



*Public School 176*  
*1225 Bay Ridge Avenue*  
*Brooklyn, New York 11219*



***The Parent Handbook***  
***2023-24***

## Principal's Message

September 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome to PS 176, the Ovington School, a place dedicated to supporting children's intellectual, social, emotional and physical development.

Our goal is to meet the educational expectations of our students, parents, staff and community. We believe that these high expectations should include the development of academic rigor, higher order thinking skills, problem solving abilities, self-discipline and civic responsibility. We expect our students to become life-long learners and productive citizens in a democratic society

The information in this parent handbook includes our core values and philosophy, which guide the staff in meeting the needs of our students. We have also included general program information, school policies, discipline code, health information, student support services and parent participation programs. Please visit our school website at [www.PS176.org](http://www.PS176.org).

You will find your child's class information, parent resources, teacher emails, notices, parent information and links to the NYC Department of Education website for testing and assessment reports.

We value you as our partner in your child's education. When schools and families work together, children have the best opportunity to succeed. We hope that you will join our PTA, and volunteer in your child's classroom for one or more days throughout the school year or volunteer one day at a school event. This is very important to us as a professional learning community.

Together we can create a joyful learning experience for all of our children. Along with your support, we value your input. If you have a question, comment or concern, you are encouraged to contact your child's teacher or email your comments to our school website. I, too, am always available to assist you in any way that I can. Please know that your call or visit is always welcome.

On behalf of our faculty, I am pleased to welcome you to PS 176, the Ovington School.

We are honored and humbled to share in your child's educational experiences and look forward to a wonderful year working with you

Warmly,  
Elizabeth Culkin

## Mission Statement

P.S. 176 is a diverse, collaborative, Title I School-wide Project school community dedicated to achieving academic excellence for every child. Through a high-quality standards-driven curriculum, a nurturing environment where every child can discover,

explore and reflect on ideas and concepts, the development of civic, social and technological strategies necessary to contribute to a global community and the strong belief in creating a lifelong love of learning, we commit our children, our parents, ourselves and our resources.

### **Vision Statement**

PS 176 envisions our school, as a professional community of learners, where all members – students, parents and staff are engaged in learning. Our shared focus is to empower all students with high academic skills, positive and varied social experiences and civic responsibilities that will enable every child to participate as a contributing member of a democratic society. We believe that every child must have the opportunity to communicate effectively, think critically, possess technological skills for an informational society, gather information to make intelligent decisions and have the necessary job skills to earn a decent wage – this commitment begins at the elementary level of formal schooling. To this end, we commit ourselves and our resources to provide every child entrusted to our care a strong academic foundation and lifelong love of learning.

## Curriculum

All Curriculum is aligned to Next Generation Learning Standards

### INTO READING

Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking

Foundational Literacy

Wilson: Foundations Kindergarten through Grade 3

Wilson: Just Words: Fourth Grade and Fifth Grade

Spelling

Scripps Spelling Word List

Reading, Writing,

Into Reading: Houghton Mifflin

Speaking, Listening

Vocabulary

NYC PS Reads

All students reading grade level books

**Reading** – Students will engage in **HMH Into Reading Modules** developing strong foundational reading, writing, listening and speaking skills and strategies. Students will read authentic literature designed to build reading fluency, comprehension, and text to life connections where characters come alive and life lessons taught. Students will use shared texts to learn specific reading strategies and skills. Students will have the opportunity to practice new knowledge through discourse, engagement and writing responses. Assessments will be used to help students target individual reading goals, as well as help students in need of review or enrichment.

We strongly believe in student voice and choice as well as in our children's independence and leadership. Using **Into Reading** we provide multiple opportunities for students to present their perspectives based on data, evidence, and details. Students will debate their ideas in Socratic Inquiry circles that provide deeper understanding and lift the level of thinking to higher order thinking levels – synthesis, comparative analysis, and evaluation.

The Chancellor's Initiative for NYC Public Schools READ will provide students to find books to treasure and stories that will last a lifetime. Reading independently at home and at school offers multiple opportunities for children to engage in book chats and comparative analysis of characters, setting and Themes. Through this work the writer's message is conveyed to the reader and life lessons taught through story.

**Writing** – **HMH Into Writing** will be used daily in our classrooms. Our students will work on mastering the writing process learning a variety of genres. Some of the modules include narrative writing, fairy tales, authors as mentors, fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. Exposing students to different genres of writing will help them become more confident in their own writing. The main purpose of writing is to convey a message to a reader. Writers often share many ideas in their articles and it is up to the reader to define the writer's intent based on reasons and details, and supporting arguments. The reader's focus is to identify the writer's perspective, "What does this writer want you, the reader, to understand?"

**Math** – **Envision Math** is a comprehensive Grade K-5 program with a focus for developing mathematical thinking and reasoning. Next Generation Learning Standards as well as the NYSED State Standards and NCTM Curriculum Focal Points align to the mathematical strategies and skills embedded in **Envision Math**

and [TERC: Investigations in Number Data and Space program](#). Interactive lessons utilize research based instructional approaches and differentiated instructional resources to ensure success for all students. In addition to TERC MATH our students will work with supplemental programs: [Exemplars, and Context for Learning](#). Our goal for our students is that they will think critically like mathematicians, create mathematical models, engage in math discourse and finalize their work in mathematical summary statements as they work collaboratively to problem solve issues presented in 21<sup>st</sup> Century thinking. Our partnership with [ReimaginED, Math Consultants](#) and the [National Museum of Mathematics](#) provides multiple opportunities for students to wonder and explore a variety of ways to problem solve.

[Social Studies](#) – Our Social studies and Science curricula is taught through the New York City Scope and Sequence, Next Generation Learning Standards

In Social Studies our students use [PASSPORT](#), [Soap Box](#) and [Civics for All](#). These programs provide multiple opportunities for students to explore cultures, traditions, and the bonds that tie people together. We believe in participating in our Global community.

This year we continue our strong partnership with [National Geographic Social Studies, National Geographic Science Panorama Videos, and Core Knowledge](#).

These programs caught our interest because of the video clips that are shared with students and the global digital platforms that our students engage in as they solve real world problems.

*For example, our Fifth Grade students research Aztec, Mayan and Inca civilizations and using MINECRAFT and student led seminars, they create the villages, customs, traditions, governments for these ancient societies. We look for the impact in our student's conversations as they share ideas in comparative analysis of past, present and future themes.*

*"Play is the highest form of creativity"  
Albert Einstein*

**WE ARE A MAKER SCHOOL**

*Maker Lab, Robotics/Engineering Lab, Hydroponic Lab,  
Global Platforms, Otter Broadcasting Studio, Podcasts*

## **SCIENCE**

We are a school where wonder, creativity, exploration and design inspires our students, staff and families. We have a Maker Lab where students work on 3-D activities, using printers and pens to build their ideas. Our Maker Faire Tinkers have created homemade roller coasters, automatic dog feeding stations and robots that can speak....all the handiwork of our children who have no limits just their imagination.

If you travel our hallways you will find LEGO bulletin boards where our children create Robots that are only limited by their imagination. This year we begin to work with Competitive Dominoes building within creativity and precision skills that are required for skill sets that our children will need.

If you visit you can see their concept of a 21<sup>st</sup> Century city....20 years from now they will be our engineers, architects and inventors.....it begins here in elementary school with a deep belief in the

ability for every child to soar if we give them the wings to do so.....so say "YES" and let the magic happen.

We have a Robotic/Engineering Lab where our students program their 'bots' using strings and arrays.....it's amazing when that student is six-years-old!

We have a Hydroponic Lab where our children learn about sustainable food sources and ways to plant/grow food when the land is infertile. We partner with SUNWORKS for our HYDROPONIC LAB and our children and families love the workshops that are provided. [Our Parent Coordinator, Qin Zhu](#), reaches out to WEILL CORNELL Healthy Nutrition workshops where our families can participate in a 10 week certified nutrition course, receive a certificate and at each workshop share a meal that they learned to make....it's a way for people to form friendships over a good meal that they created.

In all of our labs, essential questions and student posed questions are explored using an inquiry and project based approach to support and facilitate each of the grade specific topics. Trade books are used to teach and reinforce grade appropriate concepts, research, and geography skills. In addition, students are encouraged to read information text and other literature independently to deepen their understanding of Social Studies and Science concepts.

### [Next Generation Learning Standards](#)

All P.S. 176 lessons are NGSS aligned moving into Next Generation. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.nysed.gov/next-generation-learning-standards>

<http://www.engageny.org>

<http://www.parenttoolkit.com/>

<http://www.pta.org/NGLS>

### [THE ARTS](#)

Perhaps there is no greater gift to share than that of music, dance, theater, and visual arts. It is our humanity that is laid bare and lifted up in joy, as artists inspire us toward a greater good. It links people globally as they share their culture, their ideas and their talents with all of us and unites us in a common bond of respect, trust, laughter and love when we listen to Chopin, or Mozart or catch West Side Story in a London theater, or watch Misty Copeland dance at Lincoln Center. Art invades the essence of our being and makes us one.....makes us better people, too.

### [String Orchestra](#)

Farida Ardasha teaches both violin and cello to our children starting at our Kindergarten

### [Band](#)

Bhinda Keidel teaches our band and within our band is a jazz component that she adores and kids love.

### Music

Robert Steel and Benny Amar teach our music program, traditional songs as well as how read music and all of our students learn how to play the recorder

### Dance Studio

Alanna Kramer is our Dance teacher and the Dance Studio is filled with belly laughs as our students have a go with hip-hop, ballet, jazz, folk dancing and this year tap dancing.

### Visual Arts

Beatriz Maldonado teaches our Visual Arts programs. This year we are over the moon as one of our students Milani, won the New York State Poster Contest for Missing Children. As you walk our hallways you will see illustrations hung by our children as artists....we value their work....we value their voice.

### ARTS Partnership

Inside Broadway  
NYC Ballet at Lincoln Center  
Guggenheim Museum  
Marquis Studios  
Whitney Museum  
Metropolitan Museum

### Technology

We are a high tech elementary school. All classrooms have Smartboards, document cameras, ipads and laptops that students access each and every day. Each student has a personal digital device. We use technology to enrich our teaching and learning know that 21<sup>st</sup> Century jobs require a different type of application and thinking....it's all about the impact of the job. It's the same here at our school, it's about impact. How does what we've taught and what our student learned make our lives, and community richer?

We work with student around the world on global issues, researching and sharing ideas, information on how we can sustain our planet and feed our families.

We were selected to pilot INTEL's new program SKILL FOR INNOVATION. We developed cross-graded groups of students knowing that personalized learning is key to differentiation and that students are motivated by their passions. What do they like? What do they want to explore? Well it has taught a powerful lesson that when given a problem to solve and new software that they had no exposure too, our students were able to collaborate, problem solve, create, design using the program PYTHON.

As all of this was taking place in the classroom our teachers discovered some hiccups with the Python program and reached out to share the information with the program design team. You might wonder, what were the students working on? They had to build a 'bot' that could talk....our Fourth and Fifth cross-graded students were able to do this.

We have hosted Teacher teams from Holland, South Africa, the USA as part of our mentor program for the Division of Instructional and Informational Technology (DITT) and Teachers College Reading and Writing program.

Suzanne Kelly is a DITT Teacher Leader and works with Stephen Amachee, our tech hardware/software in-house expert to provide multiple support for our students, colleagues and families. Check out our OTTER LAB as it teaches both students and parents the "How-To's" for Near Pod, Flip-Grid and Jamboards as well as how to upload your homework for your teacher to review each night. This year our students participated in Computer Science for All (CS4All) under the leadership of Suzanne Kelly.

[Tanja Larsen](#), is our [MakerLab](#) teacher specialist. It is here in our Maker Lab that our students, [the Green Guardians](#), think about real issues and begin to wonder about solutions and their impact on communities and our planet. [BOATWORKS](#) is a new this year. We were invited to participate in this adventure. Students will build their own boat and sail it in a competitive race. Our students will also participate in [Competitive Dominoes](#) this year as well as our Financial Literacy Program with the [Stock Market Game, Student Council's School Store funded through Participatory budgeting](#).

[Valeria Buriesci](#) is our [Hydroponics](#) teacher specialist and her club Urban Farmers understand the need for fresh food sources

[Linsey Munday](#) is our [Robotics/Engineering](#) teacher specialist. Her students, [Rad Robotists](#) create architectural designs planning for 21<sup>st</sup> Century living.

We have a Jamboard in our Maker Lab which provides the ability for our children to talk to multiple groups of students via a global platform.

Each year, we host a MAKER FAIRE, part country fair and part science fair, this day is a day of celebration as our Makers put on a terrific show sharing their projects and learning new ideas along the way.

Technology, interwoven into all aspects of our professional learning community to enrich and enhance the deep thinking dives that we elicit from our students is 21<sup>st</sup> Century teaching and learning.

### [Parent Teacher Conferences](#) [Four Conferences](#)

Parent Teacher Conferences are held four times a year in September, November, March and May. It's a time to discuss with your child's teacher how your child is doing in school. Students are required to attend the November and March Parent Teacher conferences with their parents.

### [Requesting a Teacher Meeting](#)

Parents may request a teacher meeting to discuss a child's progress by emailing your child's classroom teacher, by CLASS DOJO, or by forwarding a written note requesting a meeting with your child's teacher. Please note that our teachers are available for parent meetings on TUESDAY afternoons from 2:30-3:15 p.m. through Virtual Meeting. Please email your child's teacher to request an appointment.



### *Supervisors:*

#### *You may also meet with your child's grade supervisor:*

Kindergarten/Second Grade/Fourth Grade

Ms. Culkin, Principal

First Grade/Third Grade/Fifth Grade

Mrs. O'Meara, Assistant Principal

Kindly send an email, DOJO message/written note to your child's supervisor requesting an Appointment.

### *Report Card Grades*

#### *How a student's grade is assigned? What is a HOLISTIC assessment?*

A student's marking period grade shall reflect, both the student's class participation, completed work assignments, test scores, writing portfolios and project work. An overall equal percentage is utilized when factoring the student's grade for each marking period.

Class participation shall be evaluated with respect to the following standards:

Being present and punctual and on time for school

Being prepared with all necessary materials and projects completed on time

Being on task – doing the assigned work for the day

Classroom teachers give students an overall marking period grade in various curriculum areas based upon his/her level of achievement on the assignments such as:

Homework

Tests

Quizzes

Projects

Reports

Student engagement and participation in class

Teacher comments are equally important and provide specific ways for parents to help their child

### *Morning Arrival*

#### *Drop-Off Procedures*

All vehicles dropping off students in Kindergarten through Grade 5 should use the 68th Street SCHOOL side.

The doors will remain open until 8:00 a.m.

After that time, they will be locked.

Students arriving after 8:05 a.m. must enter the school through the front doors and will be marked late

### *Student Arrival/Dismissal*

#### *Afternoon Dismissal*

#### *Parent Pick-Up Procedures*

Our school day ends at 2:15 p.m.

Please pick up your child in the same place that you dropped off your child.

### *Morning Arrival*

*Our school opens at 7:00 a.m. each day for breakfast. All meals are free.*

### *Kindergarten*

*Kindergarten students are located in the Main Cafeteria.*

### *Student Arrival /Dismissal*

Please enter the small schoolyard and use the Handicap access ramp for student to enter our school. Kindergarten students are seated in the main cafeteria by class until their teachers arrive to bring them to class.

Dismissal for Kindergarten students will be in the Main Cafeteria, Parents will enter the building through the back entrance located in the 13<sup>th</sup> Ave play yard.

### *First Grade, Second and Third Grade Students*

*Arrival: Students will enter the school building through the 12<sup>th</sup> Ave schoolyard entrance on 69<sup>th</sup> Street*

*First Grade Students are located in the 13<sup>th</sup> Ave playroom*

*Second Grade students are located in the 12<sup>th</sup> Ave playroom*

*Third Grade students are located in the main auditorium*

### *Fourth and Fifth Grade Students*

For students in Grade 4 and Grade 5 the students will arrive and are dismissed on the 68<sup>th</sup> Street side of the school building at 2:15 p.m.

*Please be on time to pick-up your child, 2:15 p.m.*

*Our teachers go directly from dismissal to their required professional learning workshops immediately following dismissal. Thank you for your kindness*

**Parents are required to pick up their child at dismissal time. Please arrive early so that your child can see you as they exit the building. No one may pick up a child unless they are listed on the child's Blue Emergency Contact Card. Anyone who is listed on the Blue Emergency Card will need a photo identification for a child to be released to his/her care.**

### *Early Pick Up*

If you have to pick your child up early for an appointment, please inform the teacher with a note sent in the red homework folder and provide the time you will be picking up your child. By doing this, your child's teacher can get their schoolbag ready with their homework so that when you come to pick them up; your child will be ready for you.

Parents who come after 1:50 p.m. to pick up their child without notifying the teacher will have to wait to pick up their child at 2:15 p.m. When parents come in at this time, it disrupts our children's learning activities as well as our dismissal transition.

### *Outdoor: LATE PICK UPS*

You should always pick up your child on time. If you are late we will hold your child in the 12<sup>th</sup> Ave Schoolyard or under the Gazebo. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our children safe.

### **Yellow School Bus Service**

*Students who ride the school bus, require a WRITTEN note signed by their parent requesting that the child be taken off the bus. Please plan accordingly, to ensure that your child has the required written note.*

Please prepare a bus tag for your child to wear on the first day of school, if your child is riding the yellow school bus. Please write your child's name, school and bus stop on the bus tag and attach the tag to your child. Please arrive early at your bus stop, so that you are there when your child's bus arrives. If you are not there, the bus driver will return your child to school and you will need to come and pick up your child in the main office. Kindergarten students who ride the yellow school bus should sit in the front of the bus closest to the bus driver.

### **Yellow School Bus Rules**

Transportation is provided by the OPT (Office of Pupil Transportation) for some students based on established guidelines. You may inquire about eligibility for yellow bus service or Metro card with our **Catherine McGouran our Supervising School Aide** at 718.236.7755 ext.115

*Please note the following bus rules:*

#### **BUS RULES**

- Remain seated at all times when the bus is in motion
- Refrain from yelling, making loud noises that distract the driver.
- Keep hands and objects inside the bus; do not wave or throw anything from the windows
- Keep your hands to yourself, do not touch another's belongings
- Do not eat food or drink beverages on the bus
- Do not tell someone that they cannot sit in a seat; be kind and considerate
- Tell the bus driver about dangerous or destructive behavior
- Follow the instructions of the bus driver at all times

Students may be suspended from bus services for infractions. Please speak with your child to insure your child's safety on the bus. The primary responsibility of the bus driver is to transport students safely. Students must be cooperative by behaving responsibly and courteously. If a student fails to observe bus rules, his/her actions will be reported to the principal. The following action will be taken:

1. The bus driver will file a Bus Conduct Report with the Principal and the Office of Pupil Transportation
2. The Principal will discuss the incident with the student, bystanders who witnessed the incident, the student's parents and classroom teacher.
3. The Principal will determine the appropriate action to be taken.
4. The Principal will send parents a copy of any bus reports. Please sign the report and return the form to school the next day.

Generally, the first report will result in a warning to the student. Subsequent reports will result in the loss of bus privileges from a few days to a week or more, depending on the severity of the infraction. Any student who receives more than three reports or whose behavior interferes with the safety of other children will be in jeopardy of losing bus privileges for the remainder of the school year.

### **SAFETY ALERT** **68<sup>th</sup> Street Closed**

Each day we close 68<sup>th</sup> Street for the safety of our children entering and leaving the building. Each morning 68<sup>th</sup> Street is closed from 8:00 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. Each afternoon, 68<sup>th</sup> Street is closed from 2:00 p.m. to 2:20 p.m.

You will not be able to drive down the street during the street closing. Please arrive early, park your car and walk your child into the school building.

### **Double Parking**

For the safety of the children, please do not double park your car in front of school. Please do not make U-turns in the middle of 68<sup>th</sup> Street or 69<sup>th</sup> Street.

### **U-turns on 69<sup>th</sup> Street**

For the safety of our children, please do not make a U-turn on 69<sup>th</sup> Street. Often cars mount the sidewalk in making the turn, posing a serious safety issue especially for our very young students.

### **Attendance at School**

**It is crucial that your child attends school each and every day.**

**From the moment your child enters school, he or she is taking steps toward getting ready for college and for the career they choose.**

### **Each day of attendance brings your child one step closer to this goal.....COLLEGE**

On the other hand, each day absent is like taking a step backward.

**New York State Compulsory Education law requires that all children attend school on a full time basis.** Please do not plan family vacations during the instructional school year. Kindly plan your vacations during the holiday periods. **Students should NOT be out of school.** Research shows that attendance at school is one of the most significant indicators of a child's academic success.

### **Attendance is an important part of your child's education.**

Please make sure that your child comes to school each and every day.

### **Daily Student Attendance - each and every day**

PS 176's policy regarding attendance and grading will be implemented throughout the school year. The New York City Department of Education Chancellor's Regulation A-501 requires students to attend school each and every day, meeting the minimum of 90% attendance for the school year. Please note that we expect your child to come to school each and every day.

Absences below the 90% minimum attendance rate, whether legal or illegal, will be used as one criterion in determining a student's promotional status. However, a teacher may not deny promoting solely on the basis of excessive absences. With administrative approval, teacher discretion may be exercised to develop compensatory time and work assignments.

### *Absences*

Children who are absent from school are required to have a physician's note and/or a note from a parent indicating the reason for the absence and the date the child is able to return to school. Parents need to notify school if a child is absent for the day by contacting the Main Office at (718-236-7755) extension "0" and asking for Mrs. Du, Pupil Accounting Secretary.

Our School Messenger system will call the primary number listed for your home when your child is absent.

School attendance aides will telephone or make a home visit for any child who is excessively absent. New York City Department of Education documents and monitors student attendance and absences.

It is very important for your child to come to school each day. We have two nurses on staff. If your child doesn't feel well, the nurses will contact you to come to school. Please plan your vacations during school vacations. *Children need to attend school each and every day.*

### *Lateness*

*A student is marked late if they arrive at 8:05 a.m. or after.* Please make sure that your child arrives for school on time. School begins at 8:00 a.m. – 2:15 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Attendance and lateness are recorded on a child's permanent record card.

Student involvement in day to day classroom activities such as whole class discussion, small group work, one to one conferring, peer conferencing, book clubs, same book partnerships, math partnerships, project teamwork, contribute to a student's grade for each reporting term. Additionally, having reports completed on time, preparation for science, music, band, gym, computer classes also indicate student responsibility for their work.

### *Homework Policy*

*Homework is assigned to all students each night, including weekends.*

*Parents need to sign their child's homework each night.*

Students in Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth grade have approximately 60 minutes of written assignments and 60 minutes of independent reading each night

Students in Kindergarten, First grade have a 30 minute written assignment each evening and 45 minutes of independent reading.

*Parent signatures are required on all homework assignments.*

*Please sign your child's homework every night.  
Please signatures are required on all TEST papers*

### **Comprehensive Education Plan (CEP) 2023/2024**

The Comprehensive Education Plan explains our goals in reading, writing, math, social studies, science, technology and the arts for this school year. Please take a look at our CEP and budget allocation. You will find these documents on the Department of Education website. Our monthly meetings are open to any family that would like to attend.

### **Field Trips**

Field Trips are a part of your child's school program. All students participating in a field trip must have a signed parental consent form. Please make sure that you sign all trip slips and return them promptly to your child's teacher. You may volunteer as a class trip chaperone. Trip chaperones are selected by the teacher and are rotated to give every parent an opportunity to participate.

We welcome the responsibility to provide a rich learning environment for all students, one that promotes academic excellence for everyone. Accordingly, curriculum and instruction will address the gifts, talents and unique learning needs of every student. Additionally, we recognize that students display a multitude of special gifts including artistic, academic, interpersonal, athletic, and musical talent. The elementary years are a time to promote the academic, social, emotional, physical and aesthetic development of each child. It is also a time to build strong classroom communities where children of different abilities and interests grow and learn together.

The learning needs of children demonstrating high achievement in academic areas will be met in all of our classroom settings through academic rigor, accountable talk, differentiation of instruction, tier lesson planning, curriculum compacting, high order thinking skills and project based outcomes. Teachers possess NYS Gifted certification. Teachers have received special training in gifted programs: SCAMPER, Talents Unlimited, HOTS, Project Based Learning, and technology.

All of our classrooms are equipped with Smart boards and document cameras. Every student in our school has a personal digital device – I-Pad, Chromebooks, Tablets. Our students interact with curricula aligned programs using student response systems, clickers, participate in electronic field trips, launch Global Platforms as they participate in global communities with children around the globe working on issues of climate control, sustainability, fresh water sources.

Curriculum is designed on student interests and inquiry and is differentiated to meet the individual needs of each child. We participate in competitions at the Federal, State and City levels – some of the competitions are Think Quest, Endangered Species, Robotics, Math Leagues, and Game 24.

### **BLUE EMERGENCY CARDS**

A Blue Emergency Contact Card is required for each child. You will be asked to complete four (4) Blue Emergency Cards:

- ☐ One card for the classroom teacher
- ☐ One card for the school nurse

- ☐ One card for the main office
- ☐ One card for the safety bag

Please carefully review the information you submit on your child's Blue Emergency Card. Any person listed on the Blue Emergency Card may pick up your child. Please make sure that if you change your TELEPHONE NUMBER that you contact our Pupil Accounting Secretary, Tu Minh Du, and your child's teacher with the NEW PHONE NUMBER.

*If a person's name is not listed on your emergency card, she/he may not pick up the child.*

*Please also note that the person on the blue card that you have given permission to pick up your child needs to have a PHOTO IDENTIFICATION to pick up your child.*

If you change your telephone number, please notify the school immediately in writing so that we can continue to ensure your child's safety.

If you move you are required to provide 2 proofs of your new residence address to change your address on our records. Anyone picking up your child is required to have photo identification before we release the child. School emergencies are posted on our website: [www.PS176.org](http://www.PS176.org) .

#### **School Website**

Please check our school website [www.PS176.org](http://www.PS176.org) daily for school information, school celebrations and events, school calendar, school closings due to inclement weather, canceled field trips, and to contact your child's teacher, Parent Coordinator, Parent Teacher Association (PTA) or the Principal. Our telephone alert system, School Messenger and Class DOJO are additional ways that we reach out to our families.

#### **School Messenger**

*School Messenger telephone system notifies our families by an automated TELEPHONE message in the event of a school emergency or school closing.* School Messenger will also place a telephone call to a parent if their child is absent. It is very important that we have the correct telephone numbers for you.

#### **Class Dojo**

Class Dojo is another way that we share information with our families. Classroom teachers have their own website where parents can chat with teachers or ask questions. STUDENT HOMEWORK is always posted on Class Dojo and in Google Classroom.

#### **School Breakfast and Lunch**

**Early Breakfast: 7:00 a.m.**

Breakfast is served at 7:00 a.m. to students. Please enter the school building on the 68<sup>th</sup> Street side of the building using the last exit to enter school (the exit closest to the houses). The monthly menu for breakfast and lunch is published on our website: [www.PS176.org](http://www.PS176.org)

School begins for all students at 8:00 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. each day. Each lunch period is 50 minutes long. Once the students have completed their lunch we take them outside for recess. If we have inclement weather our children watch short movies in the cafeterias or in the auditorium.

*School breakfast is free for all students.*

*Parents need to complete the school lunch forms and return to their child's classroom teacher the next day. Schools are funded through school lunch forms and every penny goes to our students.*

Students who are medically fragile or who require an epi-pen eat will sit at a separate lunch table with their assigned paraprofessional for the entire lunch period.

*The school breakfast program is free to all students.*

*Each family is required to complete a lunch form for each child attending our school. ...thank you so much*

The submitted lunch form will determine if your child is a paid, reduced or free lunch child.

The school lunch aides will issue an envelope to all students who participate in the program requesting lunch payment. Please forward the requested amount of money to your child's teacher the next day.

If there are questions about the school's breakfast or lunch program, please call 718-236-7755, extension 10 and speak with Mrs Qin Zhu, our Parent Coordinator, 718 235 7755 x 256

### *Parent Teacher Association (PTA)*

*PTA President Winnie Lam*

PS 176 has a very active PTA and this dynamic group of parents provides the school with outstanding educational, social and recreational events. The PTA sponsors throughout the year and Pumpkin Patch, School Pictures, Candy Sale, Holiday Boutique

The PTA is the primary fundraising organization for much of our enrichment activity at the school and needs volunteers to assist with planning the events and raising funds with them. Joining the PTA and assisting with one or more of their family oriented events is a great way to be of service to your school and ultimately to your child. Monthly meetings are held in the auditorium on the second Tuesday of the month during a Virtual Zoom meeting at 8:45 a.m.

All parents are requested to volunteer one day of their time to support their child in the classroom or at special events. Please speak with your child's teacher, Parent Coordinator, Qin Zhu, or PTA President Winnie Lam. Please check our school website at [www.ps176.org](http://www.ps176.org) for further information about our PTA.

### *School Leadership Team (SLT)*

The School Leadership Team is composed of 5 elected parents and 5 elected staff members. The School Leadership Team meets on the first Friday of each month at 9:30 a.m. The purpose of the School



Leadership Team is to set school goals and objectives for the school year and to insure that the school's budget is used in an appropriate manner for students. The School Leadership Team writes the Comprehensive Educational Plan for the school year. School Leadership Team meetings are open to all parents.

### *Who's Who in our School?*

*The Parent/Guardian* – is responsible for the care and well-being of a child or children attending PS 176. This includes sending each child to school ON TIME EVERYDAY when school is in session, ready to learn. All students are required to wear the uniform to school each day.

### *School Administration*

*Elizabeth Culkin, Principal*

*Elizabeth O'Meara, Assistant Principal*

*The Principal* – is the educational leader of the building whose job is to ensure that the city and state mandated curricula are being followed and taught. She also oversees the daily operation of the school and creates an environment that provides each child with a warm and welcoming environment, a responsive classroom where Social and Emotional Learning is evident and the opportunity to for every best work by accelerating their academic performance to meet and exceed standards.

*Elizabeth Culkin, Principal PS 176*

*Supervisor: Kindergarten/Second Grade/Fourth Grade*

### *Cabinet*

Michelle Moran	IEP Teacher, coordinator of Special Education program
Suzanne Kelly	Technology Model Teacher, Data Specialist
Pam Procovas	ESL
Kelly Grogan	Guidance Counselor, Social and Emotional Learning
Kelly Reynolds	Testing Coordinator, Reading Team
Kari Perrone	Reading Team
Karen Silverman	Reading Team

*The Assistant Principal* – assist the Principal in achieving high educational goals for every child and supervising daily school activities:

*Elizabeth O'Meara Assistant Principal*

*Mrs. O'Meara supervises: First Grade/Third Grade/Fifth Grade/Clusters*

*Teachers* – are responsible for teaching the curricula to the students and maintaining a safe and secure learning environment.

*The Parent Coordinator* – works to involve parents in our school community by working with the school administration and staff, community groups and Parent Advisory Council. *Qin Zhu, our Parent Coordinator can be reached at 718-236-7755 ext. 2561.* Please come and join Qin Zhu's events: Zumba, Yoga, Craft Events, Workshops and Trips. Our Parents have a wonderful time with Qin Zhu. We hope you'll join the fun!

**The Guidance Counselor** – supports a child's learning by helping to resolve educational, emotional, social or behavioral issues. Our Guidance Counselor is [Kelly Grogan, Jessica Adams and Norah Scanlan](#).

**The School Nurse** – provides assistance to children who have become ill during the school day or have an existing illness. The nurse maintains school health records. Parents need to inform the school nurse of any special illness their child may have.

**Academic Enrichment Services (Response to Intervention)** – provides extra instruction and support for at-risk students in addition to their regular instructional program.

**The Speech Therapist** – is concerned with all aspects of communication. She tests each child's understanding of what is said to them and will assess the child's language and speech proficiency. Our speech coordinator is Virginia Greaney. Our speech teachers are [Daniella Wahba, Brianne Murphy, Dana Gearity and Virginia Greaney.](#)

**The English Language Learner Teachers** – works with children who are learning English for the first time. Our English Language Supervisor is Ms. O'Meara.

Our ESL teachers are: [Pam Procovas, Karina Estrella, Tiffany Chen, Nancy Lin, Pan Yong, Karen Tsen, Alma Agoli, Caitlyn Wang, Katie Denisco, Amy Liang, Lauren Reale, Vicky Peng, Florence Yan and Cheryl Healy.](#)

**Multi-Media Center** – is the heart of our school for both selecting a favorite library book or for using 21<sup>st</sup> Century technology for research or to participate in our broadcasting studio and working with classmates in cross-cutting collaborative student projects.

**The Paraprofessional** – works closely with students in their classrooms under the direction of the classroom teacher to provide many varied opportunities to support each child's learning.

**The Safety Officer** – provide security and safety for our children and staff and ensure that all are safe inside our school and in our schoolyards. [Our School Safety Officer is Tisha Johnson](#)

**The School Secretary** – is responsible for preparing school payrolls, ordering supplies, maintaining school records, arranging appointments and other tasks and responsibilities assigned. Our school secretaries [Frances Tan, Payroll Secretary](#)  
[Tuminh Du, Pupil Accounting](#)  
[Maria Friscia, Requisitions](#)

**The School Aides -**  
[Cathy McGouran: Supervising School Aide](#)

School Aides provide a variety of support for all teachers, supervise the children's lunch period, organized the school lunch program forms, scan daily attendance, and coordinates all school bus issues. The School Lunch Form Aide is Antoinette Grippo, Kindergarten through Grade 2 and Catherine McGouran Grade 3 through Grade 5.

**The Custodial Staff -**  
**Mr. Julius Serrano, Custodian Engineer**

is responsible for the physical conditions of the school, including maintenance, repair and cleanliness of the school building and schoolyards.

*Our AMAZING new Custodian Engineer is JULIUS SERRANO.  
Mr. Serrano in a few short weeks has made our school sparkle and shine.  
He has created a team that helps staff, students and families feel safe and welcomed.*

**The Lunchroom Staff** – is responsible for planning, preparing and serving nutritious balanced meals for breakfast and lunch to our children. *Our Kitchen manager is Thomas Lee and Karen Chico*

**The Parent Teacher Association:**  
**Winnie Lam, PTA President**

– is an organization of all parents that consults with the school administration to help support all children. Winnie Chen is the President of our PTA, and Catherine Clouse is the Recording Secretary of the PTA, and Mei Lam is the Treasurer of PTA.

**The School Assessment Team** – consists of the School Psychologist, Social Worker and Family Worker. This team evaluates children who are having trouble learning. Dr. Christine Barrese, our school psychologist is the team leader. Rosa Tovar is our Social Worker and Geraldine Crane is our Family Worker

**The School Leadership Team** - is a joint parent/staff team that works collaboratively to make sure that every child gets the best education that's possible.

**Title 1** - our school is a Title1 School Wide Project(SWP) school. The focus of Title 1 funding, is to accelerate the academic achievement of all children who attend our school and support our parents in that effort.

## *School Calendar 2023/2024*

*First Day of School for students*  
*Friday, September 7 2023*



### *Schools Closed* *NO School*

September 25, 2023	Yom Kippur	Schools Closed
October 9, 2023	Columbus Day	Schools Closed
November 7, 2023	Election Day	Schools Closed
November 23-24, 2023	Thanksgiving Recess	Schools Closed
December 25-January 1, 2024	December Recess	Schools Closed
January 15, 2024	Martin Luther King Jr	Schools Closed
February 19-23, 2024	Spring Recess	Schools Closed
March 29-April 1, 2024	Easter Recess	Schools Closed
April 10, 2024	Eid al –Fitr	Schools Closed

April 22-30, 2024	Spring Recess	Schools Closed
May 30, 2024	Memorial Day	Schools Closed
June 6, 2024	Anniversary Day Chancellor's Conference Day	Schools Closed
June 7, 2024	Clerical Day	Schools Closed
June 17, 2024	Eid al-Adha	Schools Closed
June 19, 2024	Juneteenth	Schools Closed
June 26, 2024	Last Day of School	Schools Closed

*Happy Summer!*

### *Parent Teacher Conferences 2023-24*

September 14, 2023	Elementary School Parent Teacher Evening Conference
November 2, 2023	Elementary School Afternoon/Evening Parent Teacher Student Conferences Early Dismissal 11:15 a.m. for students
March 7, 2024	Elementary School Afternoon/Evening Parent Teacher Student Conferences Early Dismissal 11:15 a.m. for students
May 9, 2024	Elementary School Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences

### *Questions to ask at a Parent Teacher conference*

- What is my child expected to learn, know and do at this grade level? How is this assessed?
- How can I help my child at home?
- Does my child turn in homework every day?

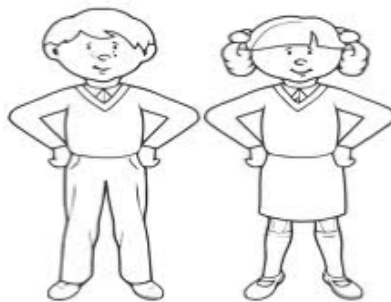
- What does my child do well in and what does my child struggle with? Can you show
- Me how to help my child?
- How can we work together on these issues together?
- Is my child happy at school? Does my child participate in class?
- How does my child get along with classmates and adults? Is my child respectful?
- How does my child behave during the day?
- Does my child participate in class discussions and activities?
- Do you think my child is trying as hard as he or she can? What does my child like to do?
- What can I do at home to reinforce what my child is learning at school?

## *New York State Testing Calendar 2023/2024*



*New York State Testing Schedule  
2023-24*

## *School Uniform Policy*



*As stated in Chancellor's Regulation A-665,*

**"The voluntary uniform policy is intended to help schools promote a more effective learning climate, foster school unity and pride, improve student performance, foster self-esteem, eliminate competition, simplify dressing and minimize costs to parents, teach children appropriate dress and decorum in their "work" place and help to improve student conduct and discipline."**

**ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR OUR SCHOOL UNIFORM**

The School Leadership Team has determined that the following uniform requirement will be adopted as our official school uniform for the 2022/2023 academic year:

*The Otter Iron Emblem may be purchased for \$1.00 from the PTA*

**GIRLS:**

White polo shirt short/long sleeves –  
Navy pants – long shorts, skirt 4-5, pants, jumpers K-3  
Navy cardigan sweater – button down sweater  
Navy knee socks/tights  
Shoes/sneakers on gym days

**BOYS:**

White polo shirt, short/long sleeves – Otter emblem  
Navy pants – long, skirt, pants  
Navy cardigan sweater – button down sweater  
Navy socks  
Shoes/sneakers on gym days

Parents and guardians may purchase clothing from any vendor or store of their choice. The PTA sells the Otter emblem (\$1.00) or you may visit Land's End which sells the completed white polo shirts with the Otter emblem. If parents and guardians cannot afford to buy a uniform, please contact our Parent Coordinator, Qin Zhu at 718 -236-7755 ext. 2561

We'll refer to the New York City Code of Discipline, only when it comes to imposing disciplinary actions when the children fail to comply with the uniform policy

**No Uniform Today Celebration - (NUT DAY)**

*Last Friday of each month students can wear their play clothes*

Students who wear their uniforms each day will participate in a NUT day celebration – the last Friday of every month – and will be able to wear their regular clothes to school.



# Teachers College Reading & Writing Project

## Benchmark Independent Reading Levels and Marking Period Assessments



Updated for the 2019-2020 School Year

SEPTEMBER	NOVEMBER	JANUARY	MARCH	JUNE
<u>Kindergarten</u> Emergent Story Books Shared Reading	<u>Kindergarten</u> Emergent Story Books Shared Reading A/B	<u>Kindergarten</u> B/C	<u>Kindergarten</u> 4=D or above 3=C 2=A/B 1=Early Emergent	<u>Kindergarten</u> 4=F or above 3=D/E 2=C 1=B or below
<u>Grade 1:</u> 4=F or above 3=D/E 2=C 1=B or below	<u>Grade 1:</u> 4=H or above 3=F/G 2=D/E 1=C or below	<u>Grade 1:</u> 4=I or above 3=G/H 2=E/F 1=D or below	<u>Grade 1:</u> 4=K or above 3=H/I/J 2=F/G 1=E or below	<u>Grade 1:</u> 4=L or above 3=I/J/K 2=G/H 1=F or below
<u>Grade 2:</u> 4=L or above 3=I/J/K 2=G/H 1=F or below	<u>Grade 2:</u> 4=M or above 3=J/K/L 2=H/I 1=G or below	<u>Grade 2:</u> 4=M or above 3=K/L 2=I/J 1=H or below	<u>Grade 2:</u> 4=N or above 3=L/M 2=J/K 1=I or below	<u>Grade 2:</u> 4=N or above 3=M 2=K/L 1=J or below
<u>Grade 3:</u> 4=N or above 3=M 2=K/L 1=J or below	<u>Grade 3:</u> 4=O or above 3=N 2=L/M 1=K or below	<u>Grade 3:</u> 4=P or above 3=O 2=M/N 1=L or below	<u>Grade 3:</u> 4=P or above 3=O 2=N 1=M or below	<u>Grade 3:</u> 4=Q or above 3=P 2=O 1=N or below
<u>Grade 4:</u> 4=Q or above 3=P 2=O 1=N or below	<u>Grade 4:</u> 4=S or above 3=Q/R 2=O/P 1=N or below	<u>Grade 4:</u> 4=S or above 3=Q/R 2=P 1=O or below	<u>Grade 4:</u> 4=T or above 3=R/S 2=P/Q 1=O or below	<u>Grade 4:</u> 4=T or above 3=S 2=Q/R 1=P or below
<u>Grade 5:</u> 4=T or above 3=S 2=Q/R 1=P or below	<u>Grade 5:</u> 4=U or above 3=T 2=R/S 1=Q or below	<u>Grade 5:</u> 4=V or above 3=T/U 2=S 1=R or below	<u>Grade 5:</u> 4=V or above 3=U 2=S/T 1=R or below	<u>Grade 5:</u> 4=W* or above 3=U/V 2=T 1=S or below
<u>Grade 6:</u> 4=W or above 3=U/V 2=T 1=S or below	<u>Grade 6:</u> 4=W or above 3=V 2=T/U 1=S or below	<u>Grade 6:</u> 4=X or above 3=V/W 2=U 1=T or below	<u>Grade 6:</u> 4=X or above 3=W 2=U/V 1=T or below	<u>Grade 6:</u> 4=Y or above 3=W/X 2=V 1=U or below
<u>Grade 7:</u> 4=Y or above 3=W/X 2=V 1=U or below	<u>Grade 7:</u> 4=Y or above 3=W/X 2=V 1=U or below	<u>Grade 7:</u> 4=Y or above 3=X 2=V/W 1=U or below	<u>Grade 7:</u> 4=Z or above 3=X/Y 2=V/W 1=U or below	<u>Grade 7:</u> 4=Z or above 3=Y 2=W/X 1=V or below
<u>Grade 8:</u> 4=Z or above 3=Y 2=W/X 1=V or below	<u>Grade 8:</u> 4=Z+ 3=Y/Z 2=W/X 1=V or below	<u>Grade 8:</u> 4=Z+ 3=Z 2=X/Y 1=W or below	<u>Grade 8:</u> 4=Z+ 3=Z 2=X/Y 1=W or below	<u>Grade 8:</u> 4=Z+ 3=Z 2=X/Y 1=W or below

\*Be aware that texts at level W and above can contain mature content. Please use professional judgement.

\*\*These benchmarks correspond to our database, *AssessmentPro*, which correlates state test results with reading levels.

**Parent Teacher Association Officers** Winnie Lam, President  
Catherine Clouse, Recording Secretary  
Mei Lam, Treasurer

**School Safety Officer** Latisha Johnson

**Parent Coordinator** Qin Zhu

**School Motto** Believe it! Achieve it!

**School Mascot** The Ovington Otter



**School Colors** White and Gold

**School web address** [www.PS176.org](http://www.PS176.org)

### **The Importance of a Strong Home/School Partnership**

The foundation of a strong home/school partnership is regular, open communication. You should feel comfortable contacting us when questions or concerns arise. We ask that you first contact your child's teacher. You should also feel free to call our Parent Coordinator, Qin Zhu, or our Guidance Counselor Kelly Grogan, Jessica Adams, Norah Scanlan who will help you contact the right staff member.

### **Parent Engagement Workshops: Tuesday Afternoons Parent Workshop with your child's teacher**

This year, on Tuesday afternoons we have Parent Engagement workshops. Your child's teacher and other staff members are available to meet with you. The Parent Engagement Workshops will share with you ways to help your child at home and school programs that will accelerate your child's progress in school.

Teachers will be sending emails, telephone calls or letters to you concerning your child's progress. Please reach out to your child's teacher if you have questions or need support.

We make every effort to keep you informed of important events at school. Our **school website** is updated weekly, [www.PS176.org](http://www.PS176.org) where you will find parent notices, class celebrations, your child's homework, trip slip information and upcoming events that can be translated into your native language. Please be sure to return requested notices as soon as possible. It is also helpful to check book bags or back packs each day for parent letters. Each teacher uses a communications folder for important parent notices. Please look for this folder on a daily basis for home/school communication.

Our **School Messenger** system is another way we contact our families with important school information. We ask that you communicate with us if your contact information changes.

We also send out Class Dojo on a daily basis updating information to our parents.

**Student Led Conferences** will provide more information to each parent on their child's academic progress as students reflect and assess their work

We'll also be meeting with Parents on Tuesday afternoons during the school year. Classroom teacher workshops as well as parent survey response workshops will be offered throughout the year. Parent meetings are scheduled during the academic year: September, 2023, November 2023, March, 2024 and May 2024.

**In November and March our Parent Teacher Conferences will be led by students.** Students will present their work during the conference noting what they did well and what areas of learning still present challenges. The Report Card conferences will be virtual meeting that your teacher will schedule.

### **When Parents Have a Concern**

We welcome the opportunity to assist you and your child if there's a problem at school. Contacting the right person and discussing your concerns generally leads to a quick solution. In most instances, the best person to speak to first is your child's classroom teacher.

Please write a note or email your child's teacher requesting a meeting. Kindly indicate some dates and times when you are available. Teachers are not able to meet with parents during the teaching day and are not available to take parent telephone calls.

Our focus is on your child's instruction. If you are unable to resolve the issue after meeting with the teacher, please contact our **Parent Coordinator, Qin Zhu, 718 236-7755 Ext 2561 or via email at Qzhu5@schools.nyc.gov who will be happy to help you.**

You may want to discuss the issue with Kelly Grogan, Jessica Adams, or Norah Scanlan, our Guidance Counselors, or Christine Barrese our School Psychologist. Liz Culkin, Principal is also available to help at any time.

### **Accidents, Illness and Injury**

The school nurse or our staff handles minor first aid problems. If a student becomes ill and needs to go home, parents will be called to arrange for the child to be picked up. If a child is seriously injured or ill, an ambulance will be called. The ambulance will transport the child to the nearest hospital. A school staff member will accompany the child and remain at the hospital until the parent arrives. Parent will be notified any time a child receives an injury to the head regardless of the significance.

### **Admission to School**

**When you come to school to register your child, please bring your child with you.**

**You also must bring the following documents:**

**PHOTO IDENTIFICATION, PROOF OF RESIDENCE.**

**Child's birth certificate or passport**

**Child's immunization records**

**Child's latest report card/transcript (if available)**

**Child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) and/or 504 Accommodation Plan (if applicable and available)**

**Any two of the following documents:**

- A residential utility bill (gas or electric) in the resident's name issued by National Grid, Con Edison, must be dated within the past 60 days
- Documentation or letter on letterhead from a federal, state or local government agency, including the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), City Housing Authority,
- Human Resources Administration (HRA), the Administration for Children's Services
- (ACS), indicating the resident's name and address; must be dated within the past 60 days
- A notarized, original lease agreement, deed, or mortgage statement for the residence
- A current property tax bill for the residence
- A water bill for the residence; must be dated within the past 60 days
- Official payroll documentation from an employer such as a form submitted for tax withholding purposes or payroll receipt; a letter on the employer's letterhead will **not** be accepted; must be dated within the past 60 days

New York State Compulsory Education Law requires all children to attend school. It is important for your child to attend school each day. It is important for learning to take place each day for your child

### **Author Celebrations**

Our school participates in celebrating our students as writers. At the end of each module in writing, you will be invited to attend an Author's Celebration. We hope you'll be able to join us for this event. Please check our school website, [www.PS176.org](http://www.PS176.org) and your child's classroom information for celebration dates and times.

### **Band**

Students in Grade 4 and Grade 5 are invited to audition for the school band, a rockin'-n-rollin' festival of classical and contemporary music. Bhinda Keidel, our Band Director, encourages our children to practice and participate in scholarship programs offered at Julliard School of Music. Fourth Grade Band students are required to commit to participate for two years in the school band when selected through the audition process. Students who fail to maintain academic standards or fail to practice their instruments may be removed from the band at the discretion of the Band Director.

### **Birthdays**

You may wish to celebrate your child's birthday by sending in a special cupcake treat for all of students in the class. You must consult your child's teacher before doing so, as students may have food allergies. If you wish to send invitations to a birthday party, please note that the invitations may not be distributed in school unless everyone in the class is being invited. Please also keep in mind that some of our children are not able to afford birthday parties so please try to keep it simple for celebrations.

### **Books**

Please make sure that your child's books are covered and labeled with your child's name and classroom number. If a child loses a book, s/he will be asked to pay for the missing textbook. Textbooks are very, very expensive costing close to \$75.00 per book. Please put the books in a safe place. Paperback books are \$5.00 if lost. Please send in the money for lost books to your child's teacher who will forward the lost book money to Maria Friscia, Secretary, in the main office. Maria Friscia will reorder the book

### *Student clothing, Book Bags and Lunch boxes:*

*Kindly Write YOUR CHILD'S NAME - so we can return the lost item to your child*

Please make sure that your child's book bag, backpack and lunch box are labeled with your child's name and classroom number. Many times children lose their school bags and lunch boxes. We can return them quickly if we know to whom they belong.

### *REPORT CARDS Distribution Dates*

#### *Students in Grades K-5*

**Students will receive their report cards on the following dates:**

*Wednesday, November 2, 2023*

*Wednesday, March 8, 2024*

*Monday, June 26, 2024*

*Last day of school*

### *Cell Phones and Video Players/Games*

Students are now permitted to have cell phones, but they are not to be turned on during the school day. We do not allow phones in school during the Statewide Tests. We will not be held accountable for lost, stolen or damaged phones.

We do not allow video game players/games or Yugio/Pokemon playing cards in school. Please help us in this endeavor.

The electronic games are very expensive and it is very difficult to determine who owns the game. The cards also present some challenges, for they are also expensive and it is very difficult to determine who owns a specific card. The difficulty usually arises when students begin to trade cards. Kindly note, students may not ask for payment from another student for a game or a card. We appreciate your help in speaking to your child concerning these issues

***Social Networks and Facebook*** – please join us on our school's Facebook and Twitter sites. Kindly note that students and parents may **not** “friend” teachers or any staff member. It is a conflict of interest for all staff members and results in disciplinary action for us.

It is important for all parents to monitor student computer usage to prevent cyber bullying. Computers should be placed in your living area and not in a student's bedroom so that parents can observe student work. Please adhere to the Chancellor Regulation regarding Social Media. Please read the NYCDOE Social Media Parent Guidelines posted on our school website: [www.PS176.org](http://www.PS176.org)

### *Chorus*

Our senior chorus is opened to students in grades 3, 4 and 5. Students audition in the beginning of the year for participation. Our chorus presents concerts throughout the year and often takes the show on the road. Our children can set your toes tapping with their joy in singing. A student who is selected is expected to remain in our chorus till they exit the school in Fifth grade. Students who fail to maintain academic standards or fail to practice may be removed from the chorus at the discretion of the Choral Director.

### Code of Discipline 2023/2024

Each student is required to adhere to the New York City Department of Education Citywide Standards of Discipline and Intervention Measures. The Department of Education Discipline Code clearly outlines infractions and mandatory discipline measures. This document is distributed at the beginning of the school year and requires a signature returned from a parent. Please read this document carefully and discuss it with your child.

### Communication with Staff during School Hours

*Please send an email to your child's teacher through Class Dojo requesting time to speak with your child's teacher.*

If you wish to speak to your child's teacher, please call and speak to a school secretary. The secretary will take the information and forward the note to your child's teacher. **Teachers may not be disturbed when class is in session.** If you wish to meet with your child's teacher please send a written request or email your child's teacher requesting a date and time for a conference. Please send an email to your child's teacher via dojo to arrange a time to meet your child's teacher.

All staff members are available from 2:20-3:15 p.m. on Tuesday afternoons to speak with parents. Please send you child's teacher a dojo message requesting an appointment to meet.

### School Assessment Team

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| ➤ School Psychologist | Christine Barrese                           |
| ➤ Family Worker-      | Geraldine Crane                             |
| ➤ Guidance Counselor  | Kelly Grogan, Jessica Adam , Norah Scanlan  |
| ➤ Social Worker       | Rosa Tovar, Spanish Bilingual Social Worker |

PS 176 has a full time Guidance Counselor, Kelly Grogan, Jessica Adam and Norah Scanlan from Monday through Friday. Our Social Worker, Rosa Tovar, is assigned each Monday and can help you with community resources.

Our Guidance Counselors, Kelly Grogan, Jessica Adam and Norah Scanlan, work with teachers, parents and students to teach, respect, cooperation, understanding and trust. She works with individual or small groups of children to facilitate friendships and to assist with social/emotional issues. Counseling services are available from our Social Worker for individual students with the permission of parents or guardians. Consultation services for parents and guardians are also available. The guidance counselor and social worker often serve as a liaison to agencies outside the school and have a list of resources to assist parent access to social services.

### Health Requirements

Immunizations: "No Shots, No School". All students entering for the first time are required to have proof of immunization against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio, mumps, measles, varicella and rubella.

**504 Accommodations:** Students with special health issues (i.e. asthma/broken leg etc.) may obtain a 504 accommodation from the school nurse. The 504 accommodation is completed by the student's physician and returned to the school nurse. Please note that a 504 form must be completed each year.

Kindly submit the 504 completed document prior to the first day of school so that all accommodations for your child can be in place for Opening Day.

### **Medications**

No medication is permitted in school. Please contact the school nurse concerning this issue. If your child needs to take medication, the school nurse will issue a 504 Medical Accommodation form for your physician to complete. Upon submission of the complete 504, the school nurse will administer your child's medication.

### **Parent Coordinator**

Parents may contact our parent coordinator, Qin Zhu to ask questions about school issues or policies. The telephone number is 718 236-7755 ext. 2561. You can find her in room 256 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Her email is Qin Zhu5@schools.nyc.gov

### **Pupil Personnel Team/Inquiry Team**

The Pupil Personnel Team is a general education resource that provides an immediate response to a classroom teacher's concerns about a student. When a teacher observes that a child is experiencing academic, social or emotional difficulties, the team convenes to provide suggestions and an objective perspective on methods and approaches to assist and support the child. The team consists of the Principal, Assistant Principal, APE teacher, Speech teacher, Reading teacher, ESL teacher, Guidance Counselor, Social Worker and School Psychologist. The Pupil Personnel Team is an internal team that does not issue student reports.

### **Lunchroom Behavior**

- Be courteous and respectful in the lunch line: no pushing, poking, cutting the line or teasing is permitted
- Please sit in your seat with your feet on the floor
- Speak in a normal voice to your friends
- Walk to and from your seat
- Eat your own lunch! Sharing your lunch with others is not permitted
- Raise your hand if you need help
- Raise your hand and ask permission from the school aide to go to the bathroom and remember to take a partner with you.
- When the bunny ears signal is up, you need to stop talking and listen for directions.
- Please do not throw food on the lunchroom floor

### **Students who do not follow lunchroom rules may lose the privilege of eating with their friends**

- The first warning will be a verbal reminder of expected behavior
- A second warning will result in sitting in another lunchroom away from your class
- 3 A third warning will result with removal from the cafeteria and meeting with the principal to determine a class assignment for a solitary lunch. Parents will be informed of the third warning.



### *Lunchtime Recess*

After finishing lunch, students are taken outside to play in the schoolyards. Staff is always on duty to supervise students during recess in the schoolyard. The following rules help to insure our children's safe play:

- Walk to your class line up area and wait to be released for play by the school aide
- Walk always, don't run in the schoolyard
- Playground jump ropes, hula hoops and basketballs are distributed in an orderly manner by the school aides
- When the whistle blows, stop playing and listen for the school aides direction
- Line up in a quiet and orderly manner for your teacher at the conclusion of the recess period.

### *Remember:*

- **Keep your hands in your pockets and your feet on the floor**
- **If there's a problem, get an adult to help you settle the issue**

*Snowstorms NYC Public Schools will send out an alert  
Students will learn at home via Goggle classroom*

### *Snacks- Classroom*

*Kindergarten through Grade 2 students*

Snack time is held for Kindergarten-Grade 2 only. Snack should be a healthy one only consisting of a piece of fruit, cheese/crackers, or fresh vegetables. Classroom instruction will continue during snack time.

### *Special Education Services*

*Special Education Reform: Home Zone*

*Michelle Moran, IEP Teacher*

PS 176 strives to provide high quality program to meet the unique learning needs of all students. Special Education teachers, along with highly trained paraprofessionals, provide services primarily in the classroom settings. Some services are provided to students in a specialist classroom – speech, occupational therapy, physical therapy, SETSS, counseling, IEP specialist and adaptive physical education. Individualized modification, accommodations and specialized instruction within the classroom afford children with special learning needs the opportunity to demonstrate success and understanding of the curriculum in the least restrictive environment.

A team approach is carefully designed to deliver services in a manner that promotes self-esteem and peer acceptances of diverse learning styles. Consultations with the guidance counselor, physical therapist, occupational therapist, special education teacher, principal, classroom teacher and parents occur on a regular basis to develop and modify the program that best meets the needs of each student. Parents, teachers or other concerned parties may make a referral for special education evaluation if they suspect the child has a learning disability.

A comprehensive evaluation will be conducted to determine if the student meets the eligibility criteria. Eligible students must have a diagnosed disability, and s/he must be failing to make effective progress in



the classroom setting as a result of the learning disability. The School Assessment Team will complete the evaluation and the School Psychologist will schedule an Educational Planning Conference to share with parents the results of the child's testing.

### *String Orchestra*

We have a wonderful violin and cello program opened to selected students from Kindergarten through Grade 5. Students may apply for the program and be evaluated by Mrs. Farida Ardasheva for participation in the program. Students who fail to maintain academic standards or fail to practice their instruments may be removed from the Orchestra at the discretion of the String Ensemble Director.

### *Translations and Interpretation services*

Parents shouldn't have difficulty getting involved in their child's education because they don't speak English. Through the translation and interpretation unit, the Department of Education translates school documents into eight languages most commonly spoken by our families. School Messenger translates all telephone messages into a parent's native language. Our school website, [www.PS176.org](http://www.PS176.org) and Class Dojo posts translate all information into a parent's native language. We also have staff members who can assist with translation during the school day.

### *Uniforms*

*We are a uniform school. Every student is REQUIRED to wear their uniform each day.*

The school uniform consists of a navy bottom – pants/skirt/ jumper/short-to the knee – and a white polo shirt with the Ovington Otter emblem. You can purchase the Otter emblem from the PTA for \$1.00. Students may also have a navy cardigan sweater to wear in cold weather. All students need to have a hat, scarf, gloves, boots and winter jacket when the cold weather arrives. Please label your child's clothing with a permanent marker so that we can return lost items.

### *Very Important Volunteers (VIV) WE NEED YOU!* *Learning Leader Program for Children/Adult*

Volunteering at PS 176 is a time honored tradition. Every parent is required to spend one day volunteering in their child's classroom, special event, or PTA celebration. School volunteers are always in demand and perform a variety of functions including listening to students read, preparing materials for teachers and students, working in the multi-media library, presenting special topics or programs and assisting teachers in the classrooms. Even becoming a class mother and helping to let other parents in the class know about upcoming events is a great way to volunteer from home!

Volunteering does not require specific skills. Your child's Teachers will share with you ways to support your child's work in school through volunteering one day. Qin Zhu, our Parent Coordinator, will coordinate special school events and celebrations for volunteers. PTA will coordinate special events and celebrations for our children. Classroom teachers will reach out to parents in their class for special support for events that they are organizing.

Please volunteer for our New LEARNING LEADERS program. If you have one hour to spare one day a week we need you for our students. If you can lend a helping hand, reading a story to a child, or listening to a child's written story, or helping a child with their math classwork, WE NEED YOU. Sometimes when a grandparent passes it's important for a child to speak with a friend

The Learning Leader friend program is part social and emotional supports as well as academic support.....it's one hour a week  
Please say, "YES, I can do this for a child."

### VISITING PS 176:

### PARENTS AND GUESTS:

All Visitors Need to Have a PHOTO IDENTIFICATION to be admitted to New York City Public Schools  
PHOTO IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED

Passport

Driver's License

Visitors are welcome at the school but all must sign in at the Security Desk. All visitors must show a **photo identification document** such as a driver's license. The School Safety Officer will issue a Yellow Badge which must be worn at all times during the visit.

Visitors are requested to go to the main office for the Secretary to direct them during their visit. At the end of the visit.

**Visitors are requested to return the Yellow Badge to the School Safety Officer when they leave the building. Thank you for your help to keep our students and staff safe!**

### PARENT BILL OF RIGHTS

#### *Title 1 School Wide Program*

#### *School - Parent Compact 2023-24*

The purpose of the school-parent compact is to communicate a common understanding of home and school responsibilities in order to assure that every child achieves a standard of excellence in a nurturing environment that fosters core values of cooperation, respect, understanding and trust.

#### *The Parent Responsibilities:*

#### *I shall help my child learn by doing the following:*

Start each day right, a calm beginning at home makes the school day much better

Encourage my child to have a good breakfast and lunch.

Make certain that my child sleeps at least eight hours each night

Praise my child each day for something s/he has done

Have a special place to place school work or whatever is brought home for display

Laugh and talk with my child about school experiences

Listen attentively to what is said about my child's day

Stress attendance! If my child is ill, home is the best place otherwise my child needs to be in school each day

Keep the line of communication open between myself and my child's teacher

Inform my child's teacher of any family situation that could influence my child's behavior

If my child is reluctant to go to school, I'll let the teacher know so that we can work together

Take my child to the library and encourage reading for fun

Stress organization of school notebooks and materials  
Provide a well-lighted study area equipped with paper, pencils, crayons, markers  
Sign my child's homework assignments each night  
Sign and return all papers that require a parent signature  
Encourage positive attitudes toward school  
Require your child to wear the school uniform with pride  
Attend parent teacher conferences  
Attend PTA meetings  
Try to volunteer during the school year in my child's classroom.

*Parent Signature required on the following permission forms for students:*

- Technology Website permission form for student photos
- Student Trip Slips for each school trip your child attends
- Student Internet permission form: NYCDOE Media Release
- Student PERFORMANCE permission slip for each individual posting of ARTS events
- New York City Department of Education Code of Discipline form –
- Student behavioral contract
- NYCDOE Cell phone/digital games form
- Parent email survey form if you don't have computer
- Student Tests to ensure that the parent has seen the student's work

*Please sign the documents listed above and return them to your child's classroom teacher tomorrow.....thank you. The documents listed above are required for all students in order for the children to participate in school events.*

### *Student responsibilities*

*As a student of PS 176, I agree to be the best students that I can be*

I shall come to school ready to learn

I shall ask the teacher questions about homework assignments

I shall take home materials and information needed to complete assignments

I shall have each day's homework completed, signed by my parent and ready to hand into my teacher

I shall work to reach the highest goal that I set

I shall make my parents aware of all parent teacher conferences and encourage them to attend

I shall respect my teachers and my classmates

I shall participate in learning conflict resolution to find a peaceful settlement for any disagreement

I shall comply with school rules

I shall wear my school uniform with pride!

I shall attend school on time each day

I shall demonstrate the core values of cooperation, respect, understanding and trust

I shall not throw food on the lunchroom floor.

### *The Teacher Responsibilities*

*As a Teacher at P 176, I agree to be the best that I can be:*

We shall make every effort to provide your child with a safe environment

We shall maintain high standards of academic achievement and positive behavior

We shall set high expectation for myself and my students

We shall offer challenging instruction in a respectful, learning classroom environment

We shall respectfully and accurately inform parents of their child's progress

We shall help children to resolve conflicts in a positive way

We shall develop quality homework assignments to insure student achievement

We shall check homework assignments daily

We shall give you the necessary time to learn conflict resolution – to seek peaceful solutions to problems

We shall respect the cultural differences of students and their families