

Welcome to the 23/24 School Year



I hope you had a relaxing, yet enjoyable summer and you are looking forward to coming into 5th grade with great enthusiasm, an excellent attitude towards learning, and a smile on your face because you will have ALL three of these values with the “Gillespie’s Gamers”.

Before we get too involved with our classroom information and expectations, let me introduce myself. My name is Scott Gillespie. This year, I enter my 7th year as part of the Sahuaro community. I have been with the district for 17 years in total. When I am not in the classroom, you will find me camping with my family, playing golf, and watching a variety of sports on the television

During the school year, we will focus not only on our academic minds, but also making everyone a strong team player, inside and outside of the classroom. Gillespie’s Gamers will strive to include everyone with a “team” concept to work together collaboratively, but some may desire to work independently, this method is accepted.

Our main discipline program, PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention System) strives to highlight the positives within each student. We will focus on improving behaviors, demonstrating the positive strategy or behavior to change any negative behavior/choices. We will use the acronym R.O.C.K.S (Responsibility, Optimistic, Caring, Kind, and Safe) in all of our locations around campus, from the cafeteria, playground, and the classrooms.

We will also use PAX strategies within the classroom to enhance our classroom community. PAX is a program that focuses on teaching self-regulation, cooperation, and empathy. Through engaging activities and discussions, we will nurture the students’ social-emotional skills, enabling them to build strong relationships, resolve conflicts peacefully, and become responsible members of the classroom and the wider community.

Fifth grade students are expected to come to school prepared, and have a great attitude toward their learning. Our “suggested” supply list will include, but not limited to the following:

- Wooden or mechanical pencils (students are responsible for the lead for their mechanical pen)
- Erasers
- Spiral folders (3 in total; Science, and 2 for reading)
- Composition Book (Math)
- Colored pencils
- Dry-erase
- Tissue boxes*
- Hand Sanitizers*

*these items may be needed throughout the school year

I may be reached through email (scott.gillespie@wesdschools) or via the telephone, 602-896-6200 if you have any questions, comments or concerns anytime Thank you for allowing me to facilitate the learning of your child here at Sahuaro.

Game on,

Scott Gillespie