

WEEK TWO



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Fifth & Sixth Grades

Fifth and sixth graders yearn for independence. They want to have choices about what they learn, who they sit with, and what they do at recess. A key part of our job is supporting them in their growth toward greater autonomy—and this effort begins in earnest during the second week of school. As we go about this work, we want to keep in mind the idea of balance.

We can set students up for success by gradually giving them more responsibilities, although we'll still need to model appropriate behaviors and ensure that everyone is included throughout the day. In so doing, we'll pave the way for a community of students who can work both independently and collaboratively, treat each other with empathy, and reach challenging goals.

Week Two Sample Schedule ■ Grades 5–6

M O N D A Y

8:15 Arrival routines Establish morning tasks

8:30 Morning Meeting

- Greeting: Neighbors greet
- Sharing: Partner chat (one event from weekend)
- Group activity: Hands Up
- Morning message: Reminder of working snack

8:50 Math Finish factor challenge • Identifying prime and composite numbers • Writing down math assignments

9:50 Outside time or energizer

10:05 Reading Review routines • Introduce conferences and share schedule • Working with partners

11:00 Establishing rules Add to rules list and begin categorizing

11:20 Writing Brainstorm topics for autobiographies • Explore characteristics of autobiographies

11:45 Recess Introduce some new games this week

12:05 Lunch Vary table groups throughout this week

12:30 Quiet time Expand choices this week

12:45 Read-aloud Introduce story graphs

1:00 Energizer

1:10 Special

1:55 Social studies Introduce geography unit with focus on land features • Teach mapping skills

2:30 Homework Review assignments • Practice completing assignments in school

2:45 End-of-day logistics and closing circle (one positive from today)

3:00 Dismissal

T U E S D A Y

8:15 Arrival routines Practice homework drop-off

8:30 Morning Meeting

- Greeting: Mix-and-Mingle
- Sharing: Inside-Outside Circles (autobiographical categories)
- Group activity: Hands Up
- Morning message: Prime numbers

8:50 Math Introduce calculators • Largest prime number challenge • Sharing/publishing prime number challenge solution

9:50 Outside time or energizer

10:05 Reading Introduce reading fiction • Teach character interactions (grade 5); how plot unfolds (grade 6)

11:00 Establishing rules Finish categorizing

11:20 Writing Explore creating autobiographies (sketch mapping) • Writing time

11:45 Recess

12:05 Lunch

12:30 Quiet time

12:45 Read-aloud Creating story graphs

1:00 Energizer

1:10 Special

1:55 Social studies Teach more about land features • Practicing mapping skills • Teach how to create a map

2:30 Homework Starting assignment in school; finishing at home

2:45 End-of-day logistics and closing circle (partner chat on autobiographies)

3:00 Dismissal

Week Two Sample Schedule ■ Grades 5–6

W E D N E S D A Y

8:15 Arrival routines

8:30 Morning Meeting

- Greeting: Inside-Outside Circles
- Sharing: Partner chat (how you unwind after school)
- Group activity: Find Your Match (factor strings)
- Morning message: Prime factorization example

8:50 Math Factor strings; prime factorization

9:50 Outside time or energizer

10:05 Reading Reading fiction (text analysis)

11:00 Establishing rules

Name rules and reach agreement

11:20 Writing Writing autobiographies; conferences

11:45 Recess

12:05 Lunch

12:30 Quiet time

12:45 Read-aloud Adding to story graphs

1:00 Energizer

1:10 Special

1:55 Social studies

Continue with geography unit; creating a map

2:30 Homework Starting assignment in school; finishing at home

2:45 End-of-day logistics and closing circle (A Warm Wind Blows)

3:00 Dismissal

T H U R S D A Y

8:15 Arrival routines

8:30 Morning Meeting

- Greeting: Neighbors greet
- Sharing: Inside-Outside Circles (three places you want to visit)
- Group activity: Find Your Match (prime factorization)
- Morning message: Check in on autobiography

8:50 Math Factor strings; prime factorization; challenge activity

9:50 Outside time or energizer

10:05 Reading Reading fiction (text analysis); conferences

11:00 Establishing rules

Complete and display rules poster

11:20 Writing Writing autobiographies; conferences

11:45 Recess

12:05 Lunch

12:30 Quiet time

12:45 Read-aloud Adding to story graphs

1:00 Energizer

1:10 Special

1:55 Social studies

Continue with geography unit; creating a map

2:40 Homework First at-home assignment

2:45 End-of-day logistics and closing circle (students' choice)

3:00 Dismissal

F R I D A Y

8:15 Arrival routines

8:30 Morning Meeting

- Greeting: Mix-and-mingle
- Sharing: Partner chat (reflection on learning this week)
- Group activity: Students' choice
- Morning message: Rules and lunch

8:50 Math Sharing/publishing one problem solved this week

9:50 Outside time or energizer

10:05 Reading Reading fiction (text analysis); book shopping

11:00 Establishing rules Discuss ways to follow rules

11:20 Writing Planning process for completing autobiographies

11:45 Recess

12:05 Lunch

12:30 Quiet time

12:45 Read-aloud Adding to story graphs

1:00 Energizer

1:10 Special

1:55 Social studies Finishing and presenting maps

2:40 End-of-day logistics and extended closing circle (reflect on week/preview next week)

3:00 Dismissal