



Monday Update: May 7

Math: We are doing well with our review for the SOL, which is May 17 (no calculator) and May 18. By now your student is likely aware of areas that are challenging for them: geometry vocabulary, formulas for area/perimeter/volume, recalling the rules for decimal computation, comprehension in a multi-step word problem, allllll those multiple steps in the fraction computation problems, or perhaps recalling concepts from way back in the fall like MMR? Homework will continue to focus on review activities that have students practicing skills already taught!

Have your child go to <https://education.jlab.org/solquiz> and take a look at some released SOL questions! These questions give instant feedback, and they can even send their score to me for extra credit! We have done this in class, so they are familiar with this site!

Science: I am going to carry over the message from last week, as we continue to study SOL 5.4. We all seem to understand the changing states of matter, and the particles that make up an atom, but the concept of molecules, mixtures, and compounds is still very complicated and confusing for most students! This unit is very abstract and tricky. If you can find additional ways to help your child understand these models and concepts, such as video clips or eBooks on Discovery education, or other videos

on Brain Pop or Study Jams, it would be very beneficial! Try pointing out common mixtures (chex mix or trail mix) versus a solution where one substance dissolves in another (like the sugar in your coffee or the salt in the water for pasta). What about a suspension, like salad dressing or a mud puddle? How can that be explained? One concept that students find difficult in this unit is the difference between *an atom of a pure element* versus a *molecule of a whole new compound* (like water or salt), made of two or more elements!

Please be sure that your child completes their study contract NIGHTLY! Don't let them fall behind! They are welcome to work ahead in order to accommodate after-school practices, games, or other family commitments! Check out the Science tab on the blog for some great, well organized review sites!!

Language Arts: Our Reading SOL is this week- Part One on 5/10 and Part 2 on 5/11!! Your student is completing review in school, but please follow up that they need to be working on their study guide. This will be a test grade! Students can also be working on their Study Island quizzes, also for a grade! Can't believe we are already here- thank you for your support! Please remind your student to come to school with their game face on, ready to review! We need to use our time wisely and minimize disruption!

As always, please encourage your child to read and to find books they are interested in! They can be working on their reading challenges!

Social Studies: We nearing the end of our study of the Southwest Region, which only has 4 states: Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, and Oklahoma! Coming up next: the West! There are 11 states in the West, including Alaska and Hawaii (have you heard the news going on in Hawaii these days!?). Remember: those Northeast, Southeast, and Midwest states have NOT gone away! Keep pulling out those notes and flashcards! Before the end of the year, our fifth graders will be asked know **all** 50 states and capitals!!

Important Announcements:

- Reading SOL - Thursday, May 10 & Friday, May 11
- Math SOL - Thursday, May 17 & Friday, May 18
- Science SOL - Wednesday, May 23
- 5th grade Awards Assembly - June 14th at 8:30am
- 5th grade Party - June 14th 2:30-4:30pm
- Movin' Up Assembly - June 15 (9:00 or 9:30am, stay tuned!)
- Please continue to check PowerSchool regularly with your child. Don't forget to click *each* subject's grade, then look for the "missing" symbol (🟡) to know if an assignment has not been completed! Here is a link with directions for setting up your parent portal on PowerSchool!

<http://henricoschools.us/powerschool/>