

August 2019

Dear Fifth-grade Students & Families,

We hope you are having a wonderful summer with your friends and families! It is our pleasure to welcome you to your fifth grade classroom! You will experience an incredible amount of growth and have many opportunities for great accomplishments and success throughout the year.



You might be wondering who we are and why there are two teachers! Co-teaching is a classroom model in which two certified teachers join together to provide shared learning experiences for all children in the class. This model is extremely valuable to all students in the classroom. In co-teaching, we have the ability to focus on individual needs and abilities, targeting instruction through small and large group models. Attached is some additional information on the co-teaching model.

Can you believe this year concludes your journey through elementary school? You are now the eldest in our building and we look strongly upon you to be the leaders in our school and community. This is a great responsibility and a gift that we hope you will embrace with integrity and confidence. We will be working as a team to help ensure your continued development at Lenape. Together, we will be working on learning to budget your time, work cooperatively, develop good study habits, and work to achieve to your highest potential.

It is a marvelous opportunity that lies ahead for you. We hope you will come to our classroom with an open mind and a determined heart. We're looking forward to meeting each of you, learning more about you, and discovering what things we have in common.

Enclosed is a survey we hope can be brought into school on the first day.

For the first day of school it would be terrific if you could bring in the following:

- Your school supplies.
- A healthy snack
- A book to read in class. If you are in the middle of a book right now, bring that, or bring one you'd like to read.
- Our day begins at 9:15. On the first day you **might** have Physical Education. Please wear sneakers to school and be ready to have some FUN!! We head out to the buses at 3:25.
- The most important thing to bring on September 4th is a positive attitude!!

Looking forward to a great year,
Mrs. DeMaro & Mrs. Thomas

What Is Co-teaching?

Co-teaching has been described in a variety of ways (Cook & Friend, 1995), but here we define it as the collaboration between general and special education teachers for all of the teaching responsibilities of all students assigned to a classroom. In a co-taught classroom, two teachers, general and special educators, work together to develop a differentiated curriculum that meets the needs of a diverse population of students. In a co-taught classroom, teachers share the planning, presentation, evaluation, and classroom management in an effort to enhance the learning environment for all students. In this way, the teachers can provide more integrated services for all students, regardless of learning needs. Teachers involved in collaborative partnerships often report increased feelings of worth, renewal, partnership, and creativity (Friend & Cook, 1992).

http://www.cec.sped.org/Content/NavigationMenu/AboutCEC/International/StepbyStep/ResourceCenter/CoTeaching/VOL.33NO.4MARAPR2001_TEC_Article6.pdf