

Kragen and Jennings Back to School Notes

Jan Kragen

Kragen sounds like Dragen. That's why I have a collection of dragons.

Curriculum

Math

I try to work it so that students can finish the math for the day in the class period. After all, we allot over an hour to math, which seems ample. I hope no child has math homework. However, if some students work very slowly, or if some students do not use their time in class well, and they don't finish their math at school, then the unfinished math work becomes homework.

Jan's math is secondary level. Holt program.

Liane's is elementary. Math Expressions.

The two math programs look very different.

Parents are *always* welcome to work on speeding up math facts and computation skills at home. IXL may be available at home. Any passwords, like IXL or Holt On-line passwords, will be taped to the math divider in the 3-ring binder.

You can help two ways! *First, kids need to know their math facts cold.* We don't spend time in class any more practicing math facts, so please do that at home if your child needs it. Second, the hardest part of the math book—every year—is the section on measurement. Here is a handout of the measurements and equivalents that kids are expected to learn. If you could help during the year, by cooking with your child or building things and helping them understand measurements at a experiential level, that would be SO helpful.

English/Language Arts

William and Mary curriculum for reading and writing and some grammar

Daily Dictionary including Basic Cell sentences with style

DOL and additional grammar lessons as we go

reading and writing integrated into science and social studies as well as literature

Write Source 2000 available at school

Elementary English on web

improvisational vocab test Tuesday each week

spelling counts in all final draft work too

Soc. St.

We will start with explorers and go through colonies, the revolution, and the Constitution.

We do a CBA in social studies.

Science and Health

There will be three kits for science: Mixtures and Solutions, Living Systems, and Space.

We will also read *Science: A Closer Look*.

5th graders always do Human Growth and Development.

Research

- within the WM/Mary curriculum
- the social studies CBA for 5th

Market Day

Entrepreneurial thinking (hand-outs)

GEMS

For 5th grader girls who need mentoring support

During school day

Communication

- Your child's 3-ring binder will go home and come to school every day—it's attached to the hip! Jan will send home papers in the 3-ring binder each Friday. Liane will use a Friday folder. If the office sends home papers other days, I will have the students put them in the front of their 3-ring binders. You need to check the front of the binder each Friday *at a minimum*.
- On the whiteboard in the front is the schedule for the day.
- I list late work on the whiteboard in the back.

MAKE SURE TO TAKE ONE OF MY BUSINESS CARDS:

- **website**
Check it every week.
I post directions in elementary school class materials.
I post the calendar with due dates in parent resources.
Think of due dates as "set in wet cement." I post them at least every trimester with every intention of sticking to them, but sometimes they change.
- **email**
Contact me at jkragen@nkschools.org.
(Don't use my home email.)
Please put your child's name in the subject line!
I contact parents by email regularly.
- **phone**
Contact me at school at 360.396.3891. Call after 4 pm for the best chance to reach me.
Contact me on my cell at 360.551.5874. Call before 9 PM.
Have kids call me with questions—they go faster!

Expectations and Consequences

The simple expectations are:

- Make good decisions.
- Solve problems.
- Show respect.
- Be safe!

In more detail I say:

- Treat people and their property with respect.
- Be responsible for your work, your materials, and your attitude.
- Follow all school rules and all safety rules.
- Use technology appropriately and often.
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Consequences for following or breaking rules in my classroom generally involve market day cash and/or writing a note in the journal. Students can gain or lose classroom cash for their actions or attitude or behavior at school. If there is a recurring problem (three or four times in one day) or something more major, I will email you. If the problem is bigger yet, I might involve the office or send my student to a different classroom.

School Handbook Rules

balls and toys—all personal play items should stay at HOME
cell phones—stay in the backpack and turned off during the day
dress code—there actually is one!

Field Trips

IslandWood

Right from the first week of school we start collecting money every week that the students *earn* for “Kewanee” in Jan’s room and the “Kitty” in Liane’s that goes toward paying for IslandWood. Every 5th grader in the school tries to *earn* \$1 per week to add to the piggy bank for their class. (4th graders typically help in splits—in the hope that they will be going next year!)

BTW, it *really* helps us (the teachers) if IW is NOT the first time your child has ever spent the night away from home overnight. So if you haven’t done that before, we would strongly encourage you to have an overnight or two this year before IW. Please.

Puget Sound Naval Museum (Oct. 18)

bus/parent drivers

art—MakeIt kit plates and left over for art docent(s)
(if anyone signs up to BE an art docent!)

\$10/kid

possible field trips

Museum of Flight (in March or April)	about \$40/kid (assuming I get the grants again)
BIMA	free
SEE Discovery Center	bus cost
KCMT	tickets plus bus

Misc.

Chapped lips—I have several kids with chronically chapped lips. It's fine with me if they have a little container of Vaseline in their desk.

Birthday treats—I recommend cookies, like the ones from Central Market. Not as sugary or messy as cupcakes or doughnuts. Easier to pass out and clean up.

Painting of W portable wall!

