

5th Grade FAQ's

- **When do class assignments come out?** *Class assignments are sent out on August 21, 2017. 5th graders will receive their homeroom teacher and world language assignment at this time.*
- **How does placement work?** *There are many factors that we consider as we balance the classes including student abilities, learning styles and interests, peer relationships, social-emotional considerations, elementary school, world language assignments, and special programs. We work closely with the prior year's teachers as we make placement decisions.*
- **How does drop off and pick up work?** *School starts (students expected to be in homeroom) at 8:50am. The first bell rings at 8:40am. Student drop off begins at 8:25am where students will wait outside with supervision until 8:40am, when they can enter the school. If arriving by car, students are dropped off and picked up in front of the school. We ask all parents to follow the car line appropriately. Information and car line maps are on the Highcrest PTO website.*
- **What do students do with scooters or skateboards?** *In the back of the school, next to the bike racks, there is a bin to store these items. It is locked during the day.*
- **When do students sign up for band/orchestra/chorus?** *All 5th graders attend a music orientation at the beginning of the school year. They then have an opportunity to try out different instruments before deciding if band, orchestra, or chorus, is right for them. Students enroll in the middle of September. You will receive more information at the start of the school year.*
- **When will students receive their iPads?** *Students will receive their iPads at the beginning of the school year in their homerooms. iPads will not be distributed before school starts.*
- **With the iPads, do students have a hard copy assignment notebook?** *Yes! We feel it is important that all 5th graders purchase a planner at the beginning of the year and use it to keep track of their assignments. The planners for 2017-18 school year cost \$3.00. (This is not included in their school supply kit).*
- **Can students download their own applications onto their iPads?** *No. All iPads operate under a district management system in which we push out apps to iPads. This means students cannot download apps on their own. More information on iPads, technology, and approved apps is on the Highcrest website.*

- **Do we need to provide a lock for our child's locker?** *No. The school provides a lock. This is the first year that students use locks on their lockers. We help the students get comfortable with their locks before they begin using them. One of the first homework assignments is to take the lock home and practice unlocking it.*
- **Do 5th graders have recess each day?** *Yes! All students have a period of lunch/recess each day, and lunch/recess is only with 5th graders. We try to go outside as much as possible. Students have 3 options for recess: outside to the playground/fields (where most students go); to the outdoor garden (or game room in the winter); to the LMC. For inclement weather students will be inside in our Auditorium.*
- **How do students know where to sit in the cafeteria?** *At the beginning of the school year, students have assigned tables and sit with their homerooms. This helps all students have structure and feel safe in the cafeteria, as well as connect with their homeroom peers. During recess, students can interact with anyone. After the first month of school, students can choose where they sit. There are supervisors walking around to assist if needed. On the first day of the school year and throughout the first few weeks, the procedures and expectations of the cafeteria are consistently taught and reviewed.*
- **What are the food options in the cafeteria?** *Students can buy or bring lunch. There is a hot lunch line and snack bar, which includes sandwiches, jello, and bagels. Students use the same number to purchase food as they did in elementary school.*
- **How much homework do students get?** *There will be a little more homework in 5th grade, and work expectations increase. On average, students have about 50 minutes of homework however, that changes based on when projects are due, tests are assigned, etc.*
- **How do grades and report cards work?** *5th grade is the first time that students receive letter grades. We recognize this is a big change, so teachers regularly send home updates on each child's progress. At the end of 1st and 3rd quarters, students receive progress reports, which are updates on academic progress. At the end of 2nd and 4th quarters, students receive report cards, which are finalized semester grades.*
- **When are parent-teacher conferences?** *At the 5-8 level, parent-teacher conferences take place in November, after the end of 1st quarter. There are no parent-teacher conferences in the spring. You're welcome to reach out to the teachers if you have any questions or concerns.*
- **Is there accelerated math in 5th grade?** *No. Accelerated math in District 39 starts in 6th grade. In 5th grade, all students are taught by one of the math teachers on their House, and differentiation and enrichment occur in the classroom. There is a 5th grade math enrichment teacher who works with all 5th grade teachers, supplying resources and presenting enrichment opportunities, as well as helping to co-teach in the classroom.*

- **Are there Differentiation Support Teachers at Highcrest?** *Yes! There is a Differentiation Support Teacher (DST) for each grade level at HMS. The 5th grade DST works with all 5th grade teachers and primarily focuses on helping to enrich and challenge students in their ELA (reading and writing) classes. There is also a 5th grade technology integration teacher who supports teachers in integrating technology into their lessons and allowing students to use technology to demonstrate their learning.*
- **My child is nervous about getting lost in the new school, what should I tell them?** *On the first day of school and throughout the first few days, students have many tours of the school. At the beginning of the year, teachers will walk students to their different classes so no one will get lost. We help students learn their new school!*
- **When do students get to meet their homeroom teacher?** *Teachers look forward to meeting their students on the first half day of school. At 5th grade orientation students will start learning the school, see their classroom, and meet other students in their homeroom. Teachers are not present during orientation. Parents/guardians will get to meet their teachers on Curriculum Night, which is scheduled for September 7, 2017.*
- **With iPads, do students still have paper assignments and read paper books?** *Yes! There are still a lot of paper assignments, and students still read from hard copy books.*
- **Do students get to eat snacks?** *Yes! Teachers set up snack time differently but all students have opportunities to eat a snack during the day. Snacks must follow district guidelines, and be fruits and vegetables.*
- **Can students bring a water bottle?** *Yes! We encourage students to bring their own water bottles.*
- **Are there class parties?** *Yes! 5th grade still has classroom parties throughout the year, such as for Halloween. All classroom parties are foodless, unless otherwise directed.*
- **Are there field trips and assemblies?** *Yes! We work closely with the HMS PTO IGNITE to sponsor exciting enrichment activities/field trips/assemblies. For example, 5th grade students have traveled to the Museum of Science and Industry for many years.*
- **What after school activities are offered?** *There are PTO clubs and sports offered in the fall, winter, and spring, and Science Olympiad classes offered during the winter. Everyday after school, Youth Connection runs a drop-in Homework Club (3:35pm - 4:35pm), and RAD (3:35pm - 6:00pm), a supervised meeting place to relax, socialize, play games, or do crafts.*
- **What is the cell phone policy?** *Cell phones should be off and in their locker during the school day. Students can use cell phones before and after school only.*