

Welcome to 5-203!

September 5, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to 5th grade! I am so pleased to be your child's fifth grade teacher! This will be a year of tremendous growth and change as students prepare for the great shift from elementary school to middle school. Fifth grade is also a year filled with new responsibilities and privileges. We have so much to look forward to in the months ahead!

My name is Kathy Porter. I am not new to P.S 39. Infact, many of your students will remember me as a student teacher or as a substitute teacher here.

The beginning of the school year is a very busy time as we learn new routines, build a strong classroom community and get to know each other. Please routinely check your child's backpack and homework folder, as well as your email, for important information and forms that need to be completed in the coming weeks. This will be especially important as information regarding the middle school application process is shared this fall.

At P.S. 39 we value the partnership between parents and teachers and we welcome your communication and input. If you have any questions or concerns, please email me at kporter@ps39.org or send a note in your child's backpack. You can also call the school at **718-330-9310** and leave a message with the secretary. Please allow 24 hours for a response as we are not often able to check email during the school day.

Additionally, every Tuesday between 2:40-3:25 has been designated by the DOE as Parent Engagement Time. These 40 minutes have been set aside for face-to-face meetings, telephone conversations, and written correspondence (including email) with parents. Please take advantage of this time to communicate with us across the school year. Although this specific time has been provided it is not the only time that we're available to meet or speak with parents. We'll be communicating regularly. School/family communication is important at PS 39!" If you would like to schedule a meeting, please call or email a few days in advance.

We will discuss curriculum and other fifth grade procedures and events on **Curriculum Night**, which is coming up this **Thursday, September 12**. I look forward to meeting you as we begin an exciting and successful year!

Sincerely,

Ms. Porter

5th Grade Routines and Procedures

Class 5-203 Specials:				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Music- 5th period	Science -Period 1	Art- Period 7	Science- Period 1	Gym-Period 7

Class 5-203 Lunch:				
Monday	Tuesday-	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Period 6 1:00-1:50	Period 6 1:00- 1:50	Period 6 1:00- 1:50	Period 6 1:00-1:50	Period 6 1:00-1:50

- **Cell phones** - Cell phones must be turned off and stored in backpacks for the duration of the school day. Students may not use cell phones on school grounds, even to arrange after school activities. Apple watches are also a distraction and are best left at home. Thanks for helping to keep students present in the classroom and engaged academically and socially.
- **Dismissal:** Our classes will be dismissed through the exit by the rear of the building on the 7th street Tower side at 2:40pm. Students are expected to give me a “high-five” and say goodbye before they leave to ensure their safety.
 - **Students with permission to walk home:** If your child will be walking home alone this year, even if it is just a couple of days a week, you must provide written permission. Once you have given that permission it means that we can trust your child to give me a “high-five”, say good-bye and be responsible for going where you expect them to go, whether that is home or to an afterschool program. *Please understand that if you give permission to your child to walk home, we will assume you have spoken with your child about the responsibility he or she has been given and will dismiss that child as an independent walker each day. It will be your child’s responsibility to go directly to the after school teacher, after school site or home, depending on their changing schedule.* We are happy to work with families who

want to try walking home, but not commit to it. Feel free to send a note giving your child permission for just that day or week.

- o **Students who are picked up:** If your child will be picked up by someone not listed on the blue card or as a regular caregiver, **we must have written permission** from you to release your child to that person each time.

- **Homework Assignments**- Students will be responsible for writing assignments down in a planner each day. Please ask to see your child's planner and sign off on completed homework nightly. **It is critical that students make time for reading every night!** Our time at school is limited and spending time reading is the number 1 way for students to grow as readers. Our purpose for other homework assignments to reinforce skills that have been taught in class or to prepare for the next day's lesson. Therefore, it is crucial that children complete their homework assignments *to the best of their ability* and hand them in the next day. If your child is experiencing difficulty with an assignment, ask him or her to write a note on the assignment stating what he or she didn't understand.

- **School Supplies**- As members of a learning community many of our school supplies will be shared in the classroom. Students should keep individual supplies in a pencil bag that can be stored inside their desks and carried between classes. Students are expected to come to school with at least 2 sharpened pencils from home each day.

- **Snack** - Due to our late lunch on most days, students will have an opportunity to have a snack mid- morning. This should be one healthy snack that can be eaten without a utensil. Snacks will not be provided by the school. Healthy snack options that will boost energy and learning potential include the following:
 - fresh fruit (apples, pears, clementines, bananas, cut melon/mango/ pineapple, berries, cherries)
 - dried fruit or fruit leather
 - fresh vegetables (carrot sticks, cucumber sticks, bell peppers, cherry or grape tomatoes, edamame)
 - crackers
 - fresh popcorn
 - granola bars
 - pretzels
 - cheese sticks
 - yogurt drinks or tubes

More information about healthy snacking can be found at the Center for Science for the Public Interest at <https://cspinet.org/protecting-our-health/nutrition/healthy-school-snacks> .