

# We're **Flipping Out** in 5th Grade!

Big changes are coming in Mrs. Ellis' Math class in 2015. We are going to be experimenting with the "Flipped Classroom" model of learning. I am really excited about the possibilities for our students, and hope you will be too. I've written this letter in the hopes of answering your questions about these changes, but as always, if you have any other questions, please let me know.

**What is a Flipped Classroom?** The Flipped classroom attempts to "flip" what is done at school and what is done at home. Instead of completing traditional homework assignments, students will watch videos of my lectures at home for homework. This will free up class time for engaging activities and individual attention for each student.

**Why "Flip" a classroom?** I decided to flip the learning this year because I didn't think students were getting enough time to practice the Math they had learned in class before having to take it home to complete on their own. Freeing up time in class will allow me to help students more with challenging concepts, and give them an opportunity to do meaningful and engaging activities in class.

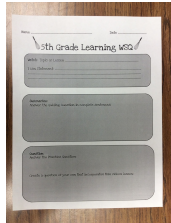
**How will this work?** Two to three times a week, students will be assigned a video for homework. Students will be able to access short videos (about 10 minutes) of my lectures from the "Flipped Homework" tab of my classroom website. They will complete a short activity called a **WSQ** (Watch, Summarize, Question) to bring to class the next day.

**Where can I find these videos?** All videos can be found on the "Flipped Homework" tab of my classroom website: [mrsellis5th.weebly.com](http://mrsellis5th.weebly.com). Or, here is a QR code that will take you right to our homework page:



**What if my child can't access the internet from home?** All of my videos are uploaded to Youtube to allow for easy watching on tablets and smartphones, though I know that not all students have access to such technology. Accommodations will be made for students that do not have access in many ways: **1)** I will be available most days before and after school for students to watch the video. **2)** With advanced notice, I can burn

the videos to DVDs or save them on a jump drive for students who make that request. **3)** Finally, there will be a video station in the classroom for students to catch up on videos they have missed, though this means they will miss out on some of the engaging activities and extra help going on in class. Which ever accommodation works best for your student is fine, though it is my expectation that the student take responsibility for requesting and arranging these accommodations.



**So what is a WSQ?** WSQ stands for Watch, Summarize, Question. When students are assigned a video to watch for homework, they will need to complete a WSQ and bring it to class. A WSQ asks them to **watch** the video, write down the “I Can” statement, use complete sentences to **summarize** the video (there will be a guiding question to help them with this), and finally **question** - answer a practice problem and come up with one of your own that represents the concepts learned in the video. Students will not be penalized for having any wrong answers, but they must give an honest, thoughtful attempt. As always, answers without work shown cannot be accepted.

**Is this all the Math homework my child will have now?** No (sorry kids!), but the paper and pencil homework will now focus on review. All new content will be covered by the videos 2 - 3 times a week. Students will have a spiral review sheet due each week, and those who are still working on memorizing their multiplication facts will have fact practice homework Monday - Wednesday. Thursday nights, many students will have Benchmark Practice worksheets in preparation for Benchmark Makeup on Fridays. If a student struggles with anything on a homework assignment, there will now be time to get help with that in class. Again, students will not be penalized for wrong answers, but they must show an honest, thoughtful attempt to receive credit.

**What if this doesn't work out for my child?** The beauty of flipped learning is that it frees up time for me to give every student what *they* need. But we are all new at this, so as we go along, if any problems arise or you have any suggestions for how to improve the learning of your child, please contact me. I made the decision to flip my classroom from an sincere desire to see every student in my class succeed. I am always open to ideas to help make that happen!

Thank you for your time and support. 2015 will be a great year!

Mrs. Ellis  
816-316-5769  
delaina.ellis@grandviewc4.net