

Good afternoon, everyone!

First, please remember to **check the website** occasionally for important dates, subject-specific information, and pictures of the students in class. It works best on desktops/laptops, but does work for mobile devices and tablets. It just looks a bit different! The site can be reached two ways: www.NanceNinjas.com or www.nanceninjas.weebly.com . I have updated the site with Important Dates on the homepage and with student pictures (Go to the site, then "More" > "Pictures" and scroll through. The pictures become full size when you click on them. I have also updated the Math, Social Studies, and Science pages.

Just so parents are prepared, we have two days next week with themes for **College Go** week. We are not doing a full week or major dress-up days. Instead 5th grade will have themes on Thursday and Friday. One of the days, each 5th grade class will each wear a different color. Our class will all wear BLUE. Any shade of blue will work. It can be a shirt/sweatshirt, pants/shorts/skirt, dress, shoes, hat- anything that's blue. They can be as blue as they want...but wearing regular pants and a mostly-blue shirt will work just fine! (But if they want to go head-to-toe blue, that's awesome, too!) The other day, 5th grade will all wear college apparel. (I'm not sure which day is which yet, I just know it's Thursday and Friday!)

We have two **Field Trips** scheduled for October. First, our DARE trip will take place October 4th at the FOP camp. We do NOT need chaperones for this trip. The other trip is October 20th to the Planetarium. We WILL need a few chaperones for that trip! Permission slips will be sent home soon.

A few **PTA events** are coming up:

Saturdays, September 23 and September 30: WT Playground Work Days, 9am-1pm

Thursday, October 19th: Hacienda Give Back (west side location)

Friday, October 20th: Breakfast with Mummy, 7-8:15am

Saturday, October 21st: Trunk or Treat

*Please consider joining the West Terrace PTA Facebook page for up-to-date information!

More details about these events will come closer to those dates.

The **Book Fair** will be held September 25th-29th. PTA is still in need of volunteers. If you are able to help, please contact Sherry Veeck ([812-483-2724](tel:812-483-2724) OR magnumsv@gmail.com).

Please continue to check **RDS** regularly so there are no surprises when report cards come out. The first grading period ends October 5th, and report cards will be sent home the following week. The [RDS Parent Access page](#) has links in case you have forgotten a password or need help.

In **Math**, we just started a new unit on Customary Measurement Conversions. Note that "customary" simply means standard US units, as opposed to metric units. These will come later in Unit 3 with Decimal Operations. The focus is on conversions, not using tools to measure objects. I have updated the website with more details, pictures, and links. The students also have information in their math notebooks to help them with the conversions.

Please know that although I rarely assign homework, I often give the students options they can do on their own time to help themselves (such as workbook pages, places in the textbook, websites, or additional work). If a student knows they want extra help on something at home (or a next-step to more difficult work), they can always ask me! This unit is found in the textbook and workbook on 13-1, 13-2, and 13-3.

In this unit, students will be expected to

- convert customary units of measurement
- use customary measurement conversions to solve real-world problems

Students will need to be familiar with:

- length - inches, feet, yards, miles
- capacity - fluid ounces, cups, pints, quarts, gallons
- weight - ounces, pounds, tons

Students will work on a variety of strategies, since different students will have different preferences. Some students prefer drawings, diagrams, and visuals, while others prefer tables and charts, and still others prefer straight multiplication, division, and other equations. ALL of these are acceptable for students to use in this unit!

In **Science**, we are still in our Earth Science unit. We spent last week focusing on planets. This coming week, we will move our focus to stars and constellations. We will spend part of the time on the legends behind many well-known constellations. The other time will be spent on why different constellations appear in the sky at different times throughout the year.

There are several videos I posted for students in Google Classroom that many students really enjoyed. You can always ask them about the videos!

In **Social Studies**, our focus is on Native American tribes. This unit focuses on the early native tribes in North America. Our most important focus question is "How did each tribe adapt to its environment in order to survive and thrive?"

For example, why did the shelters of the Seneca tribe (longhouses) differ from the shelters of the Hopi (adobe pueblos)? This would be because the Seneca lived in the Eastern Woodland region in the northeast and had plenty of forests, so they used the trees to build shelters. The Hopi lived in the southwest region. They had plenty of clay available and few plants or trees, so they used the clay to their advantage.

Students should be able to compare various Native groups based upon the region in which they lived. Although there are MANY regions in which to organize the tribes, we will focus on four larger regions: Eastern Woodlands, Plains, West/Southwest, and Northwest/Arctic. We will be making booklets this week in order to compare the location, geography & climate, shelter, food sources, clothing, weapons, transportation, and other characteristics of these groups. This will take just over one week to complete. We will have two separate assessments. One will be on Wednesday, September 27th. It will be a written constructed response assessment with about 4 questions. The other will be multiple-choice taken on the computer, and will be taken on Friday, September 29th.

I hope everyone had a wonderful weekend!