August 29, 2016

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.

If you need to contact us, e-mail is the most efficient means, if possible. Another excellent way to contact us is through class dojo. Please look for more information soon regarding this helpful online tool. If you do not have email, you may call the school and leave a message. Please note that we will not be able to meet with parents unscheduled during the school day. Please e-mail or call to arrange a meeting if needed.

 Ms. Koslofsky ……….jkoslofsky@pppcs.org………… (410) 558-1230 ext 359

 Mr. Pelletier ….….epelletier@pppcs.org…..…. (410) 558-1230 ext 315

 Ms. Gutting…..…..lgutting@pppcs.org…….….. (410) 558-1230 ext 338

On the evening of September 14th PPPCS will be holding “Back to School Night” so that we can answer your questions and share some of our exciting upcoming activities. We look forward to seeing you there. Thank you for your cooperation in getting this year off to a great start!

 Sincerely,

 The 5th Grade Team

 Ms. Koslofsky, Mr. Pelletier & Ms. Gutting



# **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.

**Themes:**

The fifth grade is departmentalized. This means your child will be rotating between the 3 fifth grade classrooms throughout the day. They will spend approximately 80 minutes in Reading/ Language Arts with Ms. Gutting, 80 minutes in Math with Mr. Pelletier and 80 minutes with Ms. Koslofsky in Social Studies/Science. They will also participate in daily “Study Hall” for 30 minutes. This is a quiet time for students to receive help when needed, work on classwork, homework and projects, or work in small groups with a teacher.

Following the mission of PPPCS, we teach four thematic units during the school year. Each teacher will be following the same theme, or topic, but applying those concepts and ideas to their content area. Teaching thematically allows for more continuity between subject matter. Students hear and use the same vocabulary and refer to the same events and/or ideas throughout the day.

**Fifth Grade themes are as follows:**

* Theme One – Adapting to Survive
* Theme Two – Revolutions That Matter
* Theme Three - America in the 1800’s
* Theme Four – America during the Civil War

**Individual Materials Needed**

24 Pencils - #2-pre-sharpened

1 Pencil sharpener (must fit in zippered pencil case)

2 packages of 3 x 5 index cards

2 Composition books, Mead, 100 pages, wide ruled (black and white)

8 glue sticks, washable school glue (**no liquid glue**)

1 Pencil case - **Zipper, Mesh pocket (no hard cases)**

5 Folders - 2 pocket, with fasteners (assorted colors)

1 set of colored pencils - Crayola, 12 color pack

1 bottle hand sanitizer

1 packet of construction paper assorted colors

1-2 packages of markers

3 boxes facial tissues **(always needed throughout the year!)**

2 containers of disinfecting wipes

1 package of dry erase markers

# **Field Trips**

The fifth grade takes many exciting field trips throughout the school year. It is highly important that all 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 to our city and beyond the exceptional students here at PPPCS. Children who are having difficulties meeting with PPPCS behavior standards may be excluded from field trips until behavior improves.

**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
* Excessive disruptions and/or disrespect
* Consistently out of uniform: if a student receives 3 uniform notices, they will not be eligible for the next field trip *(Note: If a student comes to school out of uniform on a field trip day they will be asked to stay behind)*

**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 the teacher who assigned the project 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 5th 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. This will also be a place for all of the 5th grade teachers to communicate with parents. We will try our best to write notes in student agenda books when needed. Parents can also use these agenda books as a place to jot down notes/questions to any of the 5th grade teachers.

**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 demonstrating different behaviors that are tied into our tribes agreements (being respectful, attentive listening, etc..). You will be able to log into your parent account, view your child’s progress throughout the day and will be able to send the teacher messages. Stay tuned for more information.

# **Parent Volunteers**

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

**5th Grade Closing Ceremony**

5th 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 your child has completed and participated in throughout their 5th grade year. We will send home information with more specific details and a student/parent contract in the spring. Students must turn in all major projects, novels and demonstrate outstanding behavior in order to participate.

**----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

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

**![MC900439046[1]]()Student & Family Pledge![MC900439046[1]]()**

\_\_\_\_\_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: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**