. Don't forget to continue completing the birthday challenge on your birth DATE each month, enter your name for a chance to win- a new winner will be drawn in December!



91

Smore Templates

Smore is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

Powered by 