

# Welcome to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade!

Today may bring you a mix of emotions. Whether you are preparing to bring your first child to school or your last (or somewhere in between!), this day is a big day. You may be feeling anxiety, relief, excitement, or a mix of all three!

We want you to know that we understand what a moment this is. Our school believes that your child will spend the next several months here discovering so much about themselves and the world around them. We also believe that we can impact the future of a child by providing the best possible educational experience, including teaching social-emotional skills and promoting good character through our partnership with Core Essential Values<sup>®</sup>.

Using this curriculum, we will teach ten values this school year, one per month, all of which focus on our **Big 3**:

Treat others right • Make smart decisions • Maximize your potential

You'll get info each month about what we're teaching, because we hope you'll join us in lifting up these Big Ideas (value words) at home as well.

## 2020-2021 **Big Ideas**

**August-Big 3:** Treat others right, Make smart decisions, Maximize your potential

**September-Friendship:** Using your words and actions to show others you care

**October-Integrity:** Choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do

**November-Gratitude:** Letting others know you see how much they've helped you

**December-Generosity:** Making someone's day by giving something away

**January-Responsibility:** Showing you can be trusted by what's expected of you

**February-Kindness:** Showing others they are valuable by how you treat them

**March-Patience:** Waiting until later for what you want now

**April-Peace:** Proving you care more about each other than winning an argument

**May-Commitment:** Making a plan and putting it into practice

# It's Just a **Phase**... *Don't Miss It!*

In 10 short months you'll be emptying a backpack full of broken pencils, crumpled writing assignments, and science worksheets. After that, your child will be a sixth grader and you'll never know them as a fifth grader again! So we want to encourage you to embrace this phase and don't miss it.

Here's some research compiled by our Phase Project ® about fifth graders:

## Fifth Graders...

- ... may be easily embarrassed about their body.
- ... benefit by being encouraged to be persistent despite their performance.
- ... still need 10-11 hours of sleep each night.
- ... benefit from a best friend and other healthy friendships (research shows that there's extraordinary value in having a best friend in the fifth grade).
- ... are able to collaborate on rules and consequences.
- ... are beginning to understand abstract concepts.
- ... enjoy problem solving.
- ... desire more personal privacy.
- ... need to experience moderate failure and consequences to build resilience.
- ... want to be seen as "independent" and "mature".