

Leaping Into Fifth Grade



Classroom Booklet 2008-2009

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Welcome!

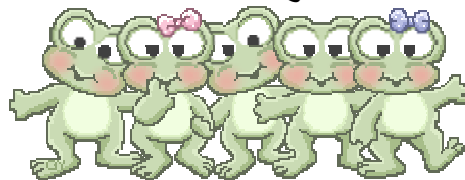
Welcome to Fifth Grade! I am looking forward to an exciting, productive year of working with your children. This year, our class will be exploring many different topics. In Reading/Language Arts, we will be working on reading fluency, comprehension, vocabulary and phonics skills. We will be reading chapter books, working on projects, and developing technology projects throughout the school year. Students will be keeping Readers Response Journals and keeping reading logs of daily reading.

In math, your children will be learning many different concepts. The students will be split into groups and learning math at their level. In our classroom, we will be incorporating a classroom economy which will reinforce general math skills. This program is designed to teach students strategies when dealing with money in a simulated real-life experiences.

Science/Health topics will include life science, earth science, physical science, and space and technology. The students will be participating in science projects, writing papers, and using the computers.

In Social Studies we will be learning about United States History. The students will be developing state reports, learning about the American Revolution, and many other topics will be explored.

As you can tell, fifth grade is full of many interesting topics and concepts! It will be a wonderful year!!!



F.R.O.G Binders

F.R.O.G stands for **F**ostering **R**esponsibility, & **O**rganization in **G**rade 5. Listed below you will find a description of each section in the F.R.O.G Binder. Please read this section carefully as we will be using the F.R.O.G Binder all year long. The school is providing a binder for each student.



Inside Front Pocket	In this pocket you will find notes from school and our weekly newsletter. All papers in this pocket need to be removed every night. If there are any forms, such as field trip forms, which need to be return, please sign and place back inside this pocket.
Assignment Notebook	The students will be filling in their assignments in this book daily. It should be signed nightly by a parent.
Sheet Protector	This will contain each week's spelling and vocabulary list.
Homework Folder	This folder will contain your child's homework for each night. After your child completes his/her homework, please be sure that he/she places it back into his/her homework folder. <u>This should be the child's responsibility, not yours!</u>
Data Binder Information	See Page 6 for more details about this section.
Inside Back Pocket	Notes from home should be included in this section of the binder.



Data Binders

Each student will be keeping track of their data. Students will be keeping track of their independent reading, their attendance, daily behavior, homework completion, spelling scores, SSP scores, and Accelerated Reader points.

The data section is a way for the students to "brag" about what they are doing in the classroom. Students will be bringing home their F.R.O.G. Binders every day. The students should be able to take the time to explain to their parents what they have accomplished that day in class. Parents must sign the behavior reports and Reading Logs each night.

The data in the F.R.O.G. Binders will be used to help facilitate Parent/Teacher Conferences. I encourage all students to come with their parents to this conference. All of the students in my classroom should be able to explain to their parents what progress they are making and how they are trying to improve their academics and behaviors in the classroom.

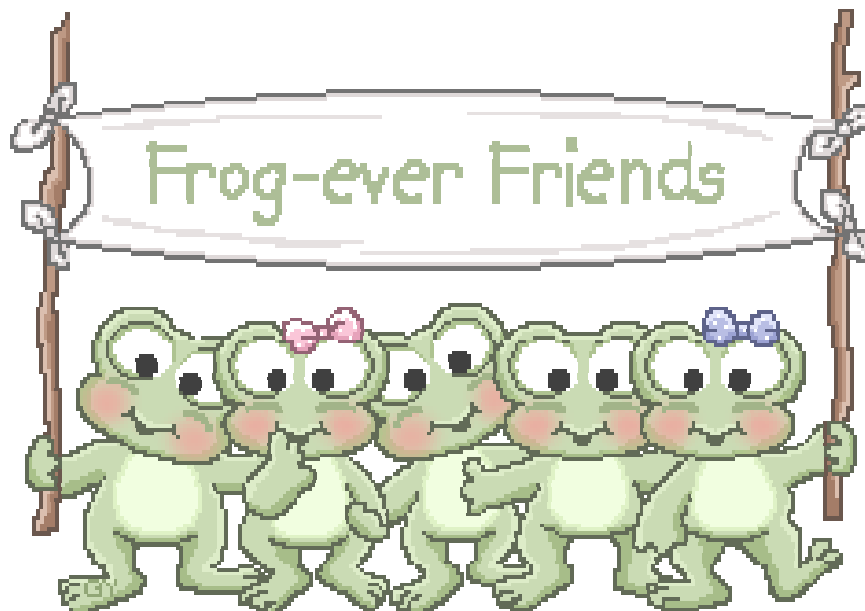
Should your child move to another school in Logansport, his/her F.R.O.G. Binder will go with them. All elementary schools in Logansport are having their students keep track of their data this year.

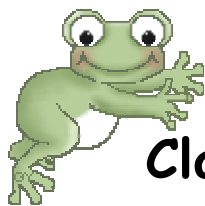
Classroom Rules

1. Listen Carefully
2. Follow Directions
3. Work Quietly. Do not disturb others who are working
4. Respect Others. Be kind with your words and actions.
5. Respect school and personal property
6. Work and play safely

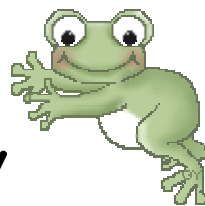
Behavior Policy

- 1st Warning: Warning
- 2nd Warning: Owe 5 minutes of recess, note home
- 3rd Warning: Owe 10 minutes of recess, phone call home
- 4th Warning: Owe 15 minutes of recess, visit the principal's office,
phone call home





Classroom Economy



Our classroom's behavior policy is based on a classroom economy. Students will be given jobs that they will be paid for in Frog Bucks (class cash which is not used outside of the classroom). Each student will fill out a job application each nine weeks for a class job that they would like to have. They will have this job for the entire nine week period. After job assignments are assigned, students are paid for doing their job. Just like in real life, students may not get the first job that they apply for in class. Each job has a different salary, because each job has different duties. I have included a copy of the job application and job descriptions on the next three pages.

Not only will students have classroom responsibilities, they will also be assessed fines and bonuses depending on classroom behaviors and actions. These fines and bonuses can be added to or deleted as the year progresses depending on what I see as beneficial to our classroom. Please see pages 13 and 14 for class fines and bonuses that are currently on the list.

Each student will also have a bank account at our fictional bank, 5th Grade Bank and Trust Company. Each student will be learning how to deposit and withdraw money at our classroom bank. They will also be learning how to write checks to pay bills. The students will be running the classroom bank with assistance from me, but the whole idea of the classroom economy is to teach the students how to run it on their own.

Each student will also be able to check his/her account online at My Kids Bank website. This website is developed to be just like when an adult goes online to check account balances. The website address is www.mykidsbank.com. Students will be assigned a username and password in order to access their account information online from any computer.

Not only are the students able to go online to check their information, but they will also be writing checks in which to pay their monthly bills. The monthly bills will include paying rent for their desks and chairs, computer usage fees, classroom library usage fees, trash and sewage fees, and water fees. This is to teach the students that they, like adults, are responsible for paying bills each month. Everyone will pay their bills on the first of the month to the bankers.

Students will get to shop at store at the end of each nine weeks. They will be able to save their money or spend their money, but they will have to make sure that they budget their money wisely. If any parent would like to donate to store, it would be very much appreciated.

If a student repeatedly is doing something inappropriately, that isn't fined, I will be following the behavior policy as outlined on page 6. For instance, talking without permission is not an assessed fine, so I will be following the behavior policy with the warnings. Anyone caught fighting, cheating, or speaking inappropriately will automatically be sent to the principal's office. These are offenses which will need to be dealt with directly and not go through steps. If I find that a student is being assessed the same fine each day or several times in one day, parents will be notified either through a phone call, note home, or e-mail.

Donations

If you would like to donate to our classroom store, please get into contact with me for ideas. Any donation, no matter how small or big, will be greatly appreciated.

The City of Landisville Job Application

Name: Last: _____ First: _____ Middle Initial: _____

School Address: **1 Landis Lane**

City: **Logansport** State: **Indiana** Zip Code: **46947**

County: **Cass County** Birthday: _____

In case of emergency, please notify: Name: Relationship:	Job Preferences 1. 2. 3.
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Education and Training	
Name and location of school	Years attended
What special training or skills do you have?	

Previous Employment		
For whom?	Position held	Duties and responsibilities

Personal References		
Must have permission before listing.		Do not include family members.
Name	Relationship	Years known

Activities and Interests

Copy this pledge on the lines below: : I promise that if given ANY classroom job, I will perform it to the best of my abilities.

Signature _____

Date: _____



Leaping Into 5th Grade

Classroom Jobs



Job	Description	Salary
Line Leaders (2)	One boy and one girl will lead the class to the designated locations throughout the school. He and she will let Mrs. Cobb know when the class is ready to go.	\$450
Substitute Expert (1)	This individual will perform a job for any student who is absent. Must be willing to learn all positions in order to do them correctly.	\$475
Line Enders (2)	One boy and one girl will be at the end of the line to make sure no one is left behind. They will also turn the lights off as we leave the room. They will make sure everyone is in a straight line and facing forward as we are walking down the hallway.	\$475
Homework Monitor (1)	This person will be in charge of writing the daily homework down in the classroom agenda. If a student is absent, they will collect any necessary papers and put together an absent folder.	\$500
Computer Technician (1)	This person will be in charge of turning on the computers in the morning and shutting them down in the afternoon. He/She will also turn on computers in the computer lab when needed. Needs to have a working knowledge of computers and programs to assist classmates with any questions they may have if the teacher is busy. When needed, he/she will also clean the screens and computer desk.	\$525
Messenger (1)	This person will be in charge of running messages to the office and other locations needed by the teacher. He/She will write down messages given over the intercom. They will then need to deliver these messages to the appropriate student. Not only will the messenger be in charge of messages, they will also keep track of the morning attendance and lunch count. They will be responsible to give this information to Mrs. Cobb no later than 8:25 a.m.	\$525
Librarians (3)	These individuals will be in charge of straightening the books on a daily basis in the classroom library and dusting the shelves. They will also be responsible for checking out books properly to students and collecting fines for any lost books.	\$550
Clerks (2)	These students will assist the teacher or substitute teacher in a number of important ways. They will hand out and collect papers from each group. They will coordinate with the Work Monitor to determine who qualifies for Homeworkology on Fridays.	\$550

F.R.O.G. Binder Monitors (2)	<p>These students will make sure all homework is taken out of the Homework Folders each day and put into the tray. They will check to see if the agendas and behavior sheets are signed. They will inform Mrs. Cobb of binders not turned in or agendas/behavior sheets that are not signed. They will give Mrs. Cobb any parent notes, field trip forms, or book order forms that may be in the binders. They will collect fees from the students who owe.</p>	\$575
Work Monitors (2)	<p>These students will check in all papers on checklists after organizing all papers by student number. They will inform Mrs. Cobb of missing work and collect the fees for missing assignments. They will let the Clerks know who qualifies for Homeworkology. Must be responsible, organized, and honest</p>	\$575
Mailmen (2)	<p>These students will put all graded papers into the correct mailboxes. They must be responsible so that the graded papers are placed in the correct mailbox. The mailmen are to tell students when to pick up their graded papers. If any student does not take their graded papers out of the mailbox within two days of it being placed, the mailmen will let Mrs. Cobb know.</p>	\$575
Floor Managers (2)	<p>These students will make sure that the floor around desks, in the library, and behind the island are clean and every last article is off the floor. They will also make sure that all materials are put back in their proper places and check that all chairs are put onto the desks at the end of the day. They will inform students who have not put up their chairs. All students must help the floor managers by keeping their area neat and free of clutter.</p>	\$600
Custodians (2)	<p>These students will help keep the classroom spotless by wiping down counters and common tables. They will make sure lockers, mailboxes, and desks are kept clean. They will dust all the frogs on top of the island once a month. They will inform Mrs. Cobb of any student who needs to clean their lockers, mailboxes, or desks. They will also erase the whiteboard at the end of each day.</p>	\$625
Bankers (3)	<p>These individuals take checks and deposits from bank customers and coordinate the bank accounts. They will also collect rent on the 1st of each month. Must be good at arithmetic and trustworthy. These students will also be using an Excel Spreadsheet to help keep track of deposits and withdrawals. They will receive specialized training from Mrs. Cobb.</p>	\$650



Class Cash-Fines



Not putting away materials when asked to.	\$10
Using restroom 30 minutes after specials or lunch or more than once in AM or PM (excludes emergency situations).	\$25
Agenda is not signed by parent/guardian.	\$25
Behavior sheet is not signed by parent/guardian	\$25
Wasting time during the school day.	\$25
Missing work (fined for <i>each</i> offense per day). i.e. If you are missing 2 assignments, each assignment is fined the \$50, which means you will pay \$100. Be sure to turn in ALL assignments when they are due!!	\$50
Missing textbooks or workbooks.	\$50
Messy desk or F.R.O.G. Binder not organized and clean.	\$50
Tipping back in your chair.	\$50
Missing F.R.O.G. Binder.	\$75
Agenda not filled out daily.	\$75
Poor behavior or being disrespectful in another teacher's class.	\$150
Dishonesty of any sort.	\$300

**Class Cash Fines can be changed or added to at any time during the year. Mrs. Cobb will let you know of any changes or additions to the following list. Mrs. Cobb reserves the right to fine for behaviors or actions not on the list, but she does not have to add these fines to the list.

Class Cash-Bonuses

For each level achieved in Rocket Math. Must show Mrs. Cobb passed test and Rocket Ship to qualify.	\$10
Agenda signed nightly by parent/guardian for the entire week.	\$25
Behavior sheet signed nightly by parent/guardian for the entire week.	\$25
100% on Spelling test (does not include enrichment words). Amount doubles after 3 in a row.	\$50
90% on any test in any subject (excludes spelling, timed tests, & quizzes).	\$50
Receiving a compliment from another teacher.	\$75
100% attendance for month (including no tardies).	\$100
Achieving 25 points a month on Accelerated Reader.	\$100
Achieving more than 30 points a month on Accelerated Reader.	\$150
100% on any test in any subject (excludes spelling, timed tests, & quizzes).	\$150
Bi-weekly Lion's Mastery Club points leader.	\$150
Quarterly Lion's Mastery Club points leader.	\$250

***Class Cash Bonuses can be changed or added to at any time during the year. Mrs. Cobb will let you know of any changes or additions to the following lists. Mrs. Cobb reserves the right to award bonuses for behaviors or achievements not on the list, but she does not have to add these bonuses to the list*

Homeworkology

Homeworkology is a homework game that will be played each Friday. Students qualify to play the game if they have turned all work in for an entire week (from Friday of the previous week to Thursday of the current week).

Homeworkology is played a lot like Monopoly. Students will roll two die and move that number of spaces. They will be able to buy properties on the board and then charge rent if someone lands on their property. Several spaces are labeled Backpack and School Lunch Box. These are like the Community Chest and Chance cards found in the original Monopoly game. Students will follow what the card says. Some of the cards are positive and some are negative (they will owe money). Students can also be sent to detention (jail), and in order to get out of detention, they will have to roll doubles or pay \$200. All money paid, whether detention money or Backpack and School Lunch Box money, will go into the Extra Recess fund. If any student lands on Extra Recess, they will collect all the money from the fund.

Unlike Monopoly, students will be able to land on Treat Jar, Pencil Box, Homework Pass, and Computer Time. If a student lands on these spaces, then they will automatically receive a prize.

Homeworkology is set up to be a motivator for students to turn in all of their class work on time. Students will be able to use the Frog Bucks they earn from the game for store or they can deposit the money into their class account.

Readers Response Journals & Reading Logs

Learning to choose appropriate literature and responding to that literature is a very important skill that fifth graders need to become efficient readers. Fifth graders need to learn what reading material is appropriate for their reading levels, what they like to read about, and learning how to discuss what they are reading with another individual.

Because of this, each student will be given a readers response journal. The students will be responsible to write one letter to me a week about what they are reading independently. I will then respond to the letters that are written to me. The students will be receiving a grade in reading for the letters that they write to me each week. **This is not an option, it is a weekly assignment that must be turned in on time.** The students will be given a rubric which they can use to decide whether or not their letter has all the components needed.

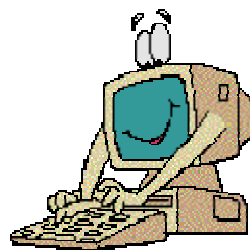
In conjunction with the readers response journals that are handed in weekly, the students will be keeping a reading log daily of what they are reading, how long they are reading, and from what genre they are reading. Parents will need to sign the reading logs daily to verify that their child has read the required amount (30 minutes daily). Independent daily reading will be part of your child's homework each night. They do not have to read 30 minutes at one time. They may choose to break up the time, but they must read at least 30 minutes daily outside of school. The reading logs will be turned in at the end of each month for a reading grade. The students will receive a new reading log at the beginning of each month. These reading logs will be found in the data section

Classroom Website & Classroom Blog

We do have a classroom website, www.leapinginto5thgrade.com. On this website, I will be posting classroom work, photos, spelling lists, vocabulary lists, and much more. I will be doing my very best to update the website weekly. This website will be your way to see what is going on in our classroom.

This year, our class will be using a classroom blog. Each student will be able to take our classroom journal home at night. They will then write about what happened during the day at school. The next day, they will return the journal to school. I will allow the student to then go to our classroom blog and type what they have written. This is a great way for each student to write about our day and have the opportunity to use the computers to blog. It is a fabulous way for parents to read all about what is going on in our classroom. Students and parents will then be able to respond to the blog. The classroom blog address is <http://finchteach.bravejournal.com/>.

If you should have any questions about the classroom website or classroom blog, please let me know.



ISTEP+ Information

Starting in September, the students will be taking ISTEP+. ISTEP+ is an important test which shows how your child is progressing. The test will cover Indiana Academic Standards from 4th grade. It is extremely important that your child receives plenty of sleep the week of ISTEP+. They should also eat a well rounded breakfast that will help them focus. Breakfasts that consist of protein (eggs, bacon, etc.) are the best as they provide energy that your child will need. Try to stay away from foods that are high in carbohydrates as these tend to make one tired.

Donations of snacks to be provided during the ISTEP+ testing window would be appreciated. Students will be working very hard and sitting for long periods of time. Please refer to the section about the LCSC Wellness Policy for snacks that can be donated.

ISTEP+ will be moving to the spring this year, which means that your child will be taking ISTEP+ twice this year. More information will be coming home sometime second semester dealing with the new ISTEP+ testing window. This will be the only school year when your child will have to take the test twice in one year.

For more information on ISTEP+, please visit the Department of Education website. On this website parents can access former Applied Skills Booklets from the previous two years of ISTEP+. It is very important resource for parents and teachers. The website is www.doe.state.in.us/istep/publications.html.

LCSC Wellness Policy

The LCSC School Board has approved a wellness policy, which effects what snacks can be given in the classroom. Parents are to send snacks to the classroom from the approved list. This includes snacks that are provided as birthday treats and for the classroom parties. There are no exceptions. Please follow the list below when sending in treats to the classroom.

- Raw vegetable sticks or slices with low-fat dressing or yogurt dip
 - Fresh fruit and 100% fruit juices
 - Frozen fruit juice pops
 - Dried fruits (raisins, banana chips, etc.)
 - Trail mix (dried fruits and nuts)
- Dry roasted peanuts, tree nuts, and soy nuts (not coconut or palm nuts)
- Low-fat meats and cheese sandwiches (use mayonnaise sparingly)
 - Party mix (variety of cereals, nuts, pretzels, etc.)
 - Low-sodium crackers
- Baked chips (with salsa and low-fat dips such as ranch, French onion, bean, etc.)
- Low-fat muffins, granola bars and cookies (such as Kashi TLC Bars and Quaker granola bars)
 - Angel food and sponge cakes
 - Flavored yogurt and fruit parfaits
 - Jell-O and low-fat pudding cups
- Low-fat ice creams, frozen yogurts, sherbets
 - Low-fat and skim milk products
 - Ice cold water

Textbooks Used

Reading: Houghton Mifflin, Chapter Books

Language: McGraw-Hill

Spelling: Houghton Mifflin

Math: Saxon

Social Studies: McGraw/McMillian

Science: Scotts-Foresman



Grade Scale

100%-92%	A
91%-90%	A-
89%-88%	B+
87%-82%	B
81%-80%	B-
79%-78%	C+
77%-72%	C
71%-70%	C-
69%-68%	D+
67%-62%	D
61%-60%	D-
59%-0%	F

TWENTY MINUTES A DAY

By Richard Peck

Read to your children
Twenty minutes a day;
You have the time,
And so do they.
Read while the laundry is in the machine;
Read while the dinner cooks;
Tuck a child in the crook of your arm
And reach for the library books.
Hide the remote,
Let the computer games cool,
For one day your children will be off to school:
Remedial? Gifted? You have the choice;
Let them hear the first tales
In the sound of your voice.
Read in the morning;
Read over noon;
Read by the light of
Goodnight Moon.
Turn the pages together,
Sitting close as you'll fit,
Till a small voice beside you says,
Hey, don't quit.

Contact Information

Phone Number: 722-5466 extension 308

Email: cobj@lcsc.k12.in.us or
finchteach@sbcglobal.net

Class Website:

<http://www.leapinginto5thgrade.com>

Class Blog:

<http://finchteach.bravejournal.com/>

School Website:

<http://les.lcsc.k12.in.us>

Corporation Website:

<http://www.lcsc.k12.in.us>

