

What is “The Daily Five”?

In 3rd grade the structure of our language arts time is a bit different than in the other graders.

It won't be long until you hear your child talking about “The Daily 5” (or maybe they have been already!). The purpose of this letter is to fill you in on what The Daily Five is all about, so you don't have to nod your head wondering what your child is talking about.

The Daily Five is a way of structuring language arts time so every student is independently engaged in meaningful literacy tasks. These research based tasks are ones that will have the biggest impact on student reading and writing achievement, as well as help foster children who love to read and write. Students receive explicit whole group instruction and then are given independent practice time to read and write independently while we provide focused, intense instruction to individuals and small groups of students.

When it is up and running smoothly, students will be engaged in The Daily Five, which are comprised of:

- Read to Self
- Work on Writing
- Read to Someone
- Listen to Reading
- Word Work

There are very specific behavior expectations to go with each Daily Five component. We will spend our first weeks working intensely on building our reading and writing stamina, learning the behaviors of the Daily Five and fostering our classroom community. We will use our RTI testing to direct the instruction of your child, and will spend time learning about your child's strengths and greatest needs as a reader in order to best plan instruction.

One thing you'll notice that may be a change for you is a direct decrease in the number of worksheets your child brings home. While worksheets keep students busy, they don't always result in a high level of learning. Instead, your child will be taught to select “Good Fit Books” or books they can read, understand and are interested in, which they will read during Daily Five. They will be spending most of their time actually reading, which research supports as the number one way to improve reading. We anticipate the motivation and enjoyment of reading will skyrocket when this gift of choosing their own books is accompanied by extended practice and specific reading instruction for each individual child.

Please think of our classroom as you visit garage sales or clean out your own family bookcases. We are always looking for books, magazines, and books on CD! It is our goal to make our classroom library as appealing as your favorite bookstore for browsing.