

June 2021

Dear Fifth Grader,

Hello! My name is Mrs. Howley and I will be your teacher this upcoming school year. I hope that you had a nice and relaxing summer break and that you are ready for all of the challenges and responsibilities of being a fifth grader.

Let me tell you a little bit about myself. I grew up in this area and went to Barclay Elementary, Warwick Elementary, Tamanend Middle School, and Central Bucks East. When I finished high school I knew I wanted to be a teacher. I studied for my degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education degree from Bloomsburg University. I have always loved school and learning, so I went on to get my Masters in Education from Gratz College and I completed more graduate class courses from Colorado State. This year will be my 17th year teaching in Central Bucks and my 11th year teaching fifth grade.

When I am not in school, I love to spend time with, Mr. Howley, my son Collin, and my daughter Claire, who attend Jamison Elementary. My family has a shore house in Sea Isle City, NJ, so you can see me down there most of the summer, enjoying the beach and the water. I also like going to sports games, like the Philllies and the Eagles, so we will make some fun projects in class to help us cheer on the sports teams! Another thing I like to do is dance. When I was younger, I went to Kelly Richards School of Dance, so I have had lots of practice. Finally, I love to travel. My favorite place to visit is Disney World!

The first few weeks of school will be spent building our classroom community and establishing a culture of respect, responsibility, collaboration and citizenship. We have a lot of fun in fifth grade, and we also work very hard. As a fifth grader, you will learn a lot of important reading strategies, and you will also have opportunities to participate in various reading activities, such as book clubs, to help you comprehend the texts you read. We will use the Lead 21 and the Comprehension Toolkit programs, throughout the school year! In Everyday Math, you will explore fractions, decimals, probability, geometry, operations, and problem solving. You will spend a lot of time this year learning about writing and researching. You will create 5-paragraph writing pieces and learn how to take notes and write about your research. Prepare yourself for some creative social studies activities and some exciting science experiments throughout the year. You will also learn vital organizational, test preparation, and technology skills, this school year.

In fifth grade, you will work hard to find a system of organization that works for you. A great deal of time is spent learning important study and time management skills. Central Bucks provides the supplies essential for learning; however, some students like to bring their own supplies to school. Below are the supplies that I am asking you to purchase and bring on the first day of school, that may be more helpful to you in our classroom; these are, however, not required:

- Hard plastic, expandable accordion file folder
- 6 plastic folders with prongs (blue, green, red, 2 yellow, and color of your choice)
- 4-one subject spiral notebooks (if possible, get the **Five Star** brand in blue, red, green, and yellow or orange)
- Hard, plastic case for supplies
- Hand-held pencil sharpener
- Headphones with a microphone
- Water bottle to keep at desk
- Scissors
- 24-pack pre-sharpened #2 pencils or mechanical pencils

This year, in order to save families time and money, the Central Bucks School District has already purchased the following supplies for each student; however, you are always welcome to bring in your own personal items.

- Colored pencils
- Crayons
- Pencils
- Crayola fine tip colored markers
- Assorted highlighters
- Index cards
- Glue sticks

Our classroom could also use a few items to keep us tidy and healthy each day. If you are willing to donate any of the following, it would be greatly appreciated:

- Containers of sanitizing wipes and/or hand sanitizer
- Boxes of tissues

Thank you in advance for taking the time to accumulate these supplies. Your support with organization will help the school year run smoothly.

Snack

Please pack a small, healthy snack (ex: fruit, crackers, cereal bar, etc.) and water or juice every day (including the first day of school) for snack.

Important Dates to Remember

Bridge Valley will host an **Open House** – more information to come.

Back to School Night

More information to come.

First Day of School Project

The last thing I would like you to bring on the first day of school will require you to use your creativity. Please cover a cereal box with paper and decorate it in a way that will tell the class about you. You may use pictures, drawings, clipart, magazines, or anything you'd like. Make sure you make your name large, clear, and decorative so we know who you are. Please put at least one item inside the box that would tell us something about you. (Where you went on vacation this summer, an award you received, something you are proud of, etc).

Parents, I would like to welcome you also to fifth grade. I am looking forward to an exciting year with you and your student. Although I will only have your child for a short time in this trip through life, I hope to make a contribution that will last a lifetime. If there is any information that you feel I should know prior to the beginning of school, please feel free to send me a letter or an email at kjhowley@cbsd.org. Thank you for your cooperation and support. I look forward to meeting and working with you this year! See you on our first day of school!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Howley