



Dates to Remember

December
22-January 5
Christmas Break

January
6 School resumes
10 Board Meeting
6:30 p. m.
11 We-PTO 4:00
p. m.
17 No School
24-28
Career Week

If you would like to receive things via e-mail, please send Mrs. Dennis an e-mail at vdennis@209u.net

LJ Stevens Intermediate School

Notes from Mrs. Dennis-January 2022

The Wilmington CUSD 209U will be using the Blackboard Connect System to inform parents of emergencies and non-emergencies. The Blackboard Connect system calls parents and guardians automatically.

If you receive an emergency call you should see a 411 prefix on the caller I.D. If the message is non-emergency it will say Wilmington Schools on the caller I.D. Please be aware: If you are using a privacy blocker on your phone, Blackboard Connect will not register. Do not hang up immediately; the message is on a loop and will begin again. Sometimes power outages, flooding, or weather develop suddenly. Emergency information regarding District 209U schools is announced over the following radio stations as soon as a decision is made:

Joliet - WJOL - AM 1340

Chicago - WGN - AM 720, FM 98

Joliet - WBUS - FM 100.7

Chicago - WLS - AM 890

Kankakee - WKAN - AM 1320

Television Channels - 2,5,7,9

Kankakee - WONU - FM 89.7

Kankakee - WVLI - FM 95.1

Wilmington - WKAT - FM 105.5

Morris - WJDK/WCSJ - FM 103.1 & FM 95.7

Or visit the following websites: www.EmergencyClosings.com, or our District website at www.wilmington.will.k12.il.us. It is vitally important to keep your phone numbers up to date!

If available Mrs. Dennis also posts school closings on the SIS Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/Stevens-Intermediate-School>

Join the Remind App-

2nd grade code: mrsvden

4th grade code: dc7777a

3rd grade code: 7ee468e

5th grade code: k8ek42

Second Grade News for the 2nd Trimester

In reading, we will be focusing on the following skills and strategies throughout the second trimester:

- *Sequence of Events
- *Inferring/Predicting
- *Text Features
- *Comparing & Contrasting
- *Main Ideas & Details
- *Figurative Language
- *Cause and Effect
- *Summarizing
- *Point of view
- *Story Structure

These skills and strategies will be practiced, in a variety of genres, within our reading series and through engaging instruction and activities within the classroom. Students are encouraged to read for at least 15 minutes each night to help with fluency and build reading stamina.

In Math, we are learning to add and subtract two-digit numbers. We will also learn to add and subtract three-digit numbers. Students will learn a variety of strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems. Students are not expected to master each strategy. The goal is for them to be exposed to a variety of strategies and choose the strategy that works best for them. It is important for students to master their basic addition and subtraction facts. Please practice these facts with your child at home.

Third Grade News for the 2nd Trimester

What a wonderful first half of the year we've had so far! Students have learned multiplication strategies and are on their way to mastering one-digit multiplication in order to move onto division. The ice cream reward party is just around the corner! In writing, students are learning how to persuade and share opinions while considering their topic, audience, and purpose. We are working on varying our sentence beginnings and lengths, while elaborating with sensory details to create imagery for our readers. In reading, while enjoying informational text, trickster tales, and legends, we will focus on the skills of sequencing, point of view, theme, and compare and contrast. For science, students will wrap up the life science unit on animal and plant life cycles and adaptations. To build social studies skills, students will learn about communities and their economies, governments, and leaders. The third grade teachers would like to thank you for your continued support and hard work. Please continue to encourage your child to read and study their math facts daily!

Fourth Grade News for the 2nd Trimester

Students are continuing to take the skills learned in the first trimester and build upon them using the new concepts introduced in second trimester. In reading, students will work to analyze and evaluate text, make inferences and predictions, and continue to work on summarizing text. In historical fiction stories, we will also discuss the author's word choice. In narrative nonfiction text, students will identify similes and metaphors. Students will also have vocabulary strategies such as Greek and Latin Word Parts that can help determine the meanings of words.

In the second trimester of math, students will continue to work on multiplication fact fluency as well as be introduced to new concepts. Fourth graders will be moving on to fractions. Students will be working with fraction equivalence and comparison, adding and subtracting fractions, and multiplying fractions by whole numbers. Multiple strategies will be presented, and then students choose what method is best for them when working with fractions.

Finally, students will also be learning new concepts in social studies and science. In the second trimester of social studies, students will continue practicing their map skills as well as beginning to study the Midwest region of the United States. Besides learning about the importance of this region, students will be expected to know the capital and location of each Midwest state. In the second trimester of science, students will begin to explore electricity and what it means to be an engineer. Students will 'Think like an engineer' to find solutions to energy problems. We are looking forward to another exciting trimester of growth, curiosity, and excitement!

Fifth Grade News for the 2nd Trimester

READING

Fifth grade will continue to work through unit 2 of our Journeys reading curriculum. Our focus skills for the upcoming stories are: point of view, characterization, drawing conclusions, making generalizations, and main ideas and details. We continue to vary the genres and text structures we are reading from in order to expose the students to as many as possible. It often opens up a new literary type for students who may be reluctant to try reading something new.

SCIENCE

Fifth grade students will continue our second major unit in Science which is Physical Science. Students will learn all about matter. We will study the three states of matter. We will also explore the properties of matter such as magnetism, electrical conductivity, thermal conductivity, solubility, and more. The unit will wrap up with physical and chemical reactions.

SOCIAL STUDIES

We will continue our studies of the history of the United States. The focus for this trimester will be early colonization, the events leading to the Revolutionary War, fighting for freedom, and the development of our Democracy.

Weekly Geography will continue to be assigned each week.

MATH

In Go Math, fifth grade will wrap up our three chapters long unit working with decimals. The last section, which starts after the Winter break, will be dividing decimal numbers. Then, our attention will focus on developing fluency with addition and subtraction of fractions, and developing an understanding of the multiplication of fractions and of division of fractions in limited cases. (Unit fractions divided by whole numbers and whole numbers divided by unit fractions.) In addition, fifth grade continues extending division to 2-digit divisors, integrating decimal fractions into the place value system, and developing an understanding of operations with decimals to hundredths.

NURSE'S NOTES:

We are now entering "cold and flu season" and with COVID-19 still upon us, I wanted to send some helpful information and reminders on our school policy for attendance during an illness.

Please remember that all state mandates our school has been required to follow the first semester for COVID-19 are still in place. With these mandates, please make sure your student is not exhibiting symptoms before sending them to school. If your child is showing symptoms, please keep them home. Call our school to discuss further action and requirements to return.

Once the school receives confirmation that the current illness is not COVID-19, students should still be staying home if symptomatic to reduce the spread of illness and germs.

Any student exhibiting symptoms including fever of 100 degrees or higher, vomiting, and/or diarrhea in the last 24 hours must remain at home. Students should also remain home if they have significant nasal discharge, cough, or severe respiratory infection.

They may return when they are able to function in the classroom comfortably, they have been fever-free without the use of medication for 24 hours, and no vomiting/diarrhea without the use of medication for 24 hours. A doctor's note excluding the possibility of COVID-19 with an alternate diagnosis or a negative COVID-19 test will also be required.

These guidelines will be followed at the school level. If your child is sent to school before the full 24 hours or symptomatic and without proper documentation, we will contact you to pick up your child. I know much of this can be confusing and a challenge to understand. Please reach out to me if you have any questions, and I can help you through it.

Stay safe and healthy!

If you have any questions, please contact your child's school or the district nurse at 815-926-1749.

2nd Trimester Music News Winter 2021/22

2nd Grade:

Holiday music for their program, study composers Tchaikovsky and Bach with various activities and listening exercises; continue to focus on rhythm with Music Go Bag instruments and percussion activities.

3rd Grade:

Holiday music for their program, study composer Tchaikovsky with various activities and listening exercises; understanding folk music and how it is used in dancing, singing and playing of musical instruments; studying about Japanese world instruments.

4th Grade:

Instrument Families - woodwind/brass - watching videos of professional groups perform and listening exercises of the woodwind and brass instruments; learning about the composer Scott Joplin and his influence with ragtime music with various activities (ex: cup game with a Joplin rag); continued exercises and activities with rhythm; patriotic music for the February program.

5th Grade:

Studying the composer Mozart and Tchaikovsky with various activities and listening exercises; instrument families - brass/percussion - watching videos of professional groups perform listening exercises of brass and percussion instruments; studying about spirituals with history and songs about the underground railroad; studying about the composer Beethoven with various activities and listening exercises.

5th Grade Band:

Continue small group lessons to learn basic rhythm and melody concepts of playing; also learning responsibility by learning to take care of a band instrument and how home practice is extremely important at this time; hoping to begin full band with everyone together at the end of January!

Gluten Free:

SIS has many students with food allergies and/or gluten issues. Please keep this in mind when sending in birthday treats, holiday party treats, or class snacks. If you have any questions, please contact the classroom teacher for possible food intolerances.

A great website to visit for gluten free snacks is: <http://www.celiac.com/>

PTO News

Bellettini Receipts: Please send in receipts throughout the school year. Credit will be given to classrooms for receipts and box tops sent in throughout the year.

Meeting: The PTO meeting for January is Tuesday, January 11th @ 4:00 p.m. The meeting will be held virtually. Please email vdennis@209u.net for a meeting link.

The February meeting will be held virtually Tuesday, February 1st @ 4:00 p.m.

Thank you to PTO for the support each year!

Math Facts

Practice basic math facts at least **15 minutes each night**. Students need to be fluent with math facts in order to have a good foundation for math.

Second grade should master basic addition and subtraction facts. Third, Fourth, and Fifth Grades should master basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts.

Students who do not have automaticity with basic math facts by 6th grade will struggle in pre-algebra, algebra, and higher math classes.

IAR Assessment

Beginning in April, SIS students in grades 3-5 will take part in IAR Assessments. IAR stands for Illinois Assessment of Readiness. IAR tests in the areas of Math and ELA (English/Language Arts). Grades 3-5 will take four ELA tests and three Math tests.

IAR tests Common Core Standards. The tests will be rigorous. All testing for IAR will be done on-line using a computer.

The IAR is very important to the Wilmington 209U District and Stevens. Students need to show improvement from their previous year's scores.

If you have any questions about IAR, please call 815-926-1689 or visit the Illinois State Board of Education website at www.isbe.net.

Please make sure your children get a good night's rest, eat a nutritional breakfast, and put in their best effort on the test.

Stevens Intermediate has been ranked in the top 10% of all Illinois School for the last 3 years due to our IAR scores. Let's keep this up!



Dress for the Weather

SIS students will go outside for recess unless it is raining or the temperature is below 15 degrees Fahrenheit. All students are required to go out for recess. The only exception is a doctor's note to stay inside. Students should have winter coats, hats, and gloves/mittens. Please ensure that your students are prepared. Mrs. Dennis makes this announcement every morning.

January Dates

December

- 22-Jan-05 Winter Break- NO SCHOOL

January

- 5 Teacher Institute- NO SCHOOL
- 10 School Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- 11 WE-PTO Meeting
- 14 Mid-term reports-electronically
- 17 Martin Luther King Jr Birthday-NO SCHOOL
- 24-28 Career Week

February

- 1 WE-PTO Meeting 4:00 pm
- 9 School Improvement Early Dismissal 11:20 a.m.
- 14 School Board 6:30
- 14 Valentine's Day Party 2:00-2:45
- 18 End of Second Trimester
- 21 Presidents Day - No School
- 25 Report Cards

March

- 7 Pulaski Day--NO SCHOOL
- 8 WE-PTO Meeting 4:00 pm
- 14 School Board 6:30 p.m.
- 22 Spring Pictures
- 28-April 1 Spring Break

April

- 4 School Resumes
- 5 WE-PTO Meeting 4:00 pm
- 11 School Board 6:30 p.m.
- 13 School Improvement Early Dismissal 11:20 a.m.
- 14 Mid-term reports-electronically
- 15 and 18 Easter Break-no school

May

- 2 5th grade Band Concert
- 2-6 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 3 WE-PTO Meeting 4:00 pm
- 9 School Board 6:30 p.m.
- 27 Last day of school (tentative) 1:50 dismissal