

Good afternoon, families!

Since this is the first email, it's going to be longer than usual. Sorry about that! =)

**Important Dates:**

Volleyball Tryouts: Tues 8/30 and Thurs 9/1 (\*permission slip required)

Fundraiser Forms DUE Wednesday, 8/31

No School: Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup> (Labor Day)

Picture Day: Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>

**\*\*\*Students need to bring in \$4 to cover their assignment book and yellow folder. Please send this in at your earliest convenience.** (Checks payable to West Terrace.)

Students have **Google accounts** through the EVSC. They can access these from anywhere. They are still in training, though. So far, we have only shown them how to use their email and how to use Google Keep. (Google Keep is for To Do lists and reminders.) Their email accounts will only work within the "@evsck12.com" domain, so they cannot send or receive outside emails. The more the students learn, the more I will update you so that you can be aware of what they are doing. Fifth grade uses these accounts A LOT.

Please remember to check the class **website** periodically ([www.NanceNinjas.com](http://www.NanceNinjas.com)). Pictures are added regularly under "Our Class" of what students are doing at school. These pictures typically include students from both my homeroom and Mrs. Curl's.

Please check **RDS** regularly throughout the year. The only math and reading/ELA grades that are recorded are test and quiz grades, so there will not be daily updates. There are no math or science grades entered yet, but there will be both by the end of the weekend.

Your child **\*should\*** have brought home a **PTA form** this week to join. PLEASE join PTA if at all possible. They do SO MUCH for our school, and really take care of our students and teachers. If your child has lost the form and needs another, please either email me or have them ask for another. They also had a volunteer form, so please sign up for any events you are available to help with.

**Choir** forms went home this week for any students interested in joining.

The **seating options** are much different than what many students are used to. If students have something at home, such as a wobble seat or lap desk, that they want to bring, they may.

**Water bottles** are fine to have in class, unless they are a problem for certain students. The main rule is that it must be PLAIN WATER- not flavored, carbonated, colored, etc. It also must be in a bottle that closes/seals. Students that cause distractions and disruptions will lose this privilege. This includes- but is not limited to- squeezing/crunching the plastic bottles and making noises, squirting water on others, not having a bottle that closes, bringing something other than water, throwing them, etc.

We have a few minutes for an **afternoon snack**, which is optional. So far, about half the students have been bringing something. This is mostly meant for students who have an after-school activity, a long bus ride, or other situation that leaves them without food for a long period in the middle of the day. Some students simply don't need one at that time, but it is open to everyone. Please be considerate of the

classroom when sending snacks...10-year-olds can be messy! Snacks are meant for your child only. They are not to share snacks for any reason- including with their best friend. Repeatedly violating this rule means they will lose this snack time. We have too many illnesses and allergies among the students for sharing food!

If you want to visit your child during **lunch** during the year, they eat at 11:00.

In **Math**, we are currently working on Long Division. We had our first math test last Wednesday over multiplication. Overall, the scores were great! PLEASE DON'T WORRY IF YOU WERE NOT AWARE OF IT! You will usually have more than enough notice. The kids knew about it a week ahead of time. You will see below that they will have a retake option if they did really poorly on something. The students will receive their tests back on Monday. The grades will be entered over the weekend. Grading will be different this year than what most of you are familiar with.

*(The "short" explanation: Students will receive scores out of 3 points. A "3" means they did it exactly on 5<sup>th</sup> grade level with no mistakes. A "2" means they made small mistakes. A "1" means they still need additional help and instruction. Halves, such as 2 ½ also happen! They will receive TWO scores for some questions- one for Process and one for Accuracy. Process scores, in this case, are whether they knew what order to multiply in, how to carry, when to add an extra zero, what steps to take to solve the problem, etc., regardless of whether the final answer was correct. Accuracy scores determine whether the student did all of the calculations correctly, regardless of whether the answer was correct. We will send home examples of this next week. Overall, this will help your child's grades, but also help us determine exactly where they need additional help. IF your child receives a low score in an area, they will have the option to retake a version of the test, and only for the section/standard at which they were not proficient. They do not have to retake the whole test. They WILL have to fill out a sort of application. This is to ensure that the student knows exactly what they need to work on, and they must list the steps they have taken to ensure that they have improved at the skill. If this doesn't make sense yet, it's ok- ignore it, and wait for the detailed version next week...or just wait until you see the test and it will make more sense.)*

We have just started long division. Complete lessons will begin Monday, although we have done activities related to multiplication and division the last two days. Details about expectations will be available on the website ([www.NanceNinjas.com](http://www.NanceNinjas.com)) this weekend. Overall, the students will be expected to be able to:

- divide up to a four digit number by a two-digit number using the standard algorithm (translation: solve  $3564/12$  using long division)
- solve word problems involving long division and take the remainder into account when giving a final answer, such as knowing when to round the answer up –like need enough buses to cover all the people going on the trip- and when to round down – such as when you're buying as many items as you can and you need enough money.

At this time, we are expecting a test around Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. This means we have a lot of time to be practicing these skills, but please practice them at home, too!! We do not have homework often, but students may always use their textbook or workbook for extra practice, if needed. They can also just work with an older sibling or parent for a few minutes some nights, or find an app or website to practice. Right now, the students could ALL use multiplication fact practice! There are many games and apps for this, along with flashcards. I have flashcards if they want to borrow some to use at home.

In **Science**, we have simply been discussing the sun and shadows, especially how the sun moves across the sky throughout the day, how it changes position in the sky throughout the year, and how day & night occur. Our next focus will be the phases of the moon, and then constellations.

Next week (Thursday), your child will start going to Mrs. Toelle (aka Slagle- she got married over the summer) for **Social Studies**. They will have about a two-week rotation of Social Studies before returning to Science. They will only receive Science and Social Studies grades in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grading periods since they do not have as much time in them.

The students will have **DARE** class every Wednesday until around Winter Break. They have already had two classes with Officer Spradlin from the Vanderburgh Sheriff Department. The focus is on dealing with peer pressure and bullying, how to make better choices, and how to avoid harmful substances. (Don't worry- we tell them that mom and dad are old enough to have adult beverages because they are done growing AND they are of legal age, so the students cannot come home and tell you not to have a drink in the evening, etc.!)

WHEW!! That's enough for today! From now on, I will send shorter emails...I promise! There's just so much we have to tell you!!