



September 2018

Dear 5th Graders, Parents, and Families,

It is with great excitement that we officially welcome you to 5th grade! Our names are Catherine Pacilio and Laura Burns, and we will be your child's teachers this coming school year. To tell you a little about ourselves, we are a co-teaching team, running the classroom together. We believe our role as teachers is to help guide and facilitate your child's learning. We look forward to working with you and your child during their final year at PS 261!

We hope that you had a relaxing and enjoyable summer. This packet contains a lot of important information. Please read through the classroom policies and complete the online survey. Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Enclosed in this packet:

- ✓ Class 5-409 Policies
- ✓ 5409 Contact Info
- ✓ Online Survey
- ✓ 5th Grade Supplies

Complete the online survey by
Wednesday, September 12th.

Sincerely,

Ms. Catherine and Ms. Laura

Important Contact Info

Catherine Pacilio & Laura Burns

Class: 5-409

Email: ps261class5409@ps261brooklyn.org

School Phone Number: 718-330-9275

Class Website: <http://54092018.weebly.com>

School website: <http://www.ps261brooklyn.org>

*Please keep 1st page for your
reference*

Class 5-409 Policies

Communication:

The best way to communicate with us is by emailing our joint email account. The email is ***ps261class5409@ps261brooklyn.org***. We do our best to respond to our emails within 48 hours. You can also write us a note if that is easier! Please view our class website frequently for the most up to date information:

<http://54092018.weebly.com>.

Arrival and Dismissal:

This year, PS 261's arrival procedure has changed. For the first 3 days, we will be meeting the class in the yard, ready to go upstairs by ***8:20 am sharp***. **Beginning Wednesday, September 12, all students will be expected to walk up to the classroom at 8:20 by themselves.** Staff will be in the lobby to help with this transition but teachers will not be picking up the class to bring them upstairs. Please give your child time to eat breakfast prior to 8:20 am. If your child arrives after 8:30 am they will be marked late. We will begin instruction immediately at 8:20 am, so please understand that it is very disruptive if children come in late. Your child will be dismissed outside at ***2:40 pm daily***. Before your child is dismissed please make sure they have said goodbye to Ms. Catherine or Ms. Laura for the day. Be sure to specify who may pick up your child on the attached information sheet.

Homework:

Homework will be assigned daily from Monday through Friday. Homework will not exceed an hour a night (if it takes your child significantly longer, please let us know). Homework is a reinforcement of the learning your child is completing in school. If there is an extenuating circumstance and their homework cannot be completed, please write us a note or email explaining the situation so your child will not be held accountable. We expect students to make their best effort when completing their homework and to do it ***independently***. As part of the homework assignment every night students will *read for thirty minutes* and respond to their reading. Numerous studies have shown that students become better readers from reading, so please make sure they read at home every night!

Working Snack:

This year, Grade 5 will be eating during the first lunch period, from 11:05-11:55 a.m. It is difficult to concentrate and work productively when you are hungry, so please send your child in with a snack to be eaten throughout the morning. We call this a "working snack" which means it is eaten during independent work time. Therefore it should be something easy to consume and healthy. Some suggestions are: fruit, granola bars, pretzels, etc. The kids can also bring in water bottles to refill and keep at their desks.

****Please do not send your child with a snack that needs utensils, refrigerating, or warming!***

5th Grade Survey & Email Confirmation

This year we are advancing to a more efficient way of collecting your family contact information. Instead of passing out thick welcome back packets for families to fill out, we would like ALL families to complete an online survey. Please complete the survey by **Wednesday, September 12th.** :)

Online Survey Includes:

- Photo Release/ Walking Trip Form
- Dismissal Information
- Family Information/ Emergency Contact

If you have **not received** an email from us with a link to digitally complete the online survey, please email us at **ps261class5409@ps261brooklyn.org** with the following information:

- 1) Child's Name
- 2) Your Name
- 3) Relationship to child
- 4) Preferred phone number and phone type

Please email us from your preferred email address.

We will send you an invitation to complete the survey or you can access it on our class website at:

<http://54092018.weebly.com/>

5th Grade Supplies:

ALL 5th grade supplies for ALL 5th grade students
have been fully funded through ***DonorsChoose!***

Thank you over and over if you contributed or encouraged someone you love to contribute. What does this mean now in prepping for the first day? Well, just be sure that your child has a few personal items for their own use.

Buy these personalized supplies for your kids:

****These can be decorated or have an interesting design on them****

- 1 FUN Homework/Handout Folder (Heavy Duty/Plastic)
- 1 Pencil case
 - Put in pencil case:
 - 1 Handheld pencil sharpener
 - 1 pack of special personal pens
 - 1 pack of special personal pencils
- Handheld Spell Checker
(optional - find on amazon- type in electronic handheld spell checker)