



# Yaniz-Times

Volume 1  
Schiesher Elementary School  
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The first two weeks of 5<sup>th</sup> grade have come and gone! We are having a fantastic start to what I know will be a phenomenal year! This classroom newsletter will be sent home every two weeks, with this issue being the first installment. I hope you enjoy reading about what your child is learning in the classroom!

## MATH

We will use the Envisions Math curriculum again this year. In our first unit we will be covering place value to the billions (and billionths in decimals!). Place value is a difficult concept for most elementary students, and we will spend a few weeks discussing and practicing it. Also, now is a good time to begin practicing multiplication facts that may have become "rusty" over the summer. Mastery of basic mathematical facts (addition, subtraction and multiplication) is critical in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, in order for higher level learning to take place. 5 minutes of daily fact practice at home can really help improve your child's automaticity!

## Language Arts

Reading, Writing, and Word Study are all part of 5<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts. In Reading, we will be working in large and small groups, learning many strategies for better comprehension and fluency. One of my favorite parts of the day is our daily read-aloud time! We are currently reading the story Hatchet, by Gary Paulsen, about a young boy who survives alone in the wilderness after surviving a plane crash. Ask your child to give you a summary of the story so far! In Writing, we will begin learning about the "6+1 Traits of Writing", an outstanding method for learning how good writers practice their craft. We will begin with the trait of Ideas, where all writing starts! Word study includes spelling (Words Their Way) as well as specific vocabulary lessons. I happen to be very interested in words and how they can be taken apart and put

back together, providing clues to their meanings. The children are already impressing me with their word skills!

## Social Studies

Our first unit in Social Studies is Explorers, and we will be studying many of the brave people who discovered "new lands" from the late 1400's to the early 1800's. We will begin our first big project: making Explorer Baseball Cards! More on this project to come!

## SCIENCE

We started the year by reviewing the main steps of the Scientific Method. We will be putting these steps into practice as we begin our first unit on Variables, starting with an experiment with pendulums. Students will be recording their questions, hypotheses, experiment trials and results in a science journal.

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### Important Dates:

- ❖ **Monday 9/7: No School for Labor Day!**
- ❖ **Tuesday 9/8: Picture Day**
- ❖ **Thursday 9/10: Band Parent Meeting**
- ❖ **Tuesday 9/15: Grades 4 & 5 Open House/Parent Orientation**
- ❖ **Friday 9/18: School Improvement Day for teachers- Early dismissal at 11:45**