



WELCOME!

Welcome back to a new school year! My name is Mrs. DeThomas and I'm very excited to be teaching 5th grade this year at Butler Elementary School. This will be my fourth year at Butler, and my second year teaching 5th grade (I taught second grade for two years)! As a teacher my goal is to create engaging and meaningful learning experiences throughout the year and across the curriculum. I give my students the same amount of respect I expect from them, and will continuously work to foster a positive learning environment by providing students with clear expectations, a safe place and support.

I am looking forward to getting to know your children, and want to provide you with a little background information about myself. I didn't decide on a this career until after I graduated from the University of Colorado and worked in the business industry for 3 years. I discovered my love of teaching after I was lucky enough to spend time in a friend's classroom. I enrolled in Simmons College, student taught for a year in Brookline, and graduated with a Masters degree in Elementary Education. I am so grateful to have found what I love to do, and that I have the opportunity at to teach at Butler!

Fifth grade is different from the other grades, because this is the first time students will change classes throughout the day. Our fifth grade is semi-departmentalized, meaning each teacher has a homeroom, and also a content specialty. Although students will spend the majority of their day in their homeroom, they will switch for 75 minutes of Math with Ms. Fraser, and 75 minutes of Science & Social Studies with Mrs. Voci each day.

I look forward to meeting all of you at the Butler Open House. Attached, you will find information about our classroom expectations. Please read through them with your child, sign, and return the form to school. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at school anytime. You can always reach me by email at: edethomas@avon.k12.ma.us.

Thank you, and I look forward to an exciting year!

Mrs. DeThomas

Classroom Information

Rules and Responsibilities

We have three rules this year that need to be followed in all the 5th grade classrooms. They require that students are:

- RESPECTFUL
- RESPONSIBLE
- READY

Students are expected to follow these expectations under all circumstances, no matter where they are in the building.

Behavior System

The goal for each student is to buy time in “Fun Friday.” Fun Fridays cost \$15 Butler Bucks. Anyone who can buy a ticket at the end of the month can participate. Those students who cannot participate will spend Fun Friday in detention doing class work and getting extra help.

On the first of each month each student will receive their monthly “salary,” which will be equal to about one dollar for each school day of the month. Bills for owed bucks will be given out on Fridays.

A teacher may give out Butler Bucks at any time for good behavior, or as a bonus for exceptional classroom work.

Lost “bucks” will not be replaced. Anyone caught stealing “bucks” from another student will forfeit any future bucks for the remainder of the year.

Behavior Checks

Behavior checks are given for the following infractions:

- ◆ completed homework left in homeroom
- ◆ not prepared for class (no pen/ pencil, notebook, book, etc.)
- ◆ talking without raising hand
- ◆ getting out of seat without permission
- ◆ disrespecting another student or teacher (physically or verbally)
- ◆ misusing school supplies
- ◆ bringing a toy to class
- ◆ tipping chair backwards
- ◆ talking or getting out of line order in the hallway

Each behavior check given will cost the student \$1.

Suspension

Any child who is suspended will automatically forfeit entry into Fun Friday for that month.

Office Referral

Anyone referred to the office for behavior problems will pay \$10 Butler Bucks.

Homework Checks

Reading and Math homework will generally be given Monday-Thursday. Students will also be required to do 20 minutes of independent reading each night. The weekends will be reserved for long-term projects and reports.

Students will record their homework each day in their assignment notebooks. It is essential that these notebooks go to and from school each day. They should be kept in the Homework Binder.

All homework should be:

- Completed to the best of each student's ability. I ask that students **try** every problem, even if they don't completely understand it.
- Neatly done including name, number, and date
- Completed on time
- Completed in blue or black ink (except Math, which should be done in pencil)

If a child does not complete a homework assignment, or it is completed without proper effort, a homework check is given. Homework checks cost \$3 Butler Bucks on the first and second days the homework is missing. On these days, students must sit at the designated silent area during dismissal and work on the assignment. On the third day the work is missing, it is marked a zero in the gradebook. Students may also be required to work on the missing assignments at recess. Students with chronically missing homework will be required to meet with parents, teachers, and the principal.

Friday Folders

Every Friday, students will bring home a folder with their corrected papers for the week, school notices and announcements, and other relevant information. Included in the Friday Folder will be a record of homework the student was missing for the week, as well as the number of behavior checks they received. These folders must be signed and returned each Monday. *It is considered missing homework if it is not returned on Monday.*

Snack

We will have time for snack each day around 10am. Students must bring their own snack from home and will not be permitted to share or trade with other students. No soda, candy, or nuts!

Book Orders

Book order forms will go home monthly. You are not obligated to purchase any books; however, you can often find good deals in these book orders. In addition, the points we earn with purchases can help build our classroom library. To order books, you can send in the order form and check with your student or you can go on my website at mrsdethomas.weebly.com, click on "Scholastic Orders", and follow the directions to order online, which will give you the option of paying with a credit card.

Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the classroom procedures, please feel free to contact me.

Email: edethomas@avon.k12.ma.us

Phone (school): 508-587-7009

Please sign and return to school by September 4, 2013.

I have read and understand the classroom procedures for Mrs. DeThomas' fifth grade classroom.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date