

 5 GU Where Learning Is Always an Adventure

 September 7, 2017

Dear Parents, and Guardians of 5 GU,

**Welcome to 5 GU!** I am so thrilled to be your child’s 5th grade teacher this year! I know it is going to be an exciting year full of many learning opportunities. I can’t wait to start getting to know each and every one of the students in our class. Each one brings their own unique qualities and that is what makes them so special. ☺

 I believe that we all: teacher, parents, and student, must work together in order to help your child reach their highest potential. Working together is key in helping your child succeed. If at any time you have a question, I urge you to ***please contact me*** so that I may be of assistance. ☺

Respect and responsibility are two of the character traits that are extremely important to have in order for a classroom environment to run smoothly and effectively. Below, you will find important information and procedures in class (marked by \*\*) and each child is responsible to follow them. We will be going over these during the first week in class and I am asking that you please review them with your child at home. As a class we will come up with a list of rules and norms that we think are important to have and then combine them into a smaller more generalized list to help the students remember them.

1. **Classroom Management and Discipline Plan: \*\***

Classroom management/ discipline plans are *subject to change* depending on what works at different points of the year. Sometimes there are also several that work at one time (individual, class, group, etc.). The plan that we will be starting with is as follows:

 Students will be able to earn tickets/stickers for various things. They will be able to earn them for their behavior in class, how they treat others, completing work on time, etc. I will also discuss this with the class to see the reasons they come up with on why they should earn tickets/stickers. A finalized list will then be made, also for rewards and consequences that the students will generate. There will then be a raffle drawing for prizes, which are not necessarily material prizes. It may be something like a little extra computer time.

1. ***Curriculum:***

We will be using several programs as we follow the Common Core Curriculum Standards. On September 13th, Back to School night, I will go over more about each of our programs. We are continuing with American Reading Company and the 100 Book Challenge. We are also using Go Math, Journeys, etc. Our class is also piloting a new science program this year.

1. ***Planners and Folders: \*\****

The PTO purchased a planner for each child and I am providing a vinyl home folder. Please remind your child to return both **each** day. I will use the folder for any notes from myself, notices from the office, etc. as well as their homework. It has a side marked “return to school” and “keep at home” to help the students stay organized.

1. **Important Information Regarding Your Child:**

 Please let me know if your child has ***any*** allergies (food or otherwise), asthma or anything else that would be important for me to know. I want to ensure that every child has what they need to be happy and healthy.

**E. Homework: \*\***

 All homework will be written *by your child* in their planner. At the end of the day, the students are given time and instructed to take out their planners and copy their homework down from the homework board. I also remind them to make sure they take their planner out at home to see what they have for homework. ☺ Homework is usually posted on our class Instagram page which is mentioned later in this letter. Written homework is to be returned the following day unless stated otherwise.

**F. Supplies:**

 I understand you may have purchased supplies already during the summer based on the 5th grade supply list that was posted on the school website and *that’s perfectly fine* ☺. Here are some supplies your child will need to start the year with:

* 1 package dry erase markers (thin or fat)
* 5 single subject notebooks of different colors (If you already purchased a 1” binder that’s fine but notebooks are easier to use)
* 5 pocket folders
* Pencil box/pouch (please not a giant one because of space in the desk)
* 1 box of crayons no larger than 24 count or colored pencils
* Pencils
* Colored pens- We use these for various activities from correcting their own papers to using the different colors to edit their writing.

\* If you did purchase a small 1 inch binder as stated on the website, please be sure that your child has subject dividers **and** a package of notebook paper to put in the binder. ☺

*If you are having a hard time purchasing any of these items, please let me know and we will get something for your child.*

**G. Money (Lunch/ Ice Cream / etc.):**

 If your child is bringing money to school, it **must** be placed in a wallet, change purse, or envelope/baggie with his/her name clearly written on it so that if it is dropped or left somewhere it will be returned. You may also wish to take advantage of the weekly lunch program that you can now pay online from the district’s website.

**H. Contact Information:**

 If you have any questions or concerns, I urge you to come to me personally by phone, email, or notes which should be placed right in your child’s home folder. I will get back to you as soon as I possibly can. Email and notes are the quickest and easiest way to get a hold of me and for me to respond to you. We often end up playing phone tag since I can only get to the phone at certain times during the day. ☺ I will most definitely do my best to reach you by phone if you prefer, but as I said email and notes are a quicker and easier way to promptly respond. ☺ My email is: kgunn@lehsd.k12.nj.us Phone: 609-296-1719 Ext. #2266

***I. Important Events / Notes Coming Up***

 Please check your child’s planner, home folder, or class website for any class news (<http://missgunn5th.weebly.com>) . Your child will usually jot it in the planner or other times I may type up a note and place it in the home folder. I also have a class Instagram account (fpe\_gunn) set up to post important events, etc. I will explain that more at Back to School Night. It IS private and only I will be able to post on the page and I have to accept all followers. If I do not know who someone is then I will not accept the request to follow our page. The Instagram page I have found is the fastest way to get notes out about upcoming events and homework. I have had students in the past go there to get homework when they were absent so they weren’t behind. ☺

***J. Friday Envelopes: \*\****

There will be a weekend envelope going home with corrected papers at least every other week I not every week. On the front of the folder will be a paper where you are to sign and date that you received the papers and then your child is to bring the envelope back on Monday.

***K. Class Donations***

Each year many parents ask what we need in the classroom. Some of the items that we use a lot are: soft tissues ☺, dry erase markers (get used a lot and dry up), and baby wipes (clean up after projects, etc.). At Back to School Night I will also have a list of some more items we may need as the year goes on.

***L. Birthdays***

Who doesn’t love a birthday celebration? ☺ When it is your child’s birthday you may send in a small birthday snack to share with the class such as cupcakes, brownies, etc. No cakes that would need to be cut up should be sent in. As much as I LOVE birthday parties, just a small special snack to celebrate your special someone is perfect for that day in school. ☺ As my birthday is in the summer and I remember not being able to celebrate in school, I always make sure all summer birthdays have an opportunity to have an “unbirthday” at some point during the year. ☺

 **This year your child will continue to grow and learn many new and exciting things. I know that by working together we can help your child become a successful citizen now and in the future. Again, if you ever have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me and I will be more than happy to help you. I want to thank you in advance for your cooperation and am looking forward to working with both you and your child this year! ☺**

**Sincerely,**

**Miss Gunn ☺**

