

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

Kindergarten News

Kindergarteners are learning all about being in Kindergarten! We are practicing daily routines like packing and unpacking, lining up, walking quietly through hallways and safety drills. Making "good choices" throughout our day keeps us safe and helps us be in a good learning environment. We are getting to know our classroom by adding labels to different areas in our room. We are also getting to know our new friends and their names. In reading workshop, we are learning good reading behaviors which we will continue to practice throughout the year. Keeping our eyes on the book, turning the pages from the corner, looking at the words and the pictures will help us become great readers! In writing workshop, we have started writing our first stories. Our stories are about things we can do. We also learned about good writing behaviors like sitting in a good writing position, what to do if we need writing tools and what to do when we are finished with a story.

Mark Your Calendar for Back to School Night on Thursday, September 26, 2019. More information will follow.

7pm: Grades K-2

7:30pm: MPM auditorium

8pm: Grades 3-5

Please be sure to get your child to school on time. It is best to get here before 7:50 am to avoid the MPM traffic!! The line for drop-off is much shorter before 7:50 am.

Be the
"I" in
Kind

First Grade Exciting Times

It has been an exciting first full week in first grade. The students are learning reading and writing workshop routines and already decorated their writing folder with heartfelt memories to serve as writing topics for their stories. In social studies we read *The Jelly Donut Difference* and each student brainstormed a half a dozen ways to be kind to others. This is a platform we will continue to focus on all year. In math we are beginning our first unit where we are practicing counting, reading, writing, ordering and comparing numbers within 10 through various games and activities.

Second grade is off to an awesome start! In reading, we have been reviewing reading workshop procedures and practicing what being a reader looks like, sounds like, and feels like as second graders. We have worked to create individual reading goals and decided on specific things that will be done in order to reach those goals. In writing, we are working on personal narratives. We are excited to tell true stories about things that have happened to us. In math we are working to solidify addition strategies. In science we are learning about the scientific method and are using the steps to participate in experiments. Ask your kids about what happens when CO₂ reacts with BTB (bromothymol sulfone phthalein)! We are excited to see what the new week brings!

In *3rd grade* we are continuing to learn our classrooms routine. In math, we started our unit on number sense. We are learning that a number can be represented in standard form, word form and expanded form. In social studies, we are learning all about maps. We focused this week on cardinal directions and how to read a map. In science, we are studying the 4 layers of the earth (crust, mantle, outer core and inner core). Please check and empty your student's homework folders daily, it's a great way to connect with what's going on in the classroom. Thank you!

In *4th grade*, we continued getting to know one another and developing a positive classroom community. In reading, the students learned about the importance of developing a reading life through read-aloud books such as *Tomas and the Library Lady* and *The Lonely Book*. They learned how to "Stop and Jot" as they read, choose "Just Right" books, and began to create personal reading goals. During writing, the writers explored various texts and came to understand what inspires authors to write. They created an "ideas" section in their Writer's Notebooks and developed a list of topics they would love to write about this year. Through engaging, hands-on activities the mathematicians gained a better understanding of number sense as we began our first unit on place value. During social studies, students began their unit on regional map skills. Through this unit the students will begin to learn to identify the 50 states. Finally, during science, we learned about Claim, Evidence, and Reasoning (CER) through a fun, interactive activity in which we asked: Is the dad an alien? The scientists enjoyed gathering evidence to make an effective scientific argument.

In ELA this week, *fifth graders* learned to use three strategies to help them generate ideas for their narrative writing. They also started working through a video, nonfiction, music, and poetry center in order to build background knowledge for the upcoming class read aloud.

MPE Physical Education is off to great start! Students have been getting to know Mr. Blau and Mrs. Gronck while participating in engaging and fun cooperative games. The weather has been beautiful and PE classes are looking forward to going outside. Classes will continue to review important rules and procedures throughout each lesson. Students will be participating in various locomotor skills while using the parachute as well as various manipulative skills with a soccer ball (dribbling, kicking, etc.) throughout the month. The PE teachers are looking forward to healthy, fun and active school year.