

Welcome to
5th Grade

with
Mrs. McKay
and
Mrs. Sims



About Mrs. McKay

I was born and raised in Prattville and attended Autauga County Schools. I graduated from Prattville High School in 2003. I received my Bachelor's degree from AUM in Early Childhood/Childhood Education. This is my 18th year teaching. I taught 6th grade reading/language arts for 3 years at Prattville Intermediate School.

This is my 16th year at DPES teaching 5th grade reading/language arts.



About Mrs. McKay

My husband, Rob, and I have two boys, Will and Britton. Will is in 11th grade at PHS, and Britton is in 7th grade at PJHS. Both boys are very active in sports, which keeps us busy.



About Mrs. Sims

I graduated from Gulf Shores High School in 2008. I received my Bachelor's degree in 2012 from The University of Alabama. Last October I completed my Master's degree from the University of West Alabama. 😊

I began my teaching career at Pleasant Grove Elementary teaching math and social studies to 5th graders, where I taught for 3 years.

This is my 12th year at DPES teaching 5th grade math, science, and social studies.



About Mrs. Sims

My husband, Tyler, and I have two little girls. Kathryn is a 4th grader and Rebecca is in 2nd grade. I love spending time with my family and friends. We enjoy going to the river and the beach!



How to Stay Informed

- ParentSquare – The BEST method of communication. (There is a free app for you to download.)
- Teacher's Websites (EXTREMELY IMPORTANT!!) Please get in the habit of checking them weekly.
 - DPES Website, click "School Staff", click on our names



DPES Parent Guidebook

- It is VERY important that you review the DPES Parent Guidebook.
- This can be found on the DPES website. (Parents, DPES Parent Guidebook)
- No squishy toys, fidget toys, etc.!!



Dress Code

- Specific information regarding the dress code can be found in the DPES Parent Guidebook.
- The dress code will continue to be strictly enforced this year!



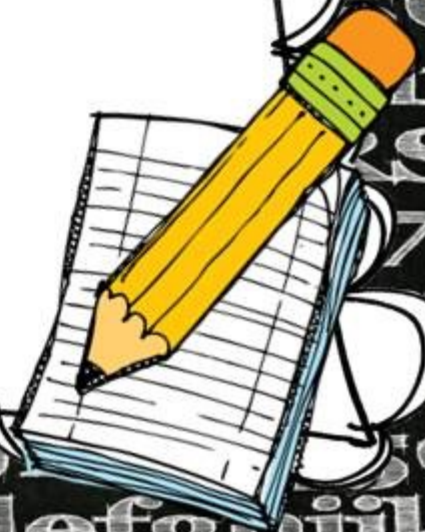
FOCUS Act

*The following electronic devices are not allowed:
Smartphones, Smartwatches, AirPods (or wireless ear buds), Tablets, Laptops, Gaming Devices, Pagers.

The device must be OFF and in their BACKPACK (not purse) while they are on school campus.

*Discipline for 5th grade:

- 1st offense – warning
- 2nd offense – 3 days ISS
- 3rd offense – 4 days ISS



Attendance

It is very important that your child arrives on time to school each day. This helps them to not feel rushed or behind when coming into the classroom.

If your child is sick, please keep them home. We will work with your child to get caught up.

If you know ahead of time that your child will be tardy, checking out, or absent, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE let us know!! This will help us with making sure your child doesn't fall behind.



Important Times

PE – 9:10 – 10:00

SNACK – 10:05 – 10:15

(Snack will be bought in the morning prior to coming to the classroom.)

LUNCH

12:20-12:43





Arrival

*CARPOOL and WALKERS:

- Carpool drop off begins at 7:15 and ends at 7:55. If you arrive after 7:55, you must park your car and walk your child into school to sign them in.
- Students are considered "Tardy" if they are not in their classroom by 7:55.
- The front parking lot is closed until 7:55 each morning. Students are NOT allowed to be dropped off in the front parking lot.
- If carpool students need to eat breakfast, they must go to the lunchroom and eat BEFORE coming to the purple hallway.





Arrival

*BUS RIDERS:

- Bus riders will be dropped off on the side of the school by the gym.
- Students will enter the school through the side, yellow hall doors (by the gym) and be sent into the gym.
- The students will follow a breakfast rotation schedule from the gym to limit the amount of kids eating breakfast at one time. Students will return back to the gym after finishing breakfast.
- At the 7:45 bell, students will be released to the purple hallway.





Dismissal

- Walkers will be dismissed out the front exterior doors at 2:50. If you walk to the school to meet your child, please wait for them at the walker pick-up sign. Parents are not allowed under the breezeway. You may NOT park in the front parking lot to pick up your child if they're a walker. (park on Tara Drive)
- Carpool will start at 3:00 in the front of the school.
- Parents must go to the carpool table in the lunchroom to receive an account and a hang tag for afternoon carpool. (No hang tag is needed for morning drop off.)
- Each hang tag is specific to your child. You must have the hang tag in order to pick up your child in the carpool line.



Reading/Language Arts

Each week on my website you will find all the information you will need for any assignments/tests.

There are 3 VERY important sections:

1. **The Calendar** (here you will find test dates and other important dates)
2. **This Week in Class...** (here you will find all the vocabulary words, skill material, spelling words, and grammar skill for that week)
3. **Practice Games** (here you will find links to review games to study for that week's skills)



Math/Science/Social Studies

Check my website each week.

At the top of my page, you will find 3 sections titled: math, science, and social studies.

Under each subject, I will have the assignments/tests that will take place each day that week. I will also list any future dates that are important under those sections.

**Math – topic tests and quizzes

**SS – quizzes/tests

**Science – quizzes, tests, projects (in class)



Instructional Groupings

- Paper in folder providing more information.
- 6th grade piloted it last year (2nd semester) with positive student engagement and boosted confidence.



Graded Papers

Students will receive folders with their graded papers every other week, typically Thursday. All papers for that class will be stapled together with a note on the front listing reminders and all papers that are included in the packet. Please review the grades, sign the note at the top, and return the packet to school in the folder the following day.

We STRONGLY suggest you regularly check PowerSchool so that you are aware of your child's academic progress (and there aren't any surprises when progress reports or report cards are sent home!)



PE Permission Slip

Due to the gym floors being replaced, students will not be able to access the gym for the first few weeks of school.

Please fill out the permission slip in ParentSquare that will allow your child to go to the YMCA gym during their PE time.





Field Trips

STARBASE – end of October/early November

*FREE!

*(no chaperones)

Dauphin Island – January 29, 2027

*around \$120 per person

*money will be collected November/December

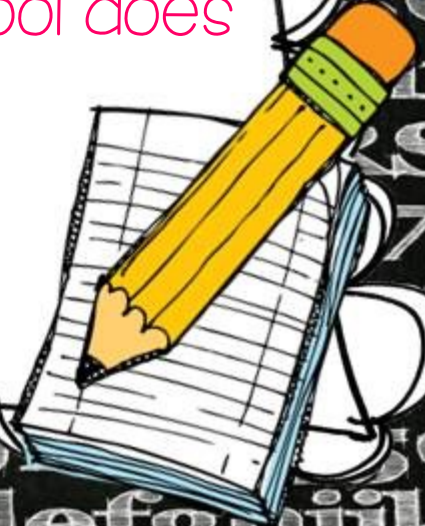


MONEY

*All deadlines for turning in money are FINAL!
No money can be dropped off in the front office. The money must arrive to school with the child.

*Please send correct change. The school does not keep cash on hand.

*GiveBacks (online option to pay)



REMINDERS

- *Birthdays – Any items sent in must be store bought and individually wrapped.
- *Class Donations are always welcome!
- *Please return all signed paperwork AND your child's folder ASAP!



Information in the Lunchroom

- *Bus Transportation
- *Carpool Tags
- *YMCA
- *APT
- *School T-Shirt (preorder)





Any
questions???

We're looking forward to a GREAT year!!!

