

September 3, 2019

Dear Parents,

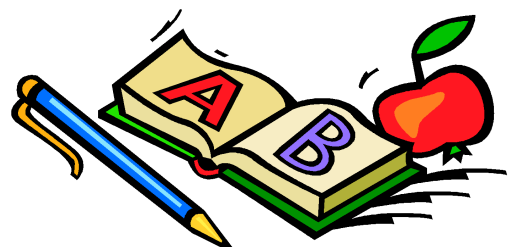
This week begins a brand new school year for all of us, and we would like to extend a warm welcome to our students and families. We have put together this handbook of information to help you and your child become familiar with our expectations for the school year. You may want to keep your handbook in a special place so that you may refer to it throughout the year. Please only send the **last page** back to school.

This year, we will continue to use **Parent Square** as our primary means of communication. If you do not yet have a Parent Square account, please be on the lookout for an invitation via the email or phone number you have on file with the school. We will also utilize **Class Dojo** to keep parents up to date with student behavior on a daily basis. If you do not have access to these platforms, you may call the school and leave a message to communicate with us. Please note that we will not be able to meet with parents on an unscheduled basis throughout the school day. Please reach out on Parent Square, email us, or call the school to arrange a meeting if needed.

Ms. Wallach .....kwallach@pppcs.org..... (410) 558-1230 ext 359  
Mr. Pelletier .....epelletier@pppcs.org..... (410) 558-1230 ext 315  
Ms. Richter.....grichter@pppcs.org..... (410) 558-1230 ext 338

On the evening of September 11th, PPPCS will be holding **Back to School Night**. This will be an excellent opportunity for you to learn more about what is in store for your student in 5th grade. We look forward to seeing you there. **As a reminder, please sign and return the last page after reviewing the contents of this handbook with your child.** Thank you for your cooperation in getting this year off to a great start!

Sincerely,  
The 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Team  
Ms. Wallach, Mr. Pelletier, and Ms. Richter



## **Cooperative Learning**



Students have been placed in mixed ability classes so that they may help each other during the learning process. Research has shown that all students do better when they are allowed to discuss and defend their ideas as they learn. Working in small groups also helps students learn valuable social skills they will need throughout life. Parents are often concerned about grades in the cooperative learning classroom. Don't worry! All grades come from individual assignments and tests. No student's grade will be raised or lowered based on the performance of others in the group.

## **Class Breakdown**

The fifth grade team is departmentalized. This means that your child will be rotating between the 3 fifth grade classrooms throughout the day. They will spend approximately 80 minutes in English Language Arts with Ms. Wallach, 80 minutes in Math with Ms. Richter, and 80 minutes in Science/Social studies with Mr. Pelliter. They will also participate in daily "HERO Lab" for 30 minutes. This is a quiet time for students to receive help when needed, finish incomplete classwork, work on homework or projects, and/or work in small groups with a teacher.

## **Field Trips**

The fifth grade takes many exciting field trips throughout the school year. It is highly important that students attend each field trip as they are wonderful opportunities to enrich student learning. The activities completed before, during, and after each field trip are graded. With that said, field trips are also an opportunity to represent PPPCS to our city and beyond, so it is important that students meet and exceed behavior standards. Please note that students may be held back from a field trip if they cannot meet expectations for behavior and safety. They will make up all coursework at school that day.

### **The following may result in exclusion from an upcoming field trip:**

- ◆ 3 late or missing homework or class work assignments
- ◆ Any fighting and/or suspension
- ◆ Consistent tardiness and/or absences
- ◆ Any missing project

## **Homework/Classwork/ Projects**

Our expectation is that all homework, classwork, and projects are to be turned in on time. Late assignments will not be accepted unless specified by the teacher.

Students will not be allowed to call home if they forget their work. Students should pack their bookbags at night with all the materials needed for the next day.

Organization is the key to success!

Students will be given ample notice and detailed outlines for each project. If at any time your child is having trouble completing a project due to confusion and/or lack of supplies, please contact a teacher as soon as possible. **We are more than willing to clarify and/or assist students; however, this opportunity will not be available the week the project is due.** Projects will not be accepted late under any circumstances.

## **Student Agenda Books**

Students in 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be expected to use their agenda book to write down all daily homework assignments and projects. This will also be a place for students to write down upcoming field trips, events, and daily reminders.

## **Class Dojo**

Class Dojo is an online tool that allows you to see how your child performed throughout the school day. They will accrue points for behaviors aligned to our tribes agreements (being respectful, attentive listening, etc..). You will be able to log into your parent account and view your child's progress throughout the day. Stay tuned for more information.

## **Chromebooks**

5<sup>th</sup> grade students will have access to chromebooks throughout the school year. They are expected to follow the school technology policy at all times.

### ***TECHNOLOGY USE POLICY FOR STUDENTS***

Technology takes learning beyond the classroom by providing students access to a wealth of information and resources. PPPCS students shall have access to school technology for educational purposes only, such as accessing curriculum-related information, sharing resources, and promoting whole child learning. Students shall be held responsible for appropriate behavior as specified in the terms and conditions below:

- I will be polite and appropriate in my email messages, online postings, and other forms of digital communication. I will not create or communicate offensive or threatening messages online.
- I will obey copyright laws and I will not plagiarize or use another's work without proper citation and permission. I will respect others' intellectual property.
- I am responsible for my computer account. I understand that it is important to log off so no one else may access my passwords. I understand that my login and password should not be shared with anyone.
- I will use the PPPCS network responsibly. I will not search, view, or save any hate-based, offensive, or sexually explicit images, language or the files that generate such images or language.
- I understand that I am responsible for protecting school property and that vandalism is prohibited. I will not modify or destroy PPPCS equipment, files, or computer settings.
- I will not access social networking websites within the school learning environment. I will not use the Internet to communicate or message others for a personal rather than educational purpose.
- I am responsible for following school procedures when using PPPCS technology and networks and when publishing school work online. I understand that it is unsafe to post any personal information about myself and others on the internet.

### **Parent Volunteers**

Volunteers can file papers, staple progress reports together, read with students, help with math, or do anything else that needs to be done. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact our school Volunteer Coordinator.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Closing Ceremony**

5<sup>th</sup> grade students are eligible to participate in a "Stepping Up" celebration at the end of the school year. This ceremony is not a graduation; it is a celebration of all the fantastic work completed in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade year. We will send home information with more specific details and a student/parent contract in the spring.

**Please sign and return this page ONLY! This is a part of your child's homework grade for the first week of school!**



**Student & Family Pledge**



\_\_\_\_\_ I have read this handbook with my child.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have a clear understanding of the expectations for my child this school year.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will support my child in completion of any assignments.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will contact my child's teacher(s) with any questions or concerns.

**Parent Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I have read this handbook with my parent/guardian.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand what is expected of me this school year.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will work hard to complete all of my work to the best of my ability and turn it in on time.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will take responsibility for my actions, accept their consequences and learn from my mistakes.

**Student Signature/Name:** \_\_\_\_\_