



Dear 5th Grade Families,

Welcome to Reading Workshop. We are excited to share the experience of your child's journey with you by taking you on a tour of the workshop experience. Reading Workshop is an approach to the teaching of reading that helps children become lifelong, avid, and expert readers.

In Reading Workshop, class usually begins with a minilesson, in which the teacher shares a reading strategy that will help children become more powerful readers. Then children go off to read - and to work on their reading. Sometimes they are reading partner or book club books, other times they are reading independent books. Very young readers will read two or three books during a single workshop. Older readers will read one book over several days or a week. While the children read, the teacher works with small groups or confers with individual readers.

The independent reading time of the workshop is the heart of the workshop. This is where most of the "magic" happens. Your child, from the first day of school, is set up to be independent during the workshop. During independent work time, students pull from the repertoire of strategies that they have learned in workshop.

Your child will mostly read books from the classroom library and the school library. They'll bring these books home every day to read as well. The children will be interested in a huge variety of books. Some will love sports books, others will love books about animals, others will love adventure stories. Let me know if your child has special interests, and we'll do our best to encourage those interests through reading.

Our reading curriculum is divided into units of study. A unit of study focuses on a set of reading skills. For instance, in a mystery book club unit, children not only read mysteries, they learn to read more closely, thinking hard about small details that authors lay out as clues.

Our goal is for children to read as much as possible, and for all your children to learn to love reading. Let me know if for some reason reading feels hard, and we'll work together to support your child.

All the best,

5th Grade Teaching Team