

## Welcome to Class 5-306!

September 8, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to 5-306 and 5<sup>th</sup> grade! We are Ms. Rausch and Ms. Cohen and we are so pleased to be your child's fifth grade teachers! After teaching middle school in lower Manhattan, this will be Ms. Rausch's 5th year teaching 5th grade at P.S. 39, and Ms. Cohen brings fresh ideas for learning from her experiences as a student teacher, a teaching assistant and a substitute on Long Island. 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!

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 be sure to 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 us at [mrausch@ps39.org](mailto:mrausch@ps39.org) / [jcohen@ps39.org](mailto:jcohen@ps39.org) or send a note in your child's backpack. We will get back to you as soon as possible. There is a "Notes from Home" basket in the classroom, which will be checked daily. You can also call the school at **718-330-9310** and leave a message for us with the secretary. Please allow 24 hours for me to respond as we are not often able to check email during the school day. If you would like to schedule a meeting, we ask that you call or e-mail a few days in advance.

Here is a list of the specials our class will have this year:

Monday-	5th period Art
Tuesday-	4th period Health
Wednesday-	7th period Gym
Thursday-	5th period Science
Friday-	4th period Gym and 5th period Art

We strongly encourage students to wear sneakers to school every day for fun and safety in the school-yard. We will discuss curriculum and other fifth grade procedures with you on curriculum night, which is on September 22.

We look forward to working with you in making this an exciting and successful year!

Ms. Rausch and Ms. Cohen

# Welcome to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade!

## Routines and Procedures

- **Dismissal:** Our classes will be dismissed through the exit by the rear of the building on the 8<sup>th</sup> street side at 2:40pm. Students are expected to shake my hand 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 shake hands, 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 afterschool teacher, afterschool 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.
  - **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.
  
- **Home School Communication-** We strongly believe in building the relationship between school and families. Our first opportunity to build this connection will be during Family Friday on September 16<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-9:00am. The first Family Friday will give us an opportunity to welcome you to our classroom and introduce ourselves.
  
- **Homework Assignments-** Homework will be assigned daily and should be reviewed by a parent or guardian. Students must read every night! The purpose of homework is to reinforce skills that have been taught in class. Therefore, it is crucial that children complete their homework assignments to the best of their ability and hand it in the next day. The homework will be a reinforcement of the lessons being taught throughout the specified units. If your child is experiencing any difficulty with a homework assignment please encourage them to speak with us so that we can provide additional support. If a child does not complete a homework assignment they must fill out a missing homework slip, explaining why they did not complete it. Students will be responsible for writing down routine assignments after lunch each day and will work together to check completed work.
  
- **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. The students are expected to come to school with at least 2 sharpened pencils from home each day. If their pencil breaks they may trade it in using the labeled cups in the classroom.