***Welcome to fifth grade!***

 None of us expected the last year and a half to go the way it has, and as we begin this year we may not really know what to expect. That is okay. This year will be as great or awful as we make it, so the purpose of this letter is to make sure everyone understands the expectations.

 **The biggest part of what makes a class work is mutual respect. You may not all know each other, and may not have been friends, and you don’t need to be besties, but this year, we are all on the same team. We do better when we work together. I have the Lego wall, I have 3D printers, I have actual robotics kits, I have a ton of fun things we can do, but how much we get to do depends on how good you guys are. You will get what you give. If you act like a kindergartener, you should expect people to treat you like one. People only can respond to what you give them. We all help each other out, we all have each other’s backs, and we will show the rest of this school the amazing things we can do if we put our big kid pants on and act right.**

 **We do not insult anyone, we do not bully anyone, we do not hurt anyone physically or emotionally. We do not steal from anyone, we do not mess with anyone else’s things. Our class is a safe space for everyone. I want to be able to help and keep everyone safe, so I need to know anything that will help. I will have you let me know if you have allergies or those sorts of things, but I also want to know what causes you to struggle, to worry, to need help. Everyone is tolerated, encouraged, supported, and appreciated, and no one will be allowed to harm anyone else.**

 Computers need to come to school every day charged and ready to go. Not having a computer will not save you from work, it will actually end up making your work take longer. We are not allowed to have snacks in class this year, so you can bring a bottle of water, but nothing else. Cell phones must be off during school hours and will be taken if seen.

 Most importantly, I need all of you to understand that my literal job is to teach you 5th grade material. If you come in below that level, I can’t spend 5th grade teaching 4th or 3rd grade material. I will do everything I can to help you catch up if you are behind, but know that this year will be a lot of work. No one is behind because they are not smart, so there are no excuses for not being able to grow and get stronger. We will do this together, learning is a team sport. Whenever you need anything, let me know. When you are unsure about something, need help with something, are struggling with someone, come talk to me. I can do a lot of things, but I cannot read minds.

 This year will be incredible because we will not accept anything less. You find what you look for, so do not look for trouble, look for good. Own this year, show life what you can do!

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