



Dear Incoming Fifth Graders,

We are very excited for a new school year and are looking forward to you joining us next year in fifth grade. To ensure a smooth transition and to help maintain necessary skills, below is a list of skills in which you should be proficient to be successful in fifth grade. We encourage regular practice of these skills.

- **Math Facts**
 - 100 facts in 3 minutes (addition/subtraction/ multiplication/division through 12's)
- **Reading**
 - A book log is attached to record summer reading and turn in on the first day of school for a reward!
 - We encourage you to "tell someone" about the books you are reading over the summer.
- **Writing**
 - Write paragraphs about summer activities
 - Write paragraphs that describe things
 - Write paragraphs that persuade
 - Practice writing restated, complete sentences that answer questions
- **50 States and Capitals**
 - Practice identifying states, capitals and their locations
- **Penmanship**
 - Practice proper Spalding Cursive
- **Memory Pieces**
 - Students will receive a *Memory Pieces* packet of pieces to choose recitation pieces from during the first week of school. The *Gettysburg Address* is required some time during the year and is attached to this *Welcome Packet* if you'd like to get a head start.

Fifth grade students at Valley Academy are given a significant amount of independent work. This is to reinforce skills learned in class and to assess their ability. Please visit the school website's Homework Helpers page for useful resources at:

<https://valleyacademy.com/parents/student-resources/homework-helpers/>.

We are looking forward to an exciting 2020-2021 school year with you and your parents!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Breshears
Mrs. Freeman
Mrs. Lewandowsky



Section 1

The Gettysburg Address

by President Abraham Lincoln

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate--we cannot consecrate--we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract.

The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us--that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave their last full measure of devotion--that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain--that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of Freedom--and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.