



July 28, 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome to fifth grade! I am very excited to have the privilege of teaching your children this year and take that responsibility very seriously. I look forward to getting to know you throughout the school year as we partner together in your child's education.

This is my 13<sup>th</sup> year teaching 5<sup>th</sup> grade here at Valley, but I go way back as a parent, as well. My original degree was in Psychology and then I later completed a post baccalaureate degree in Elementary Education. All three of my children attended Valley from kindergarten through eighth grade so I can personally attest to the quality education they received here. My older daughter, Jessie, is a graduate of GCU and currently a medical student at Midwestern University. My son, Justin, also a graduate of GCU, is a mechanical engineer and he and his wife, Makaila, had a baby girl just this week so I am a grandma! My youngest, Jacque, just graduated from college and is now pursuing a Master's degree in Kansas. I was a substitute teacher for four years before making the transition to teaching full-time. Prior to subbing, I spent several years tutoring and working with special education students. My husband, Drew, is a firefighter and former board member here at Valley. He is very supportive and volunteers many hours to help with grading! I have two dogs: a 6 year old chihuahua mix named Tonka and a 3 year old cockapoo, Winnie, who is a true pandemic pup! I enjoy hiking, traveling, reading, paddle boarding, and spending time with my family.

Open communication is vitally important to develop and maintain a successful parent-teacher relationship. I will be sending home (and e-mailing) a weekly newsletter to keep you informed about what we are doing in class, tests for the week, and other upcoming due dates. Our class website is also a great resource and may be found at [www.5freeman.weebly.com](http://www.5freeman.weebly.com). Your student will be bringing home a weekly folder with their graded work each Monday. **Please remove the papers, sign the parent signature sheet, and return the folder to school by Wednesday.** I will e-mail any other information that cannot wait until the next newsletter. For individual concerns, I will contact you by e-mail or a note in the planner. Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions or concerns that you may have. E-mail is typically the best way to communicate with me as it is difficult to return phone calls during the school day. I would also welcome parent volunteers to help with grading, class parties, etc. The fifth-grade discipline plan is based on responsibility and homework cards, similar to what our sixth through eighth grades use. These are located in the back of the planner and designed to track both behavior issues and homework completion.

I am looking forward to a fantastic year and to seeing each student achieve personal academic success. I strive to maintain a positive classroom environment in which each student feels valued and motivated to learn. Please contact me with any questions or concerns that may arise as I am always willing to set up a time to discuss your child's progress. **Also, mark your calendars for Curriculum Night on Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-6:00 p.m.** (in the classroom) as a great deal of information will be given that may answer many of your questions.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Freeman  
[vfreeman@valleyacademy.com](mailto:vfreeman@valleyacademy.com)