Dear Parents:

 WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL! This year we are happy to announce that we, Mrs. Alamo and Miss Hogenson, will be your child’s 5th grade teachers. Mrs. Alamo will be your child’s Math and Science teacher while Miss Hogenson will be your Language Arts and Writing teacher. The other subjects such as Social Studies, Music, Health, and Art will be shared between us. Your child will have the same amount of time in both classes. We are so excited to be your child’s fifth grade teachers this year and are looking forward to working with them.

 As we have prepared for the school year, we have thought about your children and how we can make this a memorable year full of learning and fun! If your child has any special needs that we need to be aware of, please come and talk with either of us. The more we know about your child and his/her needs, the better we can help to meet those needs. Working together, we can do what is best for your child academically, socially, and emotionally. We look forward to seeing your child grow in each of these areas this year.

 In the following pages you will find important details such as homework, grading policies, suggested items to bring in the first week of school, and an overview of the concepts we will be studying this year.

 Please take the time to read through these pages carefully. If you have any questions feel free to contact either of us or ask us on Back-To-School night scheduled this Thursday, August 28, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. Please visit both classrooms. Mrs.Alamo in room 28 and Miss Hogenson in room 37.

 Thank you for your time and support. Parents, by taking a serious interest in your child’s education, you send such an important message: school is important and they are important! Together we can make their 5th grade year productive and successful. We will do all that we can to help your child succeed. However, by encouraging them to get their homework and 20 minutes of reading done each night and by volunteering in our classroom, this will make a huge difference in their learning and positive attitude about school. We look forward to teaching your child and to meeting each of you soon.

 Sincerely,

 Mrs. Alamo and Miss Hogenson

Dear Family,

 This is your child’s “Homework Folder.” It should go home each afternoon and come back with your child the next day. We will put important information inside the folder whenever necessary. We will attach a “Weekly Planner” inside the folder every Monday for your child to keep track of homework they do each day. Please have your child check off the homework they do and a parent or guardian must sign that the homework has been done. You can write notes to either of us on the “Weekly Planner” sheet. The “Weekly Planner” sheet will need to be returned **everyday.** Please make sure students return both their “Weekly Planner” sheet and homework the next day.

**How to Contact Us**

E-mail is generally the easiest way to contact us alalamo@graniteschools.org and wbhogenson@graniteschools.org. You could also leave a message at the school (385) 646-5020. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to E-mail or call anytime. Please contact either of us for general information or a specific teacher with any concerns or questions about the subject they teach. If you have questions about homework or concepts we are learning in class please visit our classroom website at [alamolearning.weebly.com](http://alamolearning.weebly.com) and misshogensonclass.weebly.com. In the classroom website you will find homework assignments for the week, current spelling lists, new concepts being learned, upcoming events, links to different educational websites and this disclosure letter.

**Homework Policy**

We give daily homework for your child to practice essential skills that we are learning in the classroom and for them to gain confidence that comes from being able to work independently. As teachers, we know that children require a homework coach to remind them that it needs to get done each night. As your child works on their homework at the kitchen table, we would love for you to ask them questions on what they are learning. If you show an interest in what your child is learning, he/she will excel and know that school is important to you. Homework needs to be turned in the next day. Students will not be able to call home for forgotten work, so it’s a good idea to put your finished work in your “Turn-In” pocket of your homework folder.

**Late Work**

Late work will be graded as follows: First day late results in a 10-point reduction, second day late results in a 20-point deduction, third day late results in a 30-point deduction. Late work will not be accepted after the 3rd day.

**Grading and Printouts**

We record grades for each student in an online grading program you can access anytime. Go to our school website and log in your student identification number. We will make every effort possible to give feedback within a week of assignment due dates. The following grade scale is used:

93-100 A 76-79 C+

90-92 A- 73-75 C

87-89 B+ 70-72 C-

83-86 B 69-Below N

80-82 B-

**You can expect math, spelling, and home reading homework almost every day except Fridays. There will also be writing assignments given on Mondays and due by the end of the week.**

**Miss Hogenson’s Homework**

**Spelling**

Your child will have a list of spelling words come home every Monday in their spelling journal. The spelling words come from “Building Spelling Skills” program. Students are to practice and review the spelling list everyday with the different activities that are provided. Students will receive a spelling journal which should be taken home everyday and brought back everyday. There will be 4 spelling activities due per week, which are to be completed in their notebook. They will have some time in class to work on their spelling, however, it is recommended that they work on it at home for a few minutes each night in order to have it complete by the end of the week and to have to study. Spelling tests will be on Fridays. Please study for the spelling tests at home.

**Reading**

There is no such thing as “I don’t have homework.” Remember your 20 minute reading assignment. Please fill out your reading minutes online at rtsutah.com and fill out the reading chart in the back of your planner sheet everyday. Reading and summaries are graded as part of your Language Arts grade. They will also be completing a 40 book challenge this year. They will keep these at school. The 40 book challenge is a challenge for the students to read 40 books by the end of the year. These can be any books of their choice, but they have to read a certain amount of books from each genre of book. The genres include, but are not limited to: historical fiction, science fiction, realistic fiction, fantasy, biography/autobiography, mystery, and etc.

**Special Projects**

There will be homework assigned periodically for special projects.

**Mrs. Alamo’s Homework**

**Math**

5th grade students are expected to have the multiplication facts memorized by now. If a student does not have these memorized, they will not be able to master new concepts easily and will fall behind. If they need to work on multiplication facts, please have them practice now. Flash cards are a great way to practice.

**Go Math!**

This year is the third year of our Go Math! program. The Utah Core State Standards for Mathematics addresses Standards for Mathematical Practice and Content. The standards stress not only procedural skill but also conceptual understanding, to make sure students are learning the critical information they need to succeed at higher levels. At the end of our disclosure you will find a Parent’s Guide for 5th grade math. This will explain the concepts your child is expected to learn and understand by the end of 5th grade. Your child has the opportunity to access the Go Math! textbooks, homework pages and fun interactive activities online. An explanation letter of how to log on is also attached at the end of our disclosure.

**Special Projects - Both in Science and Social Studies**

There will be homework assigned periodically for special projects in Science and Social Studies.

**Suggested School Supplies:**

Basic school supplies have been purchased for your child such as notebooks, pencils, crayons, and glue sticks. These essential items will run out as the year progresses and we would greatly appreciate any additional donations of these items. A wish list of needed supplies for both classrooms are as follows:

Antibacterial Wipes

Kleenex

Liquid Soap

Hand Sanitizer

Expo Markers

Glue Sticks

Colored Pencils

Pencils

Notebooks

Folders

Books

Class Store Items (i.e. pencils, stickers, treats, erasers, small toys, etc.)

**THANK YOU!!**

Any contribution is greatly appreciated.

Welcome!

Mrs. Alamo’s

and

Miss Hogenson’s

Fifth Grade

Back-To-School Night!

Welcome to Back to School!

Mrs. Alamo’s and Miss Hogenson’s Fifth Grade

 Below is some information that will be important for you to know as your child begins our class this year.

**Class Rules:** The most important thing for us as teachers is that our classroom is a safe place where your child feels a sense of belonging and where optimal learning can take place. In order to accomplish this, we have set up some important class rules. These rules are: 1) Take care of yourself, 2) Take care of our school and 3) Take care of each other. As a class we have talked about and will continue to talk about ways to follow these rules more specifically and your child will sign a contract stating that they are willing to obey the class rules.

**Stop and Think:** If your child breaks a class rule, we will give them a verbal warning. If they disobey the rule again, we will send them to “Stop and Think” (a separate desk or table) where they will spend 10 minutes filling out a yellow “Think Time” sheet. On this sheet they will write what rule they broke and what better choice they can make next time. This “Think Time” sheet will be sent home for you as a parent to see and sign. If this sheet comes home, please talk to your child about their behavior and encourage them to make better choices at school. If your child is aware that we are working together and communicating about what is happening at school, it is more likely that better choices will be made.

**Behavior Incentive Program:** We have many behavior incentive systems going on in the classroom. One of them is classroom points. The classroom needs to reach a certain number of points by the end of each term. Points will be given if good classroom behavior is exemplified but points may also be removed if needed. If they reach the necessary amount, we will reward them with a small classroom party. The party will be themed and integrated with a unit of study we are working on. They will also have a chance to earn team tables points. This happens when every student at the team’s table is showing exemplary behavior. This year as a fifth grade team we are doing Class Dojo. This allows you to keep track of your child’s behavior on a daily basis at home. Please refer to the attached Dojo page for more information.

**Homework:** Teaching your child to be responsible is important to us. Your child will have responsibilities in the classroom and at home each night with some homework. Please encourage your child to return the “Homework Folder” daily. Use the weekly planner sheet inside the Homework Folder to keep track of homework and reading and to correspond with us.

**Attendance:** Your child needs to be on time for school each day. If your child misses a day or two due to illness, I will collect the work we do in class and place it in their “Homework Folder” to be completed at home. If your child misses school they are missing important learning. Please keep absences to a minimum.

**Birthdays:**  On your child’s birthday you may send a packaged or store-bought treat for them to share with the class. Please refrain from buying soft drinks or punch as they may spill on to the floor. The small sized water bottles would be ideal for the classroom. If your child’s birthday is during the summer months, you may choose a day to celebrate it during the school year so that they won’t feel left out. If the birthday falls on a weekend, just choose the day to celebrate it.

**How to contact us:** If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us by email alalamo@graniteschools.org, wbhogenson@graniteschools.org, call us at (385) 646-5020, or refer to the school website [graniteschools.org/el/smith/](http://www.graniteschools.org/el/smith/) or our classroom website [alamolearning.weebly.com](http://www.alamolearning.weebly.com), misshogensonclass.weebly.com

 We are looking forward to a fantastic year of teaching your child and we appreciate your support.

 Sincerely,

 Mrs. Alamo and Miss Hogenson

Stop and Think.....

Today I did not follow the Fifth Grade Rules.

1. Teacher gave me a warning about my choice.

2. I still chose not to follow the rules.

1. I went to think time in a different classroom.

I broke this rule:

\_\_\_\_ Take care of myself

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\_\_\_\_ Take care of other people

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\_\_\_\_ Take care of our classroom

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A better choice would be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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I can make a better choice. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 (Student Signature)

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Would you please talk with your child about this problem and then sign and return this note to school so that I know you are aware of the problem.

 Thank You,

 Mrs. Alamo

I have talked to my child about this problem. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 (Parent Signature)

Classroom Volunteers

If you would like to volunteer in our classroom this year, we have many opportunities for you to be involved. Look through this list and check which of the following areas you would be interested in. Return this sheet to us with your name and phone number and we will contact you.

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Miss Hogenson ——— Reading**

\_\_\_\_ (once or twice a week, beginning at the end of September, during our small group instruction 11:30-12:15)

Work with an individual student or small group of students during our reading block. You will not be required to prepare anything. I will give you explicit instructions on what to do. This is just to help students who need that extra one on one time with fluency and comprehension.

**Mrs. Alamo ——— Science and Social Studies**

\_\_\_\_ (once a week - time to be determined)

One of my favorite Chinese proverb states: “Tell me and I forget, show me and I remember, involve me and I understand.” The last part of this proverb is so true for many students. My method of teaching, especially Science and Social Studies is focused on inquiry-based learning. Inquiry implies **involvement** that leads to **understanding**. During our Science block, students will be conducting science experiments and collecting data. Parent volunteers will be appreciated during this time to help monitor and assist students if they need extra help.

**Copying**

\_\_\_\_ (1 hour weekly, Monday or Friday mornings)

Weekly copying to help us get ready for the following week. Put together homework packets for the next week.

**One-one coaching**

\_\_\_\_ (1 hour weekly, day and time to be determined, based student academic needs)

Work with a student, one-on-one, based on his/her academic needs. No preparation work will be required. We will give you explicit instructions on what will be done.

**Careers/Talents**

\_\_\_\_ (whenever) Come into our classroom and tell us about your job or talent that you have. Do you know a foreign language that you could teach us a few words of?