



BAIRD MIDDLE SCHOOL

An AVID National Demonstration School

Mrs. Alvarado
Ms. Jensen
Mr. Karian
Mr. Turner
Mr. Mertens

Questions?

5thgradeteam.com/question



FUSD 2026 - 2027



Principal Chiarito

- *Ashlee Chiarito, Ed. D*
- ashlee.chiarito@fresnounified.org



Vice Principal Poindexter

- ***Mrs. Janet Poindexter***
- Email:
janet.poindexter@fresnounified.org



Academic Counselor

- ***Ms. Karina Navarro***
karina.navarro@fresnou
nified.org





Office manager

MRS. KARLA REEVE

MRS. TIANA PALOMINO

Attendance
clerk



Baird Support Staff

Mrs. Elin Oppliger

Speech Language Pathologist



Ms. Jessica Hernandez
School Psychologist





Campus safety

- Terrance Simpson a.k.a. Mr. T, Campus Safety Assistant (CA)
- Ofc. David Farfan, (SRO) Student Resource Officer





Support Peeps

- **Mr. TJ Ward: Tier II Specialist**
- **Mrs. Laura Walsh: TSA**



Join SSC

Why Join School Site Council (SSC)?

- **Have a Voice** — Share your perspective and help shape decisions that impact students.
- **Represent Baird Families** — Bring parent ideas, questions, and priorities to the table.
- **Help Guide School Funding** — Provide input on how resources are used to support student success.
- **Learn What's Happening at Baird** — Gain a deeper understanding of our goals, programs, data, and priorities.
- **Partner With Staff** — Work alongside teachers, staff, and administration to strengthen our school.
- **Make a Difference** — Help ensure decisions reflect what is best for **all Baird students**.

Join SSC 2026-27



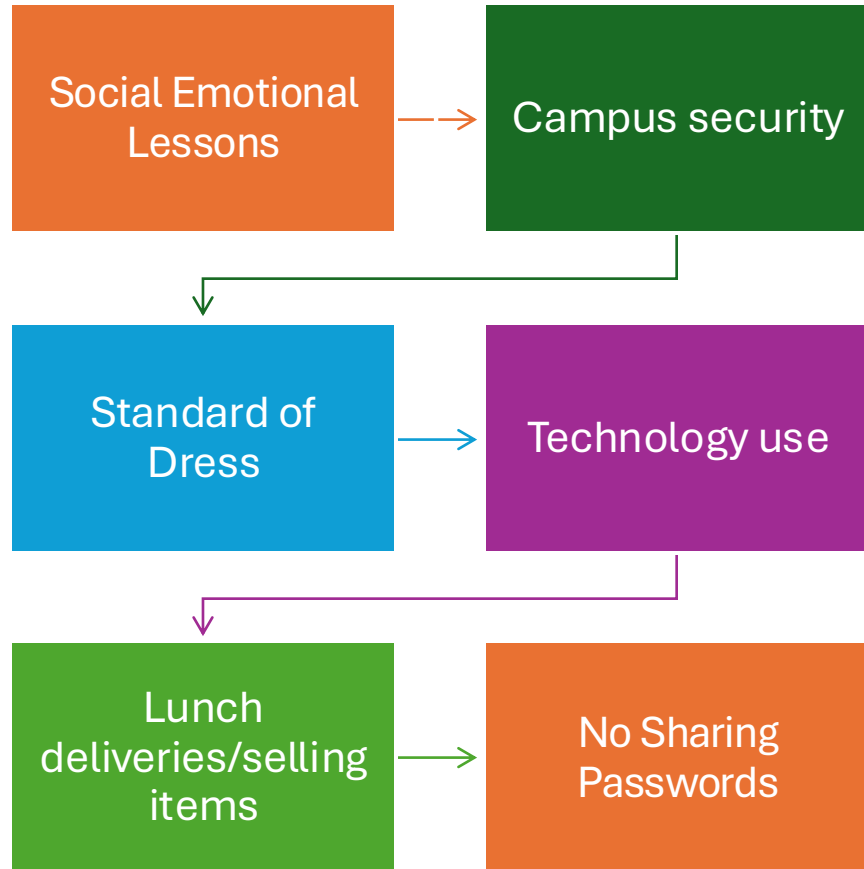
Baird PTO interest Form



Join PTO

- **Build Community** — Connect with other Baird families, teachers, and staff.
- **Support Our Students** — Help create fun experiences, activities, and opportunities for our Explorers.
- **Get Involved Your Way** — Participate as much or as little as your schedule allows.
- **Share Your Ideas** — Bring your talents, creativity, and perspective to help make Baird even better.
- **Support Our Staff** — Help us celebrate and show appreciation for the people who support our students every day.
- **Be Part of the Fun!** — Meet new people, volunteer at events, and help build lasting Baird traditions.

Safety is
a priority





BAIRD MIDDLE SCHOOL

An AVID National Demonstration School

Mrs. Alvarado
Ms. Jensen
Mr. Karian
Mr. Turner
Mr. Mertens

Questions?

5thgradeteam.com/question



FUSD 2026 - 2027



Path to Success



The Planner
Students write in it
daily in each class

Check it to see what is
currently happening



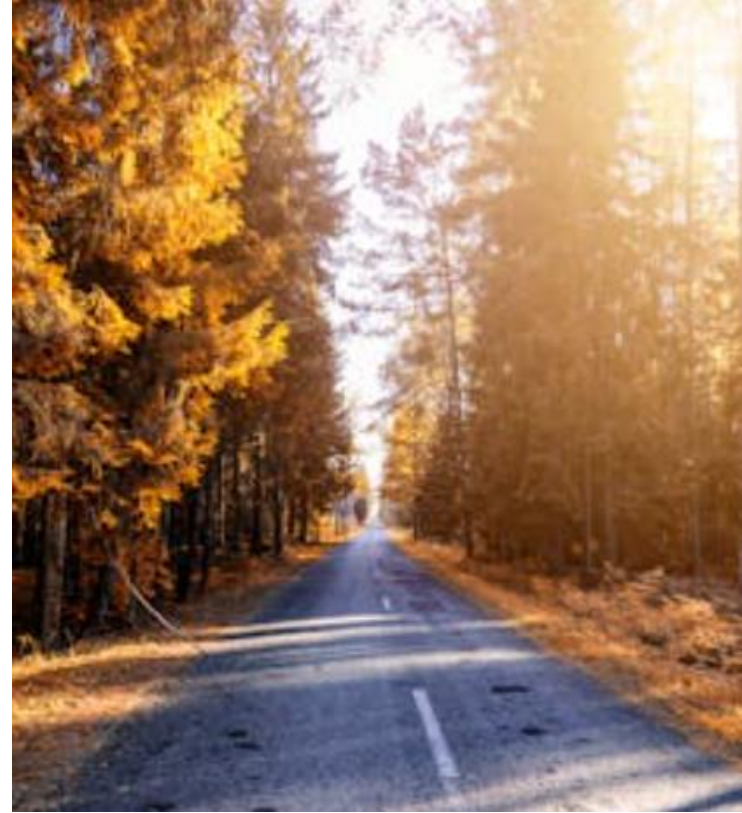
**ATLAS - Check on
outcomes of
assignments or
assessments**

Twice a week is a good
rule of thumb



**AST (Academic
Support Time)**

Get caught up on
instruction missed
Make up work from
absences
Get extra help when
needed



Maintaining Transfer Eligibility

- >2.0 GPA
- Good Behavior
- Good Attendance



Citizenship & Grades

- Strive for Academic Excellence
- Reward character, attitude, behavior, and effort
- Progress Reports → Report Cards

Inspiring and empowering every student to achieve academic excellence, personal growth, and global citizenship.



The BAIRD Way

- B – Be Prepared
- A – Achieve Academically
- I – Include Everyone
- R – Respect School, Self, and Others
- D – Do the Right Thing

Citizenship Grades

O – Outstanding , G – Good , S – Satisfactory , N – Needs Improvement , U - Unsatisfactory

This highest honors at awards assemblies are reserved for students with all O's and all G's!

Each quarter students with all G's get a reward and students with all O's get a special reward.



BAIRD MIDDLE SCHOOL

An AVID National Demonstration School

Mrs. Alvarado
Ms. Jensen
Mr. Karian
Mr. Turner
Mr. Mertens

Questions?

5thgradeteam.com/question



FUSD 2026 - 2027



Elective Teachers

Welcome to Agriculture & Natural Science with Mrs. Her

Classroom Expectations

- Follow instructions and safety protocols
- Come to class prepared for the days lesson
- Put for your best effort
- Be safe, responsible and respectful
- Have fun

Supplies

- Student computer
- Wired earphones
- One subject notebook
- Lined paper
- Highlighters (2 colors)



Grade Breakdown

- CFU 15%
- Classwork 10%
- Daily warmups 15%
- Projects 40%
- Assessments 20%

Citizenship

Citizenship grade will be based on the quality, attitude, work ethic of the student and good safety practices.

Availability & Contact Information

- AST, lunch & afterschool by appointment
- Gabriella.Her@fresnounified.org

This is an introductory Spanish class.

Students will learn:

Colors, numbers, days of the week, months of the year, daily expressions, commands, alphabet.

Categories:

Participation/Journal 25%

Tests 30%

Projects 25%

5-a-Day/Agenda/homework 20%

TOTAL 100%

• **Sra.**

Limón Maricela.limon@fresnouni

• **Spanish 5th grade LOTE**

• **Class Expectations:**

• **(1) Use the target language while in class.** Use of English during class time takes away from everyone's learning and will result in a lowering of the student's participation grade.

Use of online translators or digital AI assistance tools will result in an "F" on ANY assignment.

• **(2) Turn in work on time.** Late work in the case of excused absences will allow for a one-week extension. Late work *may receive partial credit*. For projects assigned in advance, students will be required to turn in the project by the due date. *No late projects will be accepted.*

• **(3) Put forth their best effort on all tests.** Any student receiving a grade of "D" or "F" on an exam may retake the exam within a week after receiving it. This will allow the student to clarify misunderstood concepts and receive assistance. The student may then retake the exam, earning a maximum score of 70% ("C").



EXPLO CAREERS

- **Course Description**

A quarter-long course covering the following:

- Keyboarding Skills
- Digital Literacy Basics
- Microsoft 365 Suite Skills
- 3D Design & Printing
- Coding (Block, HTML, CSS, JavaScript)
- Game Design
- App Development
- CTE required assignments.



MR. ROCHA
ROOM 18

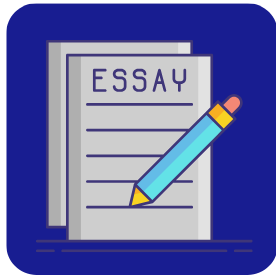
“Ethnic Eats”: Sharing Our Stories, One Dish at a Time

A quarter-long Ethnic Studies and cross-curricular project connecting family history, culture, and cuisine.



Interview & Discover

Students interview a family member about a treasured family dish and its history.



Research & Write

They research the dish’s cultural roots and write a personal narrative and recipe.



Present & Celebrate

Each student builds a digital presentation to share with classmates and families.

Culminating Celebration

At our end-of-year Ethnic Eats event, students will share samples of their family’s dish alongside their story — with the whole school community invited to taste and celebrate.



BAIRD MIDDLE SCHOOL

An AVID National Demonstration School

Mrs. Alvarado
Ms. Jensen
Mr. Karian
Mr. Turner
Mr. Mertens

Questions?

5thgradeteam.com/question



FUSD 2026 - 2027



Math

Mr. Karian

My fifth grade math class has an emphasis on operations with whole numbers through the billions and decimals/fractions through the thousandths. Students will be learning how to add, subtract, multiply and divide wholes, decimals, and fractions this year. And as we move forward in the year, students will begin to apply their computational understandings of these operations.

The first semester of my class will have a strong focus on operations and computational fluency. Much of the time, we will be doing work that looks very traditional in nature. As we move into the second semester, we will move into application of these operations and much of the work your child brings home will reflect a more critical thinking approach to learning. It is my hope that your child develops a deeper understanding of the concepts we will cover during the second semester.

Please email me whenever you have a question or any other need at paul.karian@fresnounified.org. I try very hard to return emails within 24 hours.

Quarter 1	Number systems, place value of wholes and decimals, operations with wholes and decimals, rounding wholes and decimals, using base ten exponents, order of operations, interpreting expressions.
Quarter 2	Continuation of previously taught concepts; operations with fractions and mixed numbers.
Quarter 3	Continuation of previously taught concepts; graphing on the coordinate plane, line plots, geometrical thinking, attributes of two-dimensional figures, area and perimeter, understanding volume of rectangular prisms.
Quarter 4	Continuation of previously taught concepts; deepening understanding of concepts, measurement conversion (customary and metric) relating decimals and fractions to percent.

Grading Scale:

A = 100% - 90%

B = 89% - 80%

C = 79% - 70%

D = 69% - 60%

F = 59% and below

Grading break down:**Assessment –**

At least 60% of the overall grade will come from quizzes and tests.

Homework and Classwork -

Between 30% and 40% of the overall grade will come from these categories.

Grades: Please check ATLAS at least once a week. If you have questions about a grade, please discuss with your child before contacting me. We want our students to take responsibility for their grades and to help you understand.

Assessments: I will be giving short assessments often – about once every other week. These are called “Checking for Understanding” assessments that allow me to see which students need further support to gain mastery of a particular skill or standard. Students will be able to retake these quizzes for a higher grade once they have gone through intervention and reteaching.

I will also be giving larger unit assessments once each quarter. These assessments cannot be made up for a higher grade.

Any student who is caught cheating on an assessment will be given a grade of zero with no opportunity for a re-take.

Homework: I will be assigning weekly iReady homework lessons. Students will have to complete one lesson per week. iReady lessons are assigned based on how well each student performed on the iReady diagnostic test which is during the first week. There will also be homework assigned once a week that is designed to help students master current concepts and skills.

Planners/Binders/Supplies: Planners and binders are crucial to student success here at Baird. It is advisable to check your child's planner and binder regularly to see if they are maintaining them. The planner should be written in daily so students can check homework assignments. The binder also should be kept neat. If you see loose papers in your child's binder, please encourage your child to file them behind the correct tab. **DO NOT CLEAN OUT YOUR CHILD'S BINDER WITHOUT THEM.** We need our students to take ownership of their binders so they can learn good study skills.

Your child needs to have their charged tablets, at least 3 sharpened pencils, a red pen, their math notebooks, binders, and planners (agendas) every day in my class.



BAIRD MIDDLE SCHOOL

An AVID National Demonstration School

Mrs. Alvarado
Ms. Jensen
Mr. Karian
Mr. Turner
Mr. Mertens

Questions?

5thgradeteam.com/question



FUSD 2026 - 2027



Physical Education
Mr. Turner

○ **Objectives**



- ✓ To develop the quality and productivity of each students' life through participation in a comprehensive physical education program.
- ✓ To develop each student's individual physical fitness, lifelong habits, self-respect, sportsmanship, social skills, health, and wellness.
- ✓ To develop students' manipulative skills while interacting with their peers in cooperative and team games.
- ✓ To provide developmentally appropriate activities while meeting the needs of all learners.

State Testing for PE

The state of California has designated the FITNESSGRAM as the PE test for all public school students. Baird Middle School will assess students in the following areas:

- Mile Run
- 20-meter Pacer
- Push-ups
- Curl-ups
- Sit & Reach

5th Grade Units/ Activities

- **Cooperative Games**
- **Frisbee Games**
- **Flag Football**
- **Jump Rope**
- **Indiaca**
- **Kickball**
- **Spikeball**
- **Mushball**

Grade Breakdown

- **50% Assessment
(Unit)**
- **20% Participation**

Student Expectations

- Be on time to class and report to roll call in proper PE uniform. **Dressing out demonstrates responsibility and encourages safety and proper hygiene.**
- Follow all directions. Treat staff and peers with respect.
- Actively participate in all class activities and demonstrate responsibility in improving personal fitness.
- Bring all needed materials to class.
- Use all equipment and facilities in a safe and proper manner.
- Exhibit proper hygiene by washing PE clothes weekly.
- Check grades on Atlas weekly.

Medical Excuses

- A student is permitted **2 *parent excuses*** during the school year. The maximum amount of time a student may be excused from activity is 3 consecutive class periods via Parent note.
- A doctor's note must be given to the school nurse, who will then send it to the appropriate teacher.
- A doctor's note for PE also applies to all extracurricular activities, including athletics.

Tardies

- Students must be in the locker room by the time the tardy bell rings.
- Students are given 7 minutes from the tardy bell to be dressed and sitting in front of their lockers.
- Students are given 7 minutes at the end of class to dress for their next class.
- Restroom needs must be taken care of before reporting to designated roll call area.

Athletic Game Days

- All student-athletes are required to dress out in their PE clothes and participate on game days.
- Student-athletes may NOT wear a school-issued uniform to PE class.

Electronic Devices

- No electronic devices are allowed in PE class or out in the locker room: cell phones, Air-Pods, cameras, etc.
- Should a student use their cell phone or any other electronic device during class, it will be sent to the Main Office where a parent will be required to pick it up.
- Taking pictures or using social media in the locker room or in class is

Locker Room

- Lockers are assigned for each school year and may not be switched unless a PE teacher has allowed it and recorded the change.
- Lock combinations must be given to your teacher before putting on your locker. If the lock needs to come off the locker for any reason, and student or teacher cannot open it, your lock may be cut off.
- No horseplay or running inside the locker room.
- Students are NOT allowed in the locker room or other facilities during break or lunch.

Baird PE Clothing

Item	Cost
PE T-Shirt	\$15
PE Shorts	\$15
PE Set	\$30

- PE clothing may be purchased at Schedule Pickup Night or in the locker rooms during AST.
- Checks made payable to *"Baird Middle School"*. Cash accepted.
- Baird spirit wear and sweatshirts are sold via online store (approximately 4 times per year).
- See Page 4 of Handbook for ***PE Clothing Requirements***

Lost or Stolen Items

- Any lost locks will need to be replaced. The new code must be reported to your teacher before being placed on your locker. Your code must be kept PRIVATE.
- Lockers must be locked during each class period.
- Bags or any other personal items should not be left out.
- Teachers are NOT responsible for lost or stolen items.
- Anyone caught stealing or performing any other illegal action will be reported to school administration.

Baird PE Staff

Doug Wilkins- Zero Period

Bryan Turner- 5th Grade

Lauren Peranick- 6th Grade



BAIRD MIDDLE SCHOOL

An AVID National Demonstration School

Mrs. Alvarado
Ms. Jensen
Mr. Karian
Mr. Turner
Mr. Mertens

Questions?

5thgradeteam.com/question



FUSD 2026 - 2027



5th Grade Science

Alyssa Jensen

alyssa.jensen@fresnounified.org

5th Grade NGSS Science and Engineering Topics

Structure and Properties of Matter:

Particles, Conservation of Matter, Identifying Materials, Properties, Mixing Substances.

Organisms and Ecosystems:

Energy from the Sun, Plant Growth, Movement of Matter in Ecosystems.

Earth's Systems:

How Earth's Systems Interact, Distribution of Water, Protecting Resources and the Environment.

Space Systems:

Gravity, Star's Apparent Brightness, Patterns in the Sky.

Engineering:

Defining Design Problems, Finding Solutions to Problems, Carrying Out Tests.

Student Responsibilities

Be on time and have materials ready for class. Charge your laptops before class and have sharpened pencils ready.

Follow directions and lab safety precautions at all times.

Be a respectful listener while others are speaking.

Take care of and respect the lab materials and technology.

Grades

Assignments will be graded on a 4-point rubric. Every assignment will be a multiple of 4 depending on the importance of the assignment. For instance: Science Labs are worth 20 (or 24 if they have a graphing component), Engineering Challenges are worth 16, Quizzes are worth 4, etc..

4	Exceeding Standard	Consistently exceeds expectations for skills and understanding
3	Meeting Standard	Consistently meets expectations for skills and understanding
2	Approaching Standards	Meets some expectations for skills and understanding
1	Below Standards	Meets few expectations for skills and understanding

Homework

Students will only have homework if they do not finish assignments in class. It is the student's responsibility to turn in these make-ups at the beginning of their next block with me. Students should also study for tests at home.

Missing Work and AST

Students should make up missing work due to sports or absences within 1 week of their return to school. I will be available to help any student with their work during AST every morning unless I have yard duty. Students can also make up tests during this time.

Any labs, workbook pages, or projects can be worked on and turned in later for a better grade if a student is not satisfied with what they earned the first time. Late work and redone work will be accepted until one week before the end of each quarter.

Contacting Me

Please contact me for help with assignments, help turning in work, navigating Teams, or if you just want to say hello! I would be glad to help and would love to get to know you better!

I usually return messages by the next school day.

The best way to contact me is through email: alyssa.jensen@fresnounified.org

Students can also contact me through Team's chat!



BAIRD MIDDLE SCHOOL

An AVID National Demonstration School

Mrs. Alvarado
Ms. Jensen
Mr. Karian
Mr. Turner
Mr. Mertens

Questions?

5thgradeteam.com/question



FUSD 2026 - 2027



Social Studies – 5th Grade 2026-2027

Elly Alvarado elly.alvarado@fresnounified.org





A Little About Me:

Welcome to Baird Middle School! I am so happy you have joined the Baird family and hope your child leaves my classroom loving social studies, to read and write, and just as importantly LOVING school! Of all the grade levels I have taught, 5th is my favorite. The students are at an age where they are learning to be independent and self-sufficient, but still love to give and receive hugs =).

I married my high school sweetheart and have three children ages, 26, 28, and 32. Our oldest daughter works as a Nurse Practitioner here in Fresno, our middle daughter works as a Registered Nurse in Denver Colorado, and our youngest just graduated from law works as an attorney here in Fresno. Go Fresno! Watching our children succeed in college has been one of our proudest moments knowing that all our hard work paid off, but we know we did not do it alone. They had amazing teachers and mentors that supported them along the way, and the teachers here at Baird Middle School will also support and mentor your child throughout their middle school years and beyond.



My Family

My goal for your child is that they love school, build strong relationships, and get a solid education that helps them attain a job they love and affords them a comfortable lifestyle.

Course Description:

Social Studies - The Social Studies class focuses on US history and is designed for history to come alive. Lessons will be explored through the eyes and perspectives of the women, men, and children who lived during that time. Topics to be covered:

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
• Geography • Immigration (Festival - Ethnic Eats)	• Native Americans • Exploration	• Colonies • American Revolution (P1)	• American Revolution (P2) • Constitution • State location

Common Core, the C3 Framework, and the CA History-Social Science Framework:

This course will address California's Common Core guidelines for Literacy in History/Social Studies, the

C3 Framework for Social Studies and the California History-Social Science Framework. For more information on these standards, see the links below:

CA Common Core: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/finaelacccsstandards.pdf>

C3 Framework: <http://www.socialstudies.org/system/files/c3/C3-Framework-for-Social-Studies.pdf>

CA SS Framework: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/hs/cf/sbedrafthssfw.asp>

Projects:

Baird believes in incorporating a hands-on approach to learning. Therefore, parents can expect projects to be assigned each quarter. These projects will be explained thoroughly, and due dates will be clearly written in the Planner. Projects have the unique ability to teach responsibility and encourage creativity, while providing an opportunity for deeper learning.

Projects will be assigned quarterly and due near the end of each quarter:

- Quarter 1 – Immigration Doll and Ancestor Interview/Questionnaire
- Quarter 2 – Native American Project
- Quarter 3 – Students will plan an expedition after learning about famous European Explorers, their motivation to explore, and navigational instruments. Students will present this project to an 8th grade student and to a parent





Course Assessments:

Formal and informal classroom assessments, projects, essays, quizzes, and unit tests.

Film in the History Classroom:

The use of video is often beneficial to students in their endeavor to connect with history. Videos allow students to contextualize their learning in unique ways. Students in this course will view informational videos related to unit of study, historical documentaries, as well as excerpts from historical fiction films, all of which will be viewed for educational purposes.

Grading Policy:

Most homework will be completed in class. Any work not finished will need to be completed at home that evening. There will also be times assignments are asked to be completed at home. **Students are expected to return homework on the due date.** Late work may receive partial credit and should be turned in the next class period. No late work will be accepted the last week of each grading period (Progress Report/Report Card). Upon return from an absence, the student must make up all work that was missed. Missing work from absences can be turned in for full credit by the next class meeting. Additional time will be granted if needed. Students are expected to use AST time (8:45-9:05 each morning) to check in with me to get missing work and to be updated on the lesson that was missed.

Grading: Total Points using the traditional grading scale. More points will be given to bigger and more important assignments and assessments. Check ATLAS several times per week.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please check your child's Planner every night and check ATLAS every week to ensure your child has completed all assignments. Please have your child independently check their own grades on ATLAS several times per week.

Course Textbooks and Supplemental Materials:

myWorld Interactive published by Savvas Learning, *History Alive* by Teachers' Curriculum Institute, *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz-Ryan, *The Fighting Ground* by Edward Irving Wortis.
Articles, videos, and worksheets relating to units of study.

Please refer to 5th Grade's Student Handbook for more detailed information regarding our rules, procedures, and policies

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to email me at elly.alvarado@fresnounified.org, through ATLAS, or ParentSquare. I usually respond Monday-Friday between 9 AM-5 PM and within 24 hours.

Thank you for sharing your child with me. I look forward to an exciting year with them.

Elly Alvarado



BAIRD MIDDLE SCHOOL

An AVID National Demonstration School

Mrs. Alvarado
Ms. Jensen
Mr. Karian
Mr. Turner
Mr. Mertens

Questions?

5thgradeteam.com/question



FUSD 2026 - 2027





Mr. Mertens
5th Grade English

MA: Curriculum /
Instruction

Certificate of Advanced
Study – Education
Technology

GATE certified

Let Grow Ambassador

Esports coach

Types of Writing

Informational

Opinion

Narrative

Reading Skills

Visualization

Clarifying

Summarizing

Making Connections

Questioning

Interpreting

Predicting

Re-reading



Reading Fluency



Two hours of independent reading
required per week.

I write Quest Lists based on student
reflections and what they are reading with
the goal of leading them towards stronger
comprehension.



Whole Class and Graded

Planner – Finish "some assignment"



Check Writing Notebook or Teams, review rubric, compare writing to rubric



Turn in and receive feedback / score in Atlas



Attend AST to turn in another draft



Individual and optional

First Parent Letter goes home Wednesday 8/26



Read and respond on paper or via email



Review Quest Lists sent out periodically to see intervention / acceleration options most appropriate for your child



Receive updates on progress via email

QUEST LIST · *The Kingdom of Clarity*

THE BOOK OF BAIRD · THE READERS' SEASON · 2026-2027

[The Chronicle](#)[The Map](#)[Guilds](#)[Quest Board](#)[The Exchange](#)[Ranks](#)[My Record](#)[Dawn Company](#)[Ember Company](#)[Meridian Company](#)[River Company](#)[Star Company](#)

The Keeper's Desk

Teacher panel — passcode required. Client-side gate: deterrence, not security; nothing sensitive lives here.

Story control

Force-unlock chapters through week...

Prologue — Ch 0:

Set

[Back to calendar](#)

Calendar gating resumes whenever the override is cleared. Overrides affect every company equally — pace never reveals plot.

Seals opened (0-7, set when each Grand Trial completes)

0

Set

Artifacts earned (kingdom-wide)

[The Four-Part Seal](#)[The Changing Map](#)[The Ember Seed](#)

Company state

Company

Dawn Company

Map position (land)

Heartlands

Stronghold level 0-3

0

Fog tiles (comma-separated land ids)

mistport,dustspire

Beacon embers banked

0

[Record in the ledger](#)



Textbooks and Curriculum:

Wonders Literature Anthology by McGraw Hill Education

Reading / Writing Workshop by McGraw Hill Education

Write Tools

Supplemental texts:

Common Core Exemplar Texts (Appendix B)



Grading Scale:

All assignments are graded on a 4 point scale, with some assignments being multiplied to represent importance of the assignment (for example, a process writing paper / Performance Task might be worth 2 or 3 times more than a writing notebook response).

4 represents exceeding grade level mastery,

3 represents meeting grade level mastery,

2 represents approaching mastery,

1 indicates that the assignment has critical pieces missing / incorrect,

0 is entered for missing work.

Progress report and report card grades are generated based on the following scale:

A – 93 percent and higher

B – 74 percent and higher

C – 54 percent and higher

D – 34 percent and higher

F – Less than 34 percent

These percentages match the 4 point scale better than the traditional scale.

An "A" means a student consistently turns work in that "exceeds" grade level mastery. Students who earn a "B" consistently demonstrate grade level skills. For a "C", Students must be "approaching" standards (scores of 2's) on all assignments and demonstrate mastery (score of 3) on at least one assignment. A student who consistently turns in work earning 1's and 2's will earn a D or F. Grades generally rise as the year, and each student's skill mastery, progresses.



Special Grade Notes:

All assessments can be redone and resubmitted. The highest grade stays in the gradebook. **Redo feedback and grading opportunities are primarily during Academic Support Time (AST).**

If an assignment says “Excluded” in Atlas, this means that the grade is entered for reference only and does not impact the grade. Some examples are turning in permission slips, raw reading fluency data, and citizenship grades. “Missing” assignments should be addressed as soon as possible.

Many parents reward students based on their grades. The citizenship grade is a better indication of the choices students make each day. Academic grades are solely standards mastery. I tend to value citizenship grades for rewards more because students have immediate and direct control over them. Please consider reinforcing the importance of citizenship if you plan to develop a reward system for your child. It may take many months for a student to go from demonstrating “C” skills to “B” or “A” skills.

Citizenship

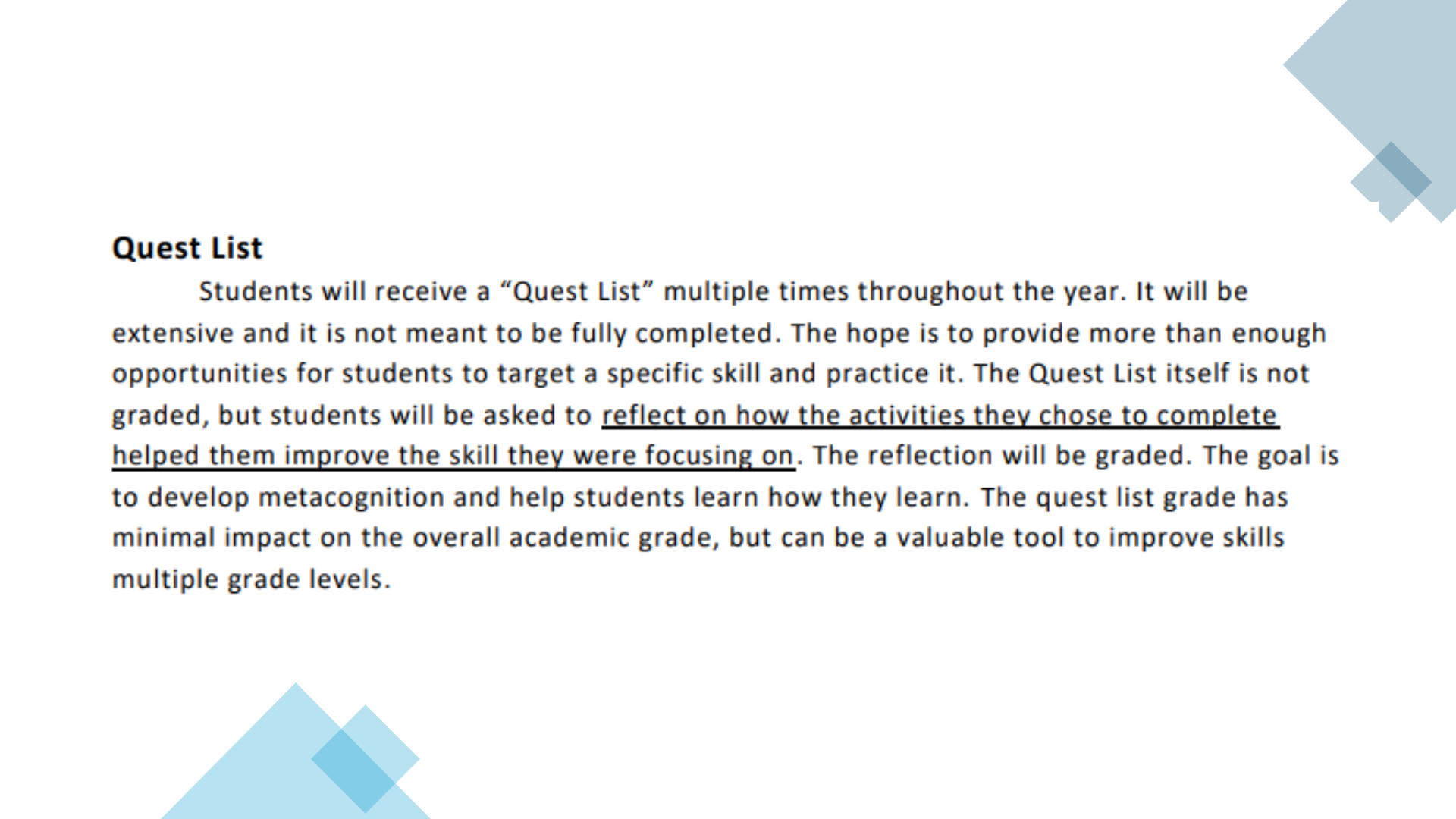
Good citizenship in my class looks like:

Engaging in deep discussion with face / elbow partners, making an attempt for gentle eye contact, and speaking in complete sentences when appropriate.

Taking time to write neatly and intentionally, taking care of supplies.

Making some attempt to use my suggestions in the Quest List to guide independent reading time.

Using AST to get feedback and redo writing.



Quest List

Students will receive a “Quest List” multiple times throughout the year. It will be extensive and it is not meant to be fully completed. The hope is to provide more than enough opportunities for students to target a specific skill and practice it. The Quest List itself is not graded, but students will be asked to reflect on how the activities they chose to complete helped them improve the skill they were focusing on. The reflection will be graded. The goal is to develop metacognition and help students learn how they learn. The quest list grade has minimal impact on the overall academic grade, but can be a valuable tool to improve skills multiple grade levels.

Reading Log Reflections

Similarly, independent reading is graded based on student reflections of what they are reading. The expectation is that students will read at least two hours per week. Students will be asked general questions about what they are reading and more specific questions that relate to a reading comprehension skill we are working on in class. The goal is to develop a love for reading. As such, students can read what they like to read. Reading log reflections have an impact on academic grades as “independent reading” is Reading Standard number 10.

Technology Policy

Students are expected to have their FUSD laptops daily and to only have them open when asked to. Students may not use cell phones or other devices unless unforeseen circumstances require it. If a student is caught using an unauthorized device, it will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) should not be used to generate student work submissions. Students who attempt to pass AI work off as their own will have their parents contacted, receive a 0 on the assignment, and may be required to hand write all assignments. AI may be used as a teaching/learning tool to produce examples of various techniques, structures, or components of writing. All use of AI must fall within FUSD's Acceptable Use Policy.

Students must keep their own passwords confidential. If your child's password is compromised, simply let me know and I can set a new one.

Academic Dishonesty

Although the nature of the assignments makes it nearly impossible to cheat, I will reach out to you if your child attempts to cheat. The consequences of this will reflect on the “citizenship” grade and is one of the few things that can trigger an “N” or “U” for the quarter that cannot be fixed. Academic Dishonesty does not include getting assistance from parents, siblings, peers, or teachers on writing assignments. Academic Dishonesty is attempting to pass off the work of another (person or AI) as one’s own.

Bathroom and Water Policy

Students simply raise their hand and show the sign for bathroom or water. In most cases students will be allowed to leave their seats for either.

Although I plan on keeping all families informed regarding what is happening in class, please feel free to reach out with any questions, concerns, or recommendations. Most times of the year I will be able to respond to messages on Wednesdays and Fridays between 1:07 – 2:40. I am looking forward to a great 2024 – 2025 school year!

- Mr. Mertens



5thgradeteam.com

has grade level specific information for you.

FUSD 2026 - 2027



Join Our
New
Instagram:

@BAIRDMIDDLESCHOOL

