

Hello 5S!



It's me, Ms. Stark. My last name is the reason we're called 5S, but 5S could also stand for 5Scientists because we are going to do lots of science this year. Why is that? Science is fun and you get to explore and ask a lot of questions.

One of my former students said the word "classroom" should be called "classworld" because learning should happen outside of school too. I fully agree.



From the book *Amos and Boris* by William Steig

Did you know that one of the 5th grade science units in Brookline is the study of birds? It's called *ornithology*. This is good

news because guess where we can learn the most about birds? That's right. Outside. You can research birds wherever you are because birds, unlike most other animals, can live *everywhere* on earth. Do you have a favorite bird or do you know any birds that live around your home? Now's a good time to start noticing so you can share your observations with 5S.

one starling



The S in 5S could also stand for *starlings*.

Starlings are a fascinating kind of bird because sometimes they come together in a massive *starling cloud* called a **murmuration**. If you want to see a magnificent murmuration in action check [out this link on our 5S science page](#). You can click on the link or go

type in: 5stark2018-19.weebly.com. As we dig into the year, our 5S website will also include photos, interesting links, home/school connections, podcasts, and other information written and produced by **you**.

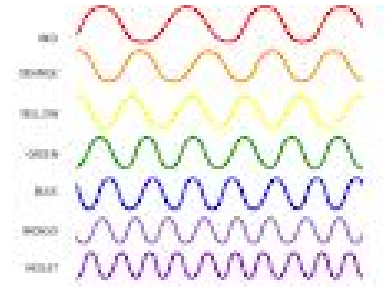


This is a starling murmuration

Did you notice the frog on the lily pad is reading? Like the frog, you will also have time to relax and listen to read alouds or find cozy spots to read alone or with your peers. 5S has lots and lots of books and many of them involve animals. 5S will be the hub of the one and only KEEP club. That stands for **Kids Expect Environmental Protection**. We will be working all year to learn about the earth and how to protect it. Science in 5th grade will also include something called optics. Optics is a fancy way of saying the study of *light and vision*.



As we learn about waves of light, we will also research sound waves and other forms of energy, including your own energy. Some of your energy will be spent learning *how and why* our country went from an English colony to the United States, a country based on democracy. This will help you understand our own class government. If you want to choose something we do in 5S, there will be many opportunities for you to debate and vote for what you think is best.



What else can you look forward to? Here's a brief summary: We have a river table for you to design a colonial village. The river table is also a great place to do math. Math should be something you see in action. Along with the Brookline math curriculum, you will create your own math games, number biographies and architectural designs.

When you come into our classroom you will see some shoes on our wall. The shoes are a *symbol* for empathy. Empathy means you are symbolically willing to walk in someone else's shoes. I won't make you actually wear someone else's shoes. The shoes on our wall are also a symbol for the fact that we will not sit still for too long. Scientific studies prove you learn more when you exercise, so we will exercise every day inside and out. And don't forget, you get to go to Farm School for two nights and three days in the spring!

It's probably about time for *you* to get moving, so let me give you a checklist for the first day of school on Thursday, September 6th.

- Reusable water bottle! We drink a lot of water and try to avoid single use plastics
- A healthy snack (*and lunch* if you aren't buying). It's hard to think if your stomach is talking to you too
- School supplies found on the attached supply list
- Your summer reading list (at least 5 books)
- Complete the little table of ideas on the attached sheet of what you might put on your own shoe poster. Complete and return page 4.



That's it for now. Enjoy the rest of the sweet summer days and gentle summer nights. I am a little nervous and very excited to start the school year. No matter what, we will have a memorable and happy year. I look forward to seeing you on 9/6/18. I just noticed all those numbers are divisible by 3!

Sincerely,

Ms. Stark

DIRECTIONS:

STUDENTS IN 5S WILL MAKE A POSTER ABOUT
WHAT IT IS LIKE TO BE IN THEIR SHOES!

FOR THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, PLEASE DO THE FOLLOWING:

- Begin to think about what it is like to be in your shoes
- Read the examples below
- Fill in the next page (page 4) with 4 items you enjoy and what you could put on your poster to give people an image of those items
- For the first day of school, bring in the sheet (page 4) that you filled in. You do not need to collect objects yet
- If you are eager to bring in some of those objects, just put the item(s) in an envelope or a baggy with your name on it. But remember, you do not have to bring in objects yet. Just the sheet on the next page

EXAMPLES!

IF YOU WERE IN MY (Ms. S) SHOES YOU WOULD LIKE OR ENJOY...	POSSIBLE ITEM I MIGHT PUT ON MY SHOE POSTER...
Walking Mango (our dog) with my family or a friend.	<i>Photo</i> of me walking with my dog Mango and a friend
Playing card games with my family	<i>One playing card</i> from a deck of cards
The smell of lavender	<i>A sprig of lavender</i> from my garden
Playing basketball	<i>A picture of a basketball</i> from a magazine
Walking on the beach & collecting rocks	<i>A small beach pebble</i> I could glue on the poster
Writing	A little pencil
Camping in the woods	<i>A leaf or twig</i> from the woods

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Complete and bring THIS SHEET into school on the first day

WRITE YOUR NAME HERE: _____

IF YOU WERE IN MY SHOES YOU WOULD LIKE OR ENJOY ...	<i>POSSIBLE</i> ITEM YOU MIGHT PUT ON YOUR SHOE POSTER... It must be small enough it can be glued on a piece of poster paper.

If you have more than 4 ideas you want to add, you can add them below
