



Dear Parents,

Summer, 2020

Welcome to Grade 5! It is my pleasure to welcome you, as parents, to Seneca Academy's fifth grade class. Fifth grade is a chance for students to shine, be all they can be, and have the opportunity to experience growth as a responsible, motivated, mindful student. They will utilize their present skills as they work to become a more independent learner, ready to accept the challenges of middle school. This year will be filled with accomplishments, engaging challenges, spirited collaboration, and the potential for terrific learning adventures. I am thrilled to be their guide for these journeys. So, how do they get a guaranteed ticket for these ventures of the mind?

- **Come to class each day prepared to learn (think Learner Profile and Attitudes)**
- **Understand class expectations**
- **Ask questions: inquire!**
- **Be the best you can be**
- **Work as a team member**
- **Challenge yourself, be motivated, and aim high**

I look forward to meeting you at the Parent Before-School Conference on Monday, August 31. Please sign up at <https://www.senecaacademy.org/5signup>. During this time together, we will begin the process of cultivating a parent-teacher partnership. I will share information regarding your child's first day, carpool drop-off, and the upcoming school year that are important to know before our Back-to-School Night in September. In addition, this will be an important opportunity for you to ask questions and share information about your child with me (interests, goals, concerns, insights, etc.). Although I prefer to meet with you in person, remote conferencing will be available for anyone who cannot meet on campus. Please note that the school calendar is available on the website.

Your child's first day of school is on **Tuesday, September 1**, from 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., with carpool drop-off starting at 8:15 a.m. During this meet-and-greet opportunity for students, I will have a variety of activities throughout the morning to acclimate your child to a new classroom community. Prior to our noon dismissal, the children and I will have a bring-your-own-bag lunch picnic together in the backyard.

The first full day of school will be **Wednesday, September 2**, with carpool starting at 8:15 a.m. Please begin sending in a snack that is quick to eat (such as a piece of fruit, vegetable sticks, granola bars, or cheese stick) and a lunch. We ask that students bring TWO filled, reusable water bottles each day in order to decrease the need for refills. Please do not send sodas or candy for snack or lunch.

The fifth grade supply list is available at: <https://www.senecaacademy.org/back-to-school>. Please bring these supplies to the Before-School Conference on August 31 in a bag with your child's name on it. In addition, students will need the following **labeled** with their name:

- Reusable masks/face coverings, at least two recommended
- Backpack or tote bag (non-rolling, washable) - large enough for lunch box and a folder
- Lunch box or bento box (one that can open flat and/or be directly eaten out of by students is easiest to use)
- Art smock - an old adult shirt with the sleeves cut works well
- Reusable water bottles, two recommended (filled daily)

The required summer reading is *Float* by Laura Martin. Please have your student read this before the first day of school, as we will start the year with discussion and activities connected to this book.

There will be a Summer Social for fourth and fifth grade students and their families on **Tuesday, August 18**, from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. SAPA will be sending out more information about this later in the summer. I will not be there, but this is a great time to meet new friends and catch up with old ones!

I hope each one of you has a wonderful summer filled with activities and opportunities to explore and enjoy the warm days ahead. See you soon!

Sincerely,

Paula Waldt