



INQUIRING MINDS - GRADE 5



Mrs. Glendinning



September 2020

Welcome!!

Although information and directions are changing rapidly I, STILL, AM VERY EXCITED FOR THE YEAR to come. We had a successful first week back! The students and I learned about enhanced safety measures and how to make them work within our classroom. The students did a wonderful job this week with all of the new procedures to ensure all of our well being. As new information is given and we learn of the nuances of being in the classroom, I expect slight modifications will be needed.

Allow me to introduce myself: I am Mrs. Shawna Glendinning, and I will be your child's teacher this year. I am looking forward to getting to know the students and helping them as they adapt to all of the changes that a new grade brings and well as the challenges of 2020!

A little bit of background information of your child's teacher. I am beginning my 4th year at Westfield. I have taught in Tillsonburg schools for 12 years and have taught for about 16 years. I live in Tillsonburg with my family which is made up of my husband, two children, (my daughter is 16 and my son is 13) and our two cats. My family had an amazing summer where we camped in the backyard, visited with our family and had some kayaking day trips!

Our class is a straight grade class with 27 students. I will be their primary teacher: teaching the majority of the subjects. We will have different teachers for Music and French. The class will have Music on Days 4, 8, and 10 and at this time it will be Mr. Hilliker. We will have French everyday and M. Dube will be our teacher. I will post our timetable on our class website - there may be slight modifications after we run through our first 10 day cycle.

I would also like to introduce and welcome Mrs. Kait Buchner to our families. She is a teacher candidate from Niagara University. She will be with us from September 14-October 23. We welcome her to our class and to Westfield.

Communication

In the past, I have used a class website as a means of communication with some success. We will have this option again this year - here is the website link- I will try to update this as soon as possible! <https://inspire2bgr8.com/>

We will be using Google Classroom as a virtual learning hub. This will supplement the learning that is done face to face. I will update it daily and students who are home ill but well enough to do some school work will be able to go on to see what we are learning that day. We went on our Google Classroom this past week and the students are encouraged to show you around the classroom this week. Please join as a guardian so that you get updates of assignments, due dates, and marks. I can not see what you see to join our Google Classroom as a guardian for updates, etc. My understanding is that you should receive an email invite - it will give you a weekly summary of assignments. Please join our classroom so that you receive that weekly update.

Communication Cont'd

School Messenger is another important tool for communication both with the office for school information and can be used by myself for classroom specific information. Be sure you have set up your account and can access it. If you have any difficulties with Messenger, please call Mrs. Hudson in the office.

<https://www.tvdsb.ca/en/parents/school-messenger-step-by-step-guide.aspx>

Email is another way for you to communicate with me at any time. I have sent an email out to all guardians a week ago to establish a communication link between us. Please feel free to contact me through email at any time. I should respond to emails within 24 hours or on Monday's if contacted on the weekend. My email address is

tv15518@gotvdsb.ca

Another way to stay connected with the learning that is going on in our classroom is to follow our class twitter account. You can follow us [@inspiretobegr8](https://twitter.com/inspiretobegr8) !

There are several areas where I am undecided on what the best practices might be as we navigate through the different aspects of the 2020 learning. I am looking for feedback on families' opinions, availability, and comfort levels on these areas. I have included a survey to collect and reflect on your thoughts. Please complete this survey as soon as you can - so that I can make the best decision for our class. Ideally, I would have liked our students to have a high level of learning with and through technology so that they:

1. Are comfortable and independent with Google Classroom and all the different Google Apps for Learning? This would be if they are home with illness (but well enough to do some work) or if we need to stay home for any length of time.
2. There would be less movement of materials between home and school for work and marking of materials.

However, with most of our technology at the school being handed out in the Spring or to the FRL this fall, we do not have the technology available to use it everyday. As part of the survey mentioned above, I ask about your household's technology needs so that we can make informed decisions about how we will access our learning throughout this year.

Planners?

We have planners this year that we can use but again being cognizant of the bringing materials back and forth between home and school, I would like to hear your feedback on using them. If you needed to communicate with me we could use email or messenger to initiate any conversations that are needed. We can use the planners as they have been traditionally used!

Homework

I strongly believe that because the students give me their all during the school day, it is very important for them to be kids in the evening. My homework expectations reflect this. Each student will be asked to read for 20 minutes each night. Research shows that the biggest indicator of academic success is the amount of time a child spends reading and being read to. Students are asked to keep a simple reading log of their nightly reading! We will be reviewing this log throughout the school year to look for interests and genres. I will hand out a reading log sheet but students' can choose their way of recording (spiral notebook, the log sheet given, create a table in a Google Doc)!

School Supplies

All basic supplies for the year can be provided by the school. If a supply is given to students it becomes theirs for the school year. We will not have shared learning materials this year. Please keep in mind that many bright, interesting school supplies often become toys and distractions rather than learning tools. If you choose to supply a few items for your child's learning here is a list of suggested materials.

Binder (1.5" to 2")
Dividers,
Highlighter
Erasable pens
Calculator
Pencils
Erasers
Markers
Pencil Crayons
Item to sit on outside (mat)
Hand sanitizer

Curriculum Corner

Reading - We will start off the year reviewing the skills that good readers use to understand what they are reading. We will be focusing primarily on Fiction for the month of September.

Writing - We will review the types of sentences and how to construct well written sentences and move into paragraph writing. We will be using a strategy called Picture-Word Induction Model to get our pens moving on the paper.

Word Study - We will be reviewing the parts of speech and completing a diagnostic of our spelling skills. This will determine what spelling patterns we will work on to further our spelling development.

Math- To start of the year, we will learning about our brains and math learning. We will connect this directly to a growth mindset of mathematics. Our focus will be on Numbers - their values and operations. We will review place value of whole and decimal numbers and apply our knowledge to solve addition and subtraction word problems.

Science- We are beginning our first unit in Science this week - it is the Human Body.

Donations Requested

If you could donate a box of tissue that would be greatly appreciated.