

P.S. 36
Parent Handbook



2015-2016

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Making 8 Great

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PARENT HANDBOOK 2015-2016

Parent Letter # 1

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I am pleased to welcome you and your child to a new and exciting year at P. S. 36. All the staff here at P.S. 36 are committed to one goal: making sure your child receives an excellent education. We look forward to meeting with all of you to discuss whatever questions and concerns you may have.

I believe, as you probably do, that the school is the institution where the attainment of knowledge takes place through proper instruction. The process of learning can best take place when parents along with teachers work together to bring out the best in our children. Of course in order to achieve this goal, teachers, parents and students must show respect and understanding to one another in all situations.

As a parent, in order to maximize your child's chances for success, you must have an open line of communication with your child's teacher. Feel free to write a note to the teacher asking for an appointment to discuss any situation which you feel needs clarification, but please do not walk straight to the teacher's door to discuss an issue. Teachers are not allowed to leave children unattended. Should a situation occur which you feel warrants immediate response, please call the school and ask for the parent coordinator who will direct your call to the appropriate school personnel.

Parents should also strive to become active members in the school community. Try to attend monthly meetings, workshops and school events. Enclosed you will find a Parent Handbook. The Parent Handbook will discuss items of major importance regarding the school schedule, expectations, and safety procedures and sign the homework policy. Please read it and refer to it when questions arise.

As we strive to provide a safe, caring, and nurturing environment, we ask students, staff, parents and the community to join together to ensure that P.S. 36 is an exemplary learning institution.

Feel free to contact the school if you have a question or concern. Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Educationally yours,

Elvira Maresca, Principal

P.S. 36-The Rising Stars School

Our Vision

P.S. 36 is a community committed to building the confidence and perseverance of each student that enters its doors. We believe that we must encourage our students to become risk-takers and critical thinkers. We will nurture our students as they overcome their challenges and discover they can be leaders of their own learning.

Our Mission

By strengthening teacher practice and engaging our students in learning, we will inspire our students to become independent lifelong learners. We value a respect for diversity and believe that when educators, parents, and students work together for the purpose of personal and academic success, we can motivate our students to “Reach for the Stars” and achieve their dreams.

2015-2016

Capacity Framework cont...

Effective School Leadership

Principals lead by example and nurture the professional growth of teachers and staff, developing and delivering the instructional and social-emotional support that drives student achievement.

Strong Family-Community Ties

School leadership brings resources from the community into the school building by welcoming, encouraging, and developing partnerships with families, businesses, and community-based organizations.

Trust

Everyone works toward the shared goal of improving student outcomes, preparing students for success in school and beyond. Across the school community, there is respect. School staff, parents, students and administrators value each other.

Carriages:

Baby carriages are not allowed beyond the security guard’s desk. If you do bring a carriage, do not block any entrances or exits as this is considered a fire and safety hazard. Unfortunately we are not responsible if your carriage is stolen.

Cellular Phones:

Children are not permitted to use a cellular phone during school hours, as per Chancellor’s mandates. Cellular phones brought to school should be turned off and in the student’s backpack prior to 8:20 a.m. and may only be turned on after dismissal. The school is not responsible if a cellular phone is brought to school and is lost or stolen. A school circular clarifying the school’s cell phone rules and regulations will be sent home. If you need to speak to your child or want a message to be delivered to your child, please call the main office and speak to Parent Coordinator (718) 822-5345 Ext. 2151.

Child Abuse

We are mandated to report any unexplained bruises, incidents, etc. If a child has an accident at home, please send in a written explanation.

Children not to be spoken to as indicated below

No person is allowed to approach a child to discuss, discipline, intimidate or get clarification about any incident, etc. Failure to comply with this directive will lead to a ban from the school. If you have any concerns, please come into the building and fill out a parent concern form.

Construction Concerns

Please speak to your child about safety in and out of the building during construction if and when there is construction in the building or on school property.

Costumes

Pre-K – Grade 5 students are allowed to bring costumes to school on Halloween. If you participate in this holiday and send a costume to school, please be aware that the costume must fit over child’s clothing (uniform). Children who do not celebrate holidays due to religious observances will be involved in other appropriate activities. Save your costumes since they are used again in June during our school spirit days.

CREW

This year, we will begin to integrate Expeditionary Learning’s concept of CREW into our school philosophy. An Expeditionary Learning school culture is planned for, developed, and sustained through practices that bring the community together, promote shared understandings, and encourage all community members to become crew, not passengers. Students in EL schools are known well and supported by adults. The structure of crew allows for relationship building, academic progress monitoring, and character development. Crew allows students to build positive connections with their peers and with their crew leader.

One of the foundational credos of Expeditionary Learning is “We are Crew, Not Passengers.” This metaphor refers to a group in a boat on a long voyage, where everyone is needed to pull at an oar and no one sits by watching. In adhering to this motto, “Crew” can be used to reference both individual classrooms and the entire school community.

We will be supported by Expeditionary Learning in this endeavor and more information will be forthcoming.

Culture

We teach children to respect each other’s culture and religion. Please inform the teacher if your child has special needs, i.e. fasting, or not eating a certain type of foods for religious reasons.

Curriculum Matters/Instructional Preogram

Our Instructional Programs At a Glance

LITERACY	MATHEMATICS	SCIENCE	SOCIAL STUDIES
Creative Curriculum (Pre-K)	Creative Curriculum and Building Blocks (Pre-K)	FOSS (K-5)	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt S.S Program Resources (K-5)
Collaborative Classrooms (K-1)	GO MATH! (K-5)	Teacher-created materials/units of study (K-5)	Teacher-created materials/units of study
ReadyGen (2)			
Foundations (K-2)			
Expeditionary Learning(3-5)			

English Language Arts

Balanced Literacy Block will encompass the following:

- Uninterrupted reading time using balanced literacy components
- Reading through content area, incorporating Social Studies, Science, etc (interdisciplinary)
- Daily writing expression in Literacy notebook through diaries, poems, compositions, reaction to literature pieces, book reports, etc.
- Writing activities to incorporate different writing styles.
- Reading aloud – should be done daily by every teacher.
- Library books should be borrowed from our school and neighborhood library to meet the demands of the ELA Instructional Shifts and students’ participation in the Star Reader Challenge program.
- Homework sheet must include reading 30 minutes of reading-daily.
- Writer’s workshop will continue to be a focus this year.

Mathematics:

Go Math Program:

This program is used school wide. It is based on the Standards for Learning set down by the NCTM (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics). It was developed around the philosophy that children succeed by taking an active part in their own learning experiences. Students are encouraged to develop and use various strategies in their attempt to solve problems. The teacher acts as a facilitator, guiding the students in their search for solutions.

Our Balanced Mathematics Block will encompass the following:

- Go Math- Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
- Curriculum guides
- Homework
- Test schedules (Continuous formative assessments- subjective and performance tasks)
- Supplementary programs
- Other information to be disseminated
- Use of manipulatives
- Differentiated activities
- Following pacing calendar

Social Studies:

Use of New York State core syllabus. Monthly ethnic/Heritage celebrations studies are as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Sept. – Native American Heritage | Feb. – African American Heritage |
| Oct. – Italian American Heritage | Mar. – Irish American Heritage |
| Nov. – Puerto Rico Heritage | April – Jewish American Heritage |
| Dec. – German American Heritage | May – Pan American Heritage |
| Jan. – Asian American Heritage | June – Greek American Heritage |

All classes will maintain a class bulletin board or area to highlight monthly “Culture of the Month.”

Discipline Code

The school discipline code and parent compact will be disseminated to all our families. We ask that you take the time to discuss the issues presented with your child/children. We will also present the discipline code to the children during an assembly program, and/or through our Guidance Counselor, but as parents, it is most important to stress through conversations with your children the proper modes of discipline and expected behavior. Children do better in school when they demonstrate appropriate discipline. Good discipline begins when the rules are known to all and everyone is consistent in enforcing the rules.

Dismissal

It is your RESPONSIBILITY to be ON TIME!

Walkers

2:35 pm	Pre-K	Classrooms
2:35 pm	Grade K	School yard near flag pole
2:40 pm	First Grade	Middle of school yard
2:40 pm	Second Grade	Auditorium side of school yard
2:40 pm	Third Grade	Back of school yard
2:40 pm	Fourth & Fifth Grade	Near Blackrock Avenue gate

PBIS cont...

PBIS Rules

- Come to school on time and prepared to learn.
- Be responsible and take care of all books and materials.
- Be respectful of others and their property.
- Walk quietly and orderly at all times.
- Seek permission from an adult in charge in order to leave the classroom, lunchroom, auditorium, play yard, and school ground.

PBIS Rules cont...

- Carry a pass when leaving the classroom and sign out if requested to do so.
- Dangerous objects or weapons should not be brought to school.
- Avoid fighting or use of inappropriate language in school.
- Remain seated in the lunchroom and only eat in the appropriate area.
- Adhere to the rules of safety and fire prevention at all times.

Consequences

- A conference with the Assistant Principal and/or Principal
- Temporary removal from the classroom.
- Loss of playtime or lunchroom recess.
- A letter or telephone call to the parent.
- A conference with the parent and the Assistant Principal and/or Principal.
- Principal or Superintendent Suspension.

Rewards

- Students will receive individual tickets to trade in for prizes.
- Students and classes will be selected to participate in special activities.
- Students and classes will receive monthly prizes and awards.

Picking Up a Friend's Child

If you want to do your friend or neighbor a favor by picking up their child, please have them list you on their blue emergency card.

Principal's Bulletin/Calendar

Please make sure you ask your child for the Parent Calendar, which is sent home at the beginning of every month from October to June. As soon as information is available to me, (such as days when school will not be in session) I try to pass it on to you quickly so you can make appropriate child care arrangements for your children.

Progress Reports to Report on Child's Academic Achievements

Academic Intervention Services (AIS) begins with classroom teachers. In some instances other teachers may also provide AIS. A progress report is sent home three times per year in November, January and March. Teachers, at their discretion, may send additional progress reports home.

Promotional Standards

To be promoted to the next grade the following mandates must be met:

- All children must have attended school at least 95% of the school year.
- Have a portfolio of work, which shows child is progressing in meeting standards.
- In K-2 show appropriate ECLAS 2/DRA progress.
- Meet the standards of meeting 800 steps or more.

Weather During inclement weather the following routines will be in play for arrival and dismissal.

Arrival

Pre-K - 2nd as usual

3rd Grade – In gymnasium with Mr. J. Devanny and Mr. Brooks

4th and 5th grade – In gymnasium with Mr. J. Devanny and Mr. Brooks

Dismissal

Pre-K – In back of auditorium

K, 1, 2 –In back of auditorium

3, 4, 5 –Dismissed into schoolyard, as usual, so please be prompt.

Lunch Unless it is severe weather children will go outside for recess. At all times children will have the option of staying indoors or going outside. You, the parents, must guide your child to follow your indoor/outside policy.

Websites

- Our School’s website is: www.PS36x.org
- New York City Department of Education website is: www.schools.nyc.gov
- NYC DOE - Achievement Reporting & Innovation System (ARIS): www.arisparentlink.org
- New York State Parent Information: www.NYSParents.com

Yellow Medical Cards

These cards will provide school nurse with all pertinent information, should you need to be called for a medical reason. Please make sure school is informed about allergies or any other medical alert.



P.S. 36
STAR EXPECTATIONS



	Classroom	Arrival / Dismissal	Hallways/Stairs Bathroom	Cafeteria	Playground	Auditorium
Safe 	-Follow all directions. -Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself. Walk carefully around the room when asked to.	-Walk directly to your line up area and follow directions. -Remain with class. -Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.	-Walk on right side of hallway. -Walk quietly not touching items on the walls/bulletin boards. -Keep hands and feet to yourself. -Listen to directions on the staircase.	-Walk carefully. -Remain in your seat. -Stay in line. -Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself -Follow all directions.	-Rough play could cause injuries to yourself or others. Play carefully. -Keep hands and feet to yourself. -Follow directions and procedures.	-Enter and exit quietly with your teacher. -Walk carefully. -Keep your hands in your lap. -Leave personal items in the classroom
Truthful 	-Always be honest and truthful while following the directions. -Admit when you have done something, say the truth.	-Remain in your designated area. -Make sure you take items that only belong to you.	-Remain with your class at all times. -Only go to the designated location your teacher gave you permission to go to and immediately return to your classroom.	-Always speak to adults with honesty. -Answer all questions with truthfulness. -Admit when you have done something, say the truth.	-Line up at the first whistle. -When speaking with adults, be honest.	- Admit when you have done something, say the truth. - Always speak to adults with honesty.
Alert 	-Your area should be kept clean, including your desk and floor. -Be aware of others working near you. -Raise hand to get teachers attention. -Come to school prepared to work.	-Be on time. -Know your phone number. -Have your materials in your backpack and hold your belongings. -Go straight home at dismissal.	-Walk carefully always looking ahead of you. -Stay on the correct side of hallway and stairs.	-Your area should be kept clean, including the table and floor. -Be aware of items on the floor. If you drop something pick it up. -Be careful of others walking with a tray.	-Be cautious. -Be aware of others playing near you. -Play only in areas assigned by the school aides.	-Stay with your class and follow the teacher's directions. -Walk carefully when entering rows.
Respectful 	-Follow all classroom rules. -Help others when you can. -Speak respectfully to everyone.	-Listen to adults and follow directions. -Speak kindly and respectfully to everyone around you. -Stay in your own space.	-Teaching and learning are going on so you must walk through the hallways quietly. -Respect all work posted in the hallways.	-Use inside voice at all times. -Raise your hand to ask for assistance. -Ask permission to get up from your seat. -Respect adult decisions. -Speak respectfully to all students and adults.	-Use kind words and speak respectfully to everyone around you. -Respect the belongings of others. -Everyone should get a turn to play.	-Use inside voice. -Use audience manners: silence during a performance, sit facing the speaker, sit still, use polite applause. -Listen closely. -Wait patiently.