

Dear Fifth Grade families,

I can confidently say that I have never been more excited to start a school year. I taught many of your children in Kindergarten and First Grade; others I got to know well last year through Title I; and of course there will be fresh faces who I will have the privilege of meeting for the first time this year. From my eight years at Gate City Charter School, I know these things to be true: This class is a *special* group, and it will be an *amazing* year.

Our classroom will emphasize the qualities of empathy, community, perseverance, and responsibility. Your child will continue to learn how to interact and build friendships as they enter new stages in their development. They will grow socially, emotionally, and academically in an inclusive environment in which they support each other, rely on each other, and accept each other for their differences.

In Fifth Grade, your child will take their literacy and writing skills to a new level. They will learn to think critically about age-appropriate texts, ask in-depth questions, and respond orally and through writing in clear, coherent ways. They will work hard on their grammar, sentence structure, word choice, and written expression through frequent proofreading and editing of their and their classmates' work. They will practice spelling and learn new vocabulary words on a weekly basis. They will learn to express themselves creatively through the written word. In summation, they will develop an appreciation and understanding of language that will prepare and aid them for years to come.

Your child will also explore subject matter that will challenge their thinking and broaden their perspective. We will cover units on civil rights, U.S. history and world history, and dive deep into the problems, conflicts, and resolutions that have shaped modern society.

If you have any questions or concerns about the upcoming school year, please don't hesitate to reach out to me by email at mchughm@gccs-nh.org.

I am counting down the days to August 27! Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Sincerely,

Mark McHugh