

Welcome to 5th Grade! 😊

Dear new student and family,

Welcome to Room 24's classroom community! My name is Benjamin Vazquez and I am your new 5th grade teacher. I am very excited to start the 2023-2024 school year with you as you continue your journey as young scholars and Patriots at Liberty.

Last year was my first year at Liberty. What a ride it was! I learned a lot and feel grateful to have joined such an amazing community. Although last year was my first full year teaching, I did join Liberty with lots of background experience and knowledge. To share a little about my educational journey, I spent a few years as a student in public education for preschool and kindergarten. Afterwards, I spent many years in private school, graduating from St. Benedict Parish school in Montebello and Loyola High School in Los Angeles. After high school, I spent a few years in community college before transferring to UC Irvine where I received my bachelors in Cognitive Science (psychology). In 2020, I received my master's in teaching at USC (Fight On!).

In terms of classroom experience, I have worked in education for 11 years. I began as a tutor in college, then "graduated" to an afterschool program leader, teacher's assistant in both gen ed and special ed classes, teacher in my alma mater's summer school program, and finally, student teacher for a full year both in person and online (during distance learning) in an elementary school in Pico Rivera (my hometown). In 2021, I spent some time as a 7th grade Math/Science teacher in Huntington Park and later transitioned to a resident sub position at an elementary school in Upland where I subbed for grades TK-6.

On a personal note, I am a sports lover! I played many sports from a young age including basketball, baseball, and football. Football is my favorite sport. I played up through high school and later spent time coaching youth while in college. I ran sprints for my high school's track team and have experience coaching students in track as well. I love the outdoors, being in nature, going to the beach and being active. One of my favorite hobbies is roller skating. Besides sports and outdoor activities, I enjoy playing video games, trying new foods, and attending concerts with friends. I love music and art of all kinds. I love my family. I am the oldest of 5 siblings. I have two younger sisters and two younger brothers. I recently became a tío (uncle) for the first time in 2021. My nephew, Truth, is my new pride and joy and recently turned 2 years old over the summer break.

This past school year has provided me lots of opportunities to grow and learn as the leader of my own class. After a nice summer break, I return to Liberty confident to get back into the swing of things but also ready to grow some more and try new things. I am excited to get to know YOU (my student) and your family, as we look forward to getting this memorable year underway. Following this letter will be info on how to contact me, a school supplies list, as well as other important details you need to know before school starts on Monday. Enjoy your last weekend of summer and be ready for a fun and awesome school year!

Truly Yours,

Mr. Vazquez

RECOMMENDED SCHOOL SUPPLIES LIST

<p>Student Supplies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ #2 pencils (bring at least two pencils to school keep a backup supply at home)○ Pencil pouch○ Small block eraser and/or pencil top eraser○ Black pens (bring 2 to school)○ Red pens (bring at least 1 to school)○ 4 Spiral notebooks (70 page is fine)○ Yellow Highlighter○ Personal sharpener○ Reusable water bottle	<p>Classroom supplies (in order from high to low priority):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Kleenex● Hand sanitizer● Lined paper● Printer paper
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Contact Information

Email: Benjamin_vazquez@chino.k12.ca.us

Remind App:

Use class code “@vazquez232” to join our Remind group on the Remind app or text @vazquez232 to 81010. I will be posting announcement on both Aeries parent portal and Remind, so please join and stay in the loop. Thank you!

Aeries Parent Portal: Whole class announcements will be posted on Aeries parent portal. Please check your emails regularly to stay up to date on the latest info I share for school and class events, class parties, volunteer opportunities, report cards, etc.

School phone extension: 6724

**Please allow up to 24 hours from the time you contact me to receive a response. I will get back to all messages asap.
Thank you for your understanding.**

Room Parent/ Volunteer Interest

If interested in being a consistent Room Parent who can help me with classroom needs, please check the “RP” box.

If interested in volunteering for class parties and other class/school events, please check the “V” box.

Student's name: Your name:	RP?	V?	Preferred contact? (check one) <input type="radio"/> Email (write below) <input type="radio"/> Remind
Student's name: Your name:	RP?	V?	Preferred contact? (check one) <input type="radio"/> Email (write below) <input type="radio"/> Remind
Student's name: Your name:	RP?	V?	Preferred contact? (check one) <input type="radio"/> Email (write below) <input type="radio"/> Remind

Classroom Management/Discipline Approach

As you may already know, we always follow the “3 Be’s” at school and in class: Be Responsible, Be Respectful, Be Safe.

My class also utilizes and follows a unique system of values which tie more deeply into having and developing good character traits that will prepare your child for a lifetime of success and well-being. Those 6 traits are: Responsibility, Ambitiousness, Integrity, Faith, Honor, and Valor. Awards may be given to individual students at trimester award ceremonies based on our special classroom values. I look forward to sharing more about these traits and how they are implemented in my class at Back to School Night (8/28/23)!

This year, my approach to managing my class has evolved to a “Love and Logic” approach. The safety and well-being of your child are always my number one priority, and I am all about allowing your child to do anything in class so long as it does not cause problems for anyone else. This might seem like a very lax approach to discipline and management, however, this is a research-based, tried and true approach to teaching our children how to be problem solvers, critical thinkers, and cooperative human beings.

My goal for my students is always to teach them how they may solve problems for themselves while still having opportunities to build and develop their relationship with me. One where they know they are cared for, supported, and believed in enough that they can think through challenges for themselves. This does not mean logical and fair consequences won’t be dealt to a student should it fit the situation, however, such consequences will always be chosen at the discretion of the teacher on a case-by-case basis.

Our goal in class is to learn, grow, and remain focused on our academics while maintaining a positive “growth” mindset and being respectful to all.

Rewards

Students may be rewarded in my class both as a whole class and individually. For whole class rewards, I use a system called “Fill the Bucket” where the whole class can earn marbles in a jar which can later be used towards fun, whole-class rewards.

For individual rewards, students will be earning Patriot Bucks in my class for behavior that demonstrates responsibility, respect, safety or any of the 6 values previously mentioned.

Phone policy

If your child brings their phone to school, please be aware they are to leave it turned off in the phone basket of our classroom all day. They may turn it on afterschool *once they have fully exited the breezeway.*

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me. I look forward to a great 2023-2024 school year!

Get ready to “Rock your Role!” 😊

Welcome to 5th grade!

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