

May 1, 2009

Dear Soon to be Fifth Graders,

With this school year coming to an end, the fifth grade staff is already thinking ahead to the new group of students that will be coming to the middle school next year. We understand that students and parents have many concerns about this transition. In order to help, we would like to share a few things with you at this early date to give you a heads up.

Even though this is really early, please be sure to mark Wednesday, September 2nd on your calendar. Fifth grade orientation will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. We will begin in the Jamie Center with an informational meeting about policies and expectations right at 6:00 p.m. After, we will follow up with meeting teachers, finding classrooms, getting schedules, and getting lockers. We have found this beneficial for the students, as everything is new and slightly different.

Below is a list of items that will assist you in your back to school shopping. We feel the following items will be helpful for your child, especially to keep organized. (this list will also be posted on Farwell Middle Schools web page)

- Trapper Keeper with three ring binder (zip up kind works well)
- 5 different colored/style folders (3 hole punch for in trapper Keeper)
- Colored pencils/crayons (NO MARKERS please)
- Pencils
- Pencil pouch with 3 rings to put in Trapper Keeper
- Glue/glue stick
- Hand held pencil sharpener with cover
- Red, purple, or green ink pen for correcting
- Two 1 inch binders (one for ELA and one for Math)

One thing that is always difficult for the new 5th graders is the locker combination. We would like to recommend that you and your child practice opening a combination lock at home. It may be useful to buy one from the dollar store and practice many times so that they get the pattern of the turns down.

Students will not be allowed to carry backpacks into the classrooms. They may want on open bag that can use to carry to the different classes. Backpacks can only be used to carry things from school to home.

We are looking forward to the next school year. Hopefully this will help to make this move as easy and as smooth as possible.

Sincerely,

Fifth Grade Staff