**5th Grade Vocabulary: Traits of Living Things**

**In 5th grade we begin doing our vocabulary in a different way! At the beginning of each chapter you will be given a list of vocabulary words and definitions you are responsible for. Every day we will cover new terms. Your homework each night is to write the word(s) we covered into the vocabulary section of your composition book and also make a new flash card from your index cards. Don’t get behind….this is a great way to prepare every evening for your test. Keep this paper in your science folder or folded in the vocabulary section of your composition book. We will use this sheet to begin reciting the vocabulary on the first day of each new chapter. Composition books and vocabulary cards will be graded during your test on test day. Always remember to have your vocabulary done on time!**

Begin this vocabulary section by writing this header at the top of your page:

**Traits of Living Things**

1. Acquired Trait – characteristic that an organism develops after it is born
2. Chromosome – short, thick coil of DNA
3. DNA – molecule found in the nucleus of a cell and shaped like a double helix; associated with the transfer of genetic information; the blue print of your body
4. Gene – short segment of DNA that determines an organism’s inherited traits
5. Heredity – genetic transfer of characteristics from parent to offspring
6. Mutation – change in the genes of an organism
7. Nucleotide – basic structural unit of DNA
8. Adaptation – change in a characteristic that helps an organism survive in its environment
9. Asexual reproduction – production of offspring from only one parent cell
10. Dominant – describes a trait that is expressed when an organism received genes for two different forms of a trait
11. Hybrid – organism that has two different genes for the same trait
12. Recessive – describes a trait that is not expressed when an organism receives genes for two different forms of a trait
13. Selective breeding – practice of breeding organisms to get offspring with useful traits
14. Sexual reproduction – production of offspring by the union of male and female gametes

This vocabulary is due the day of the test. Write each word and definition in your composition book and also make a vocabulary card. Please have them finished on time!