

Dear 2019-2020 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Families,

Hello! My name is Mrs. Hillary Sheehan, and I am really excited about this upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> grade year at Rosa Lee Carter Elementary. I cannot wait to meet your wonderful children and to become a teacher they respect and trust as we grow as learners, collaborators, and productive members of our community. I am also looking forward to working with all of you to ensure the success of our children.

I would like to formally introduce myself. I graduated from the University of Arkansas Little Rock. This is my 6<sup>th</sup> year teaching. I worked in the North Little Rock School District in Arkansas as a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher for 3 years and then was promoted to the District Technology Instructional Facilitator for Elementary. I love using technology in my classroom to enhance learning.

I am a mother of two beautiful girls and a wife to an amazing husband. We moved to Loudoun County in December 2017 due to my husband's career. Although I love teaching, I also love to paint, sing and be with my family. My husband and I were born in Oklahoma and this is where all of our family lives. I love when my family come to visit me and I am able to show off our wonderful area we live in.

### Communication

I believe that our classroom is a family. You, as parents, are just as much apart of that family as the students and myself.

You will receive a weekly email highlighting our classroom's learning targets, upcoming assignments and assessments, as well as upcoming events and activities.

Please feel free to contact me through email, written note, or the Remind App. The app allows me to send a text right to your cell phone. To sign up for RLC 2019-2020 notifications, please visit [REMIND](#).

I also have a [Twitter](#) account: @MrsSheehan5. Please "Follow" us to see weekly updates and photos of your amazing children.

In addition, I have a classroom website that I update with the weekly email highlights and links to apps that are used in the classroom. The website is <http://sheehanstars.weebly.com/>.

Most importantly, I utilize [ParentVue](#) to communicate your child's academic progress. Through this portal, you will be able to view your child's assignments, assessments, and grades.

### Organization/Assignments

We will be using [Google Classroom](#). This is where the majority of their assignments will be located. As soon as we start using Google Classroom the students will add themselves to our subject classrooms and they will be able to log on at home. Through Google Classroom you will see the list of assignments your child will need to complete and the date of which they are due.

Your child will bring home a weekly **Thursday folder** with graded work, RLC flyers, etc. I will also attach any pertinent documentation to an email for your convenience.

### Schedule

I've attached our **Weekly Special Schedule**. Please note children need to wear rubber-soled, closed-toed shoes (i.e., sneakers) on P.E. days. Also, we will go outside every day for recess, weather permitting. Please encourage your child to wear clothes and outerwear appropriate for the season.

### Learning In Our Classroom

As a teacher, there are a few additional things to know about me: I value my job and the opportunity I will have to teach your child many things academically and socially. I believe in setting high standards and challenging your child to meet them. I truly believe in a classroom community that values respect where we can all feel successful. I believe in laughter and hard work as we learn. Mostly, I want to assure you and your child that it will be a year full of fun, challenging experiences, and plenty of memories.

I also believe in having an organized and structured, student-centered learning environment where children will have access and utilize various resources to assist in learning. Some of which include: sticky notes, white boards, google docs/word, ppt, etc. Throughout the day, your child will engage in problem-based tasks, guided inquiry, and cooperative learning activities to construct their understanding of new concepts,

while incorporating technology where it makes sense. Some ways we will use technology to enhance our learning include:

- Gather online resources to add to our research study
- Read material on websites, including primary source documents
- View and analyze high-quality color images and media clips
- Connect with their classmates and students in other classes
- Extend knowledge on topics we are learning about in class

In addition to individual tasks, we will work collaboratively in small groups, partnerships, and whole-group discussing, debating, and asking questions to develop a deep understanding of what we're learning.

### Fifth-Grade Helpful Links

Additional helpful websites are listed on the fifth-grade web page: [Helpful Links for Learning](#). Please also stay up to date with the RLC home web page, where you can find the school's google calendar (to find out about activities school wide, special after school events, spirit events, PTO announcements, etc). You can also find the principal's twitter feed for easy access.

### Paper work

LCPS is providing a [Virtual First-Day folder](#). Parents need to log into [ParentVUE](#) to electronically acknowledge documents and update important start-of-school information. This method is being used to reduce the number of papers sent home on the first day of school. You may refer to the helpful Q&A section, specifically, [What forms should I acknowledge in ParentVUE?](#) for guidance on what forms need to be completed.

If you do not have a ParentVUE account, please contact the school at (703) 957-4490 to request an Activation Letter.

Prior to the first day of school, I need to know your child's dismissal plan so that I am aware of how your child will be getting home on the first day of school! You will receive this form during Open House and then I will be sending out a digital copy for the parents who not able to come to the Open House.

### Snacks

I would like to encourage sending a snack with your child each day. We do have a late lunch at 12:40p and sometimes is it hard to concentrate when our tummies are

rumbling. Having a daily snack is optional and it is okay if your child opts not to have snack.

It is important for daily snacks to be healthy and not cause too much mess, as there are some days we will eat while we continue to work.

**\*\*NO NUTS (of any kind), peanuts, or seed (i.e. poppy) products please.**

**\*\*No chips, cookies, or candy please.**

To help with planning, here are some suggestions of healthy snack choices:

- Grapes
- Celery sticks
- Cherry or Grape tomatoes
- Cheese slices or cubes
- Broccoli florets
- Pretzels
- Sugar-snap peas
- Dried fruit
- Cucumber slices
- Apple slices
- Strawberries
- Baby carrots
- Raisins
- Large cereal pieces
- Slices of banana
- Nut Free Trail Mix
- Nut Free Granola Bars
- Baked Kale Chips

Your child may bring in a water bottle each day and will be allowed to drink throughout the day. The water bottle may only have WATER inside. Juices, milk, and energy drinks are not permitted in the classroom.

### Save the Dates

- Open House on Wednesday, August 21, 2019 from 9-10a
- Back to School Night on Wednesday, August 28, 2019  
Session 1: 6:00-6:40 PM  
Session 2: 6:50- 7:30 PM

### WISHLIST

- Tissues
- Clorox Wipes
- Hand Sanitizer
- Lined Paper

Thank you so much! I look forward to working with you!

Warm Regards,

*Hillary Sheehan*