

September 5, 2019

Dear 5th Grade Families,

Welcome to a new, exciting school year at P.S. 39! I am very excited to be your child's teacher this year. I'd like to share some information about myself and prepare you for fifth grade.

This will be my tenth year in teaching. In the past, I have had the opportunity to teach grades 2, 4, and 5, and am very happy to be teaching fifth grade this year.

Fourth grade is a year of great development. Students will begin the year just as they ended fourth grade and will finish the year ready for middle school. You may be surprised at how independent and confident your child will become during this rigorous but fun year in fifth grade.

Our class will have lunch during sixth period (1:00-1:50). We will have art on Mondays and Fridays, music on Tuesdays, physical education on Wednesdays, and science on Thursdays. At arrival, our class will line up in the yard by the Upper Playground on 7th street and students will dismiss at the end of the day in the same place.

Every Tuesday afternoon 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 me as needed across the school year. Although this specific time has been provided, it is not the only time that I'm available to meet or speak with parents. We'll be communicating regularly. School/family communication is important at P.S. 39!

The first few weeks of school is a time for establishing new classroom routines. Your child will bring home a folder each day with any notices and homework sheets. Students will record their homework assignments in their planners. I do not assign a lot of homework for students but I do expect students to complete what is assigned to the best of their ability. Reading at home is an important nightly homework assignment that is vital for your child to continue to improve as a reader.

For your child's safety, there is some important information that I am requesting you share with me on the additional parent information form. First, please let me know how your child will be dismissed (if your child will walk home alone, the school needs written consent for this). If there are ever any changes in a student's dismissal (such as going home with someone different than usual or walking home alone), you must let the school know in writing (via a letter, note, or email) for the safety and protection of your child. Second, please let me know if your child has any health needs that I should be aware of.

I look forward to meeting those of you I haven't met already at curriculum night on Thursday 9/12!

Matthew Strong
5th Grade Teacher
5-307
P.S. 39