



**Mrs. Nettling**  
**Bobby F. Grigsby Intermediate School**  
**2008-2009**

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Hello, and welcome to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade! I am really excited about all the things we have planned this year, and I am looking forward to working with your children as their math and science teacher. This should be a great year of growth for them! I would like to take this opportunity to answer some basic questions about what is ahead in the coming months at school.

**What are the classroom rules?**

Our classroom will be structured to establish a safe, respectful, and engaged learning environment:

1. Respect: We will respect all people and all things.
2. Responsibility: We will be responsible for our assignments and our choices.
3. Honesty: We will be truthful in all that we do.
4. Character: We will strive for great personal character.

When a student **follows the rules** the consequences include gaining personal pride in their performance, having the best opportunities for successful learning, earning good grades, and enjoying fun rewards. When a student **breaks the rules** the consequences include a note or phone call to parents and/or a student writing an action plan, serving detention, visiting the principal, earning lowered grades, and others, as stated in the student handbook.

**What is the homework policy for this class?**

Homework is critical for your child's success, just as football practice is for the football player, cheerleading practice is for the cheerleader, or piano practice for the pianist. Homework is due on the date as assigned, and I will go over it with my students. Sometimes I will grade it for completion; other times I will grade it for accuracy and quality. Late homework will have points deducted. Students who do not turn in homework on time may be required to serve a detention as well.

**What is my child's responsibility for completing homework?**

We will spend the last 10 minutes of class each day writing the night's homework in student planners. For the first five weeks I will help students organize their daily homework planner. I recommend that parents check their child's homework planner each evening. Your child is responsible to copy the assignments in their homework planner. Your child is responsible to complete each entire assignment, no blanks (giving the "best guess" when unsure), and turn it in when it is due. I require students to show their work in math.

**How can I support my child's homework efforts?**

I recommend that you check your child's homework planner, especially early in the year as students develop important routines and establish personal work habits for success. It is important for you to provide encouragement and the time, tools, and setting (quiet, good lighting, etc.) for doing homework. You will also want to make sure that your child is organized and prepared for the next day of class before (s)he goes to bed at night.

**→ TIP: Encourage your child to pack his/her book bag *before* going to bed! Bedtime should be reasonable for this developmental age (lights out around 9:00). Establish rules about choices and time watching TV and playing Video Games, and then enforce them! This is even more important in those households in which there are games and TV in the child's bedroom.**

### **How long will my child work on homework each night?**

Homework should not average more than 60 minutes (average) a night. This does not include Independent Reading. If your child is taking longer than 60 minutes to complete homework on a regular basis, please call me so that we can work together to identify what adjustments may need to take place. [Read my online letter if you think this may be a problem for your child.](#)

### **How will my child's other assignments be scored?**

Some assignments will be graded in a percentage-based way, while others will be graded on a point system. I will mark incorrect answers, and in some cases write in the correct answer. Some projects will be graded according to a rubric that is set up for that assignment specifically.

Your child will often grade his/her own paper. These pages are easy to identify because students put a check mark by each correct answer. Having students check their own papers works well because it gives them immediate feedback and the opportunity to ask good questions while the learning is fresh! I then collect the work and look over it to make sure each student has a basic understanding of the concept being taught. Some papers will receive a score that indicates *completion and accuracy* of the assignment. Other papers will receive a check mark that indicates that your child has received credit for *completing* the assignment. If there are two grades on the paper, this usually means that re-teaching has taken place, and the child has been re-evaluated. To prioritize the importance of state achievement testing, report card grades will be determined weighting test scores more heavily than other assignments.

### **What is the best time of day for orthodontist or other medical appointments?**

Excellent attendance is one of the key factors for excellent academic success. Arriving on time and staying for the full day should always be the goal. When the need for a medical-related appointment comes up and it cannot be scheduled outside of the school day, I recommend that parents do everything they can to avoid taking their child out of math class. It is the most challenging class to miss. Since each day of learning in math is built on the new skills learned the day before, missing a day can quickly confuse a student.

### **How can I follow my child's progress?**

You will be able to track your child's assignments and grades on the Parent Access component of the district's electronic grading system Progress Book. Please allow a few days for me to grade and post scores for each assignment. Normally grades are posted in a week, but some projects may take longer. If you do not have your Parent Access password yet, please email Mike Schuh at [ca\\_schuh@swoca.net](mailto:ca_schuh@swoca.net). About every two to three weeks, I will send your child's work home in a folder. Please sign the signature paper that is in the folder, keep the papers, and return the folder the next school day.

### **How can I find out what else is going on in class?**

I keep lots of classroom, parent, and student resources on my website, as well as student work, regular newsletters, and photo slideshows! You will likely want to visit our website often by going to <http://www.leslienettling.com>. If you forget the address, just do a search on "Mrs. Nettling" and you will find it listed.

### **What else should I know to help my child be comfortable in class and at school?**

*Bring a sweater!* Our classroom temperature can vary widely from hour to hour, regardless of the season. We are on the sunny side of the building with no blinds, so the room can heat up or get stuffy easily. Turning on the air conditioning and opening up the windows can feel good to some students, yet feel chilly for others. I recommend that all students have a sweater or sweatshirt at school that they can keep in their locker.

*Save the perfumes and body scents for the weekends!* Perfumes and body scents might be popular, but they can present real health challenges for students (and teachers!) who might have asthma or migraines. I ask that we all create a respectful atmosphere at school by not bringing and not wearing strong scents/perfumes to school.

*Think nutrition!* Public school systems all across the nation have been challenged to become more conscientious about children's health and nutrition. Whether you are joining your child for lunch or sending in treats, please think about keeping the food nutritious.

*Happy Birthday!* If you are bringing in treats for your child's birthday, please let me know a day in advance. While there is not enough time to have a party, we can certainly find time to enjoy a snack and sing "Happy Birthday" during one of our lessons! All birthday treats must already be in individual servings, and complete with any plate, bowl, or silverware needed. No drinks! Avoid anything that has nuts, especially peanuts or peanut butter. Nuts can trigger serious, even life-threatening, allergic reactions for some children. Keep the district nutrition policy in mind; the more nutritious, the better. Here are some ideas: fruits, veggies, string cheese, granola, raisins, etc.

#### **How can I get in touch with you if needed?**

I realize that it is not always possible to get together or talk during the school day. If anything comes up, I hope you will feel comfortable writing a note, leaving a voice mail at school, [e-mailing](#) (preferable!), or calling me at home. Please do not feel that you are "bothering" me by calling at home – I *want* to hear from you! I truly enjoy talking with my students' parents, and feel that through those conversations students make the most progress in a school year! Due to privacy issues, it would probably be better to provide only general information in notes, voice mail, and e-mail, and save any personal or confidential specifics for when we actually talk or get together.

#### **What are your contact numbers and addresses?**

(Home) 513-932-6317

(School) 937-746-8969

(E-mail) [ca\\_netting@swoca.net](mailto:ca_netting@swoca.net) or [nettf@embarqmail.com](mailto:nettf@embarqmail.com)

If you have any questions or concerns at any time throughout the year, please let me know!

Sincerely,  
Leslie Nettling

**Thanks for all you do to send your child to school ready to learn!**

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Nettling, 2008