

August 2019

Dear 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students and Families,

Welcome to 5<sup>th</sup> grade and to our 5S family! My name is Ms. Mary Sunderland and I am excited to be your teacher this year. I hope you have had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to beginning a fun-filled year together!

Before we start our time together, I wanted to tell you a little bit about myself. This will be my fourth year teaching at Merion Elementary School. The past three years I have enjoyed learning about the many traditions of Merion while teaching our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and then 5<sup>th</sup> graders here. Before coming to Merion, I served as a gifted support teacher in Radnor Township School District. While at Radnor, I worked with many 5<sup>th</sup> graders in this role and also taught a 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom for a part of one school year. Prior to these experiences, I taught in the parochial school systems of Baltimore and Philadelphia. I have taught 3<sup>rd</sup> grade for eleven years and also taught 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades.

Outside of school, I enjoy many things but especially these three Rs: reading, running, and relaxing on the beach! This summer I was fortunate to take part in these favorite activities, travel throughout the East coast, and spend treasured time with my two young nieces and many other family members and friends.

These past few weeks I have been busy preparing our classroom for each of our new 5<sup>th</sup> graders. I am eager for you to see it! You may be wondering: What is very important to me as a teacher? First, I love learning and helping others to learn more about their world and about themselves. Second, in every classroom where I teach, I hope to create a place where the presence of kindness and respect allows each child to feel welcome and secure as they grow as a young person. I look forward to working with each of our families this year to support our 5<sup>th</sup> graders in their journey of learning!

Students, before school starts, please ask your parents to email me at [sunderm@lmsd.org](mailto:sunderm@lmsd.org) to let them introduce you and your parents to me. I look forward to hearing from your family! On the first day of school, please bring your supplies, a nutritious snack, and your smile 😊 I look forward to seeing you on September 3rd!

Sincerely,  
Ms. Sunderland

## Ms. Sunderland (5S) Student Supply List

- Colored pencils** (no crayons or markers please)
  - Highlighters** (minimum 2 yellow highlighters)
  - Pencils** – At least Two dozen pencils (may use mechanical pencils)  
**Please refill pencils during the year.**
  - Erasable pens- 6 Blue or Black** **Please refill pens during the year.**
  - Erasers** – at least **two** (no toy erasers)
  - Glue Sticks**- two
  - Dry Erase Markers** – 4 low or no odor
  - Clean sock** (to be used as a whiteboard eraser)
  - One Composition book**- with design of your choice on the cover 😊
  - Two Pencil Cases**- one 3-ring zippered pencil case to be kept in Homework binder and one to be kept in Math binder. The Math binder will be provided to students at school.
  - 2” BLACK Binder** (PLEASE do not buy trapper keepers, zippers, or velcro binders) This binder will used as the student portfolio for school work.
  - 2” Binder for Homework** (PLEASE do not buy trapper keepers, zippers, or velcro binders) *Hint: buy a heavy duty binder!!*
  - 1½” WHITE Binder for** Language Arts
  - Dividers- 8 sections** for homework binder. Please assist your children in labeling the dividers in the following order from top to bottom; HW, TFK, Vocabulary, Reading, Grammar, Science, Social Studies, and leave the last tab blank.
  - Headphones or earbuds** to be used when working on the computer.
  - Clipboard** – 9x12”
- \* Homework assignment book will be provided in school\***

**Classroom donations are greatly appreciated** 😊

\* Box of tissues    *and/or*    \* Ziploc baggies

Introducing... YOUR Child

I'd like to know more about your child, through your eyes. The more I know, the better I can design an educational and motivational program to fit his or her particular needs.

Please answer the questions and complete the information below. Remember, this is from *your* point of view. Please send it in with your child as soon as it's completed.

**PLEASE RETURN BY 9/9/19**

Thank you!

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom: \_\_\_\_\_

- List five (5) words that best describe your child's *character* (competitive, cheerful, perfectionist):

- What *motivates* your child?

- What *upsets* your child?

- What are your child's out-of-school *interests* and *activities*?

