5th Grade is Snazzy!

Hello, my name is Mrs. Schneider and I would like to welcome you to 5th grade. This is my 23rd year here in Baltic. I’ve taught a variety of grade levels and have loved them all. I think we have a wonderful class! Even though this year is filled with uncertainty, I know it will be quite memorable.

Here are a few things about myself…I am married and have two children. My husband works from home these day for CCC Information Services. My son, Caleb, will be a sophomore at DSU and Kylie, my daughter, is a senior here at Baltic. We live in my hometown of Crooks and only a block from my parents, which is very handy!

Fifth grade can be viewed as a transitional year from elementary to middle school. Your child will be expected to become more independent, organized, and responsible. Mr. Geigle and I will be switching for an hour every day. He will be teaching both social studies and science. I will be teaching language and writing to his class. This will help them get ready for middle school when they must adapt to more than one teacher. I hope that you will continue to help and encourage your child to read, study math facts or concepts, and write at home besides completing any homework they might have.

Planners will once again be utilized. Your child will be expected to write assignments in their planner and check them off when they are completed. This will help you know what homework they have. **Please check the planner every day and sign your name showing me you’ve seen it.** If you need to write me a note or a reminder, feel free to use the planner as well. We will write reminders, homework, and anything else that arises in the planner.

Hopefully, you have access to the computer at some time. Emails will be automatically sent from campus for missing work. You can check your child’s grades and assignments using parent portal and check Class Dojo (more info later) on a weekly basis. These are wonderful tools and I would highly recommend them as they will help keep you informed of your child’s progress.

Don’t hesitate to call me with any concerns or questions you may have about what is expected this year. My home phone number is: 605- 543-6564. You may also email me at: tina.schneider@k12.sd.us or contact me through Class Dojo.

![j0438465[1]]()I am confident that this year will be a success if we work together. I am looking forward to a great year of learning, excitement, and fun.

 Mrs. Schneider

Grading Scale

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Letter Grade | Percentage |
| A+ | 100 |
| A | 99-95 |
| A- | 94-93 |
| B+ | 92-91 |
| B | 90-88 |
| B- | 87-86 |
| C+ | 85-84 |
| C | 83-79 |
| C- | 78-77 |
| D+ | 76-75 |
| D | 74-72 |
| D- | 71-70 |
| F | 69-0 |

Both Mr. Geigle and I give a student one chance to redo an assignment for ½ credit. This is the student’s responsibility to redo correctly and turn it back in. If you see correct and return written on a paper, then your child should fix the work and turn it back in to help their grade. We do not chase students down for these papers as this is something they need to take care of on their own. At the end of the quarter, no points will be given for any late or missing work that isn’t in by the deadline.

Classroom Management

I will be using the Class Dojo online behavior management system in my classroom this year. I’ve included a separate more detailed note on that program in this booklet as well. Interestingly, DoJo means “Place of Learning” and I think that is so fitting. Students will earn and lose points depending on the choices they make on a daily basis. They will need to follow the basic pillars of character. We will focus on being respectful in their actions and speech, being responsible for their learning as well as not disrupting others, and being safe both in and out of the classroom.

Here are some examples:

Earn:

* Having planners signed and filled out with daily assignments
* Working hard and being on task with the learning activity.
* Completing extra learning activities that I write about in my note.☺
* Extraordinary behavior!!

Lose:

* No planner, forgetting books, homework, etc.
* Misbehavior during class or at recess.
* Excessive talking without permission or disruptions in class.
* Not keeping desk or locker area clean

Class Dojo will keep track of the points they earn. Points earned can be traded in for a reward in my classroom. This system is used in my classroom and is separate from the school wide Bulldog Bucks program. They will have to follow “The Bulldog Code” at all times throughout the school and that will be enforced by all staff members.

This year, Mr. Geigle and I are using a classroom management tool called Class Dojo. I have found it to be very effective. It is a web based program which allows teachers to communicate with parents and to track students’ behaviors (positive AND negative) easily and efficiently. Students can be given positive points for things like being on task, being respectful, participating, or working hard. On the other hand, points can be taken away if students are off task, talking without permission, have late work, or are unprepared for class.

I have printed out a note with the necessary codes for each student so that they can log on to the website. On the site, they are able to see how many points they have, which positive behaviors were noted, and which negative behaviors they need to work on. Pointes earned can be redeemed for classroom rewards.

The best part is the easy messaging system. It is convenient to reach me quickly through messaging during the day as I have it up on my computer to give the kids points and at night as I get a notification on my phone. My hope is that this will help you better understand your student’s behavior on a week-to-week basis. All kids will probably receive both positive and negative points throughout the year. Keep in mind the overall picture when talking about points with your child as everyone makes mistakes. Losing just a few points is not cause for worry. ☺ If you check your parent account at least once during the week, your child will receive a parent involvement point. There are some amazing features with Class Dojo. I will use class story to share pictures of kids and our activities in class. If you don’t want your child’s picture included, please let me know. Only parents of kids in our class can see any of the posts or pictures. They’ve also improved the student story where kids can add things to a portfolio. I love Class Dojo and hope you will too! Please contact me if you have any questions!

How you can help!

* Check planners and look at home folders each night. If the planner isn’t filled out ask them why as that is their responsibility. Remember to initial planners daily. Look through papers and discuss them with your child. Take out graded work each night and if it doesn’t have a grade or note that we discussed it, send it back to school. You might see these abbreviations on a paper DTIC = did together in class while DTO = did together orally.
* Check Class Dojo account and parent portal at least once a week. I’ll add your email to their Google Classroom account so you’ll receive updates.
* Assist with homework if needed. Check parent portal often so you know what their grades are and if they have any missing assignments.
* Study for tests. Spelling words will typically be sent home on the Friday before and your child may start their spelling city assignment then as well. Even though we do spelling at school it is still good to study at home. Reviews will come home for science and social studies tests.
* Have your child read either silently or orally at least 3-5 nights a week. Even at this age, this is so important. Follow up by asking them comprehension questions to check their understanding as that is the crucial element to being successful as they get older.
* We now have lots of online learning opportunities at school. I hope you can and will utilize some of these at home as well. It will be important that your child be able to log into their programs at home if needed. Passwords will be sent home.