

2016-2017 Class Information

Welcome to our class! Please review each section carefully with your child.

Behavior

Students are expected to follow all school rules. Our school behavior expectations are to be respectful, be responsible, and be supportive and encouraging. These three expectations will be embedded in everything we do. Using this language at home can help to reinforce positive behavior. A specific class rules contract (created by the students) will be coming out to be signed. Students will take on a large amount of responsibility this year with a greater amount of independent class work.

Cell Phones & Handheld Electronic Devices

Cell phones/electronic devices out of a backpack will be given to the principal, awaiting parent pickup. If your child has a cell phone it must remain in their backpack, in the off position, during school hours.

Absences/Tardies

All students are expected to arrive on time daily, unless they're sick. A *handwritten* note from a guardian must accompany the child when they return the following day. (i.e.: *My daughter, Mary Sue Albert, was absent on 4/26/14 due to the stomach flu.*) Ensuring that your child arrives on time every day is vital to their education. *Students are responsible for asking for their missed work.*

Birthdays

We would love to celebrate your child's birthday! Please give advanced notice of treats to share with the class. *Homemade or store bought treats are accepted, with the exception of Costco cupcakes, as these are too large of a serving for individual students.* Treats will typically be shared during or after lunch and should be ready to serve in individual pieces, such as cupcakes or cookies. Please send items in with your child in the morning.

Money System

Students will be participating in a real life money experience. This will include saving, budgeting, and spending money. A full explanation of this system will come home soon.

Surprise Box

Our method of "sharing" is the Surprise Box. When your child brings home the Surprise Box, they will need to place an item in the box to share. This item is a secret, as the class will be using deductive reasoning to figure out what is inside. Remember to return the following day.

Cursive

Cursive handwriting will be reviewed at the beginning of the school year. (Extra practice may be needed at home.) Once the review has been completed, all writing will be done in cursive. *Printed assignments will be redone in cursive.*

Homework- (Includes a signed planner)

Homework is assigned everyday (including weekends) and should be **checked by a parent**. Weekend homework consists of reading and any unfinished work from the week. To start the year, students will read at least 30 minutes each night. At least half of this time should be read aloud to improve fluency. Later in the year, your child may be reading at least 45 min. each night. Accompanying the reading, there will usually be a review of math or language arts concepts as well as science or social studies. A signed planner is also required. **Homework is due first thing in the morning.**

*Please note, that homework is not graded by the teacher, but checked for completion.

Planners-

Things for parents to look for daily:

- Daily behavior: a mark will be made based on his/her behavior for the day (corresponding to our rules and consequences- more information to come)
- Title and page numbers of book read for homework
- Homework in appropriate section (can check website for accuracy)
- Spelling words in planner by Thursday (in cursive—words in print will be rewritten)
- *Parents are required to initial nightly signifying homework and reading completion
- *Students return planner everyday

Monday Folders

Folders will come home on Mondays with weekly work. Please go through the work with your child so that you have an idea of how s/he is doing in class. Some class items may be marked with a finish; this work is required to be finished and returned in a timely manner. Folders are to be *returned signed and empty on Tuesdays*.

Sign & Returns

Any work taken as a grade that receives lower than an 80% will be marked as a “Sign and Return” in your child’s Monday Folder. I expect that you go through the assignment with your child helping them to discover their mistakes and learn how to do the item properly. Sign the paper and return the following day. This is to help you be aware of your child’s progress. Students not returning their “Sign and Return Papers” the following day may be calling home as a reminder and losing recess time.

Grading

MPUSD is using a progress model for grading and report cards. This means that all students are graded on the *end of the year standards*. Students can receive a 1-4 grade. A 1 is minimal understanding of end of year material. A 2 is partial understanding of grade level material. A 3 is sufficient understanding of grade level material (this means your child has successfully mastered all of grade four content, which we wouldn’t expect until the end of the year). A 4 is extensive understanding of all of end of the year content.

Volunteers

Please contact me if you are able to help in any way (at home or in the classroom). Help may include grading papers (student performance is to be kept confidential), working with groups, copying, PE assistance, etc. All help is appreciated.

Website:

Class information (including homework, announcements, resource links, etc.) can be found on our classroom website.

<http://me-mpusd-ca.schoolloop.com/brown>

Contact

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me. (Email: pbrown@mpusd.k12.ca.us, notes in planners, or phone calls 831-899-7052).

I have read and understand the above information.

Parent Signature

date

Student Signature