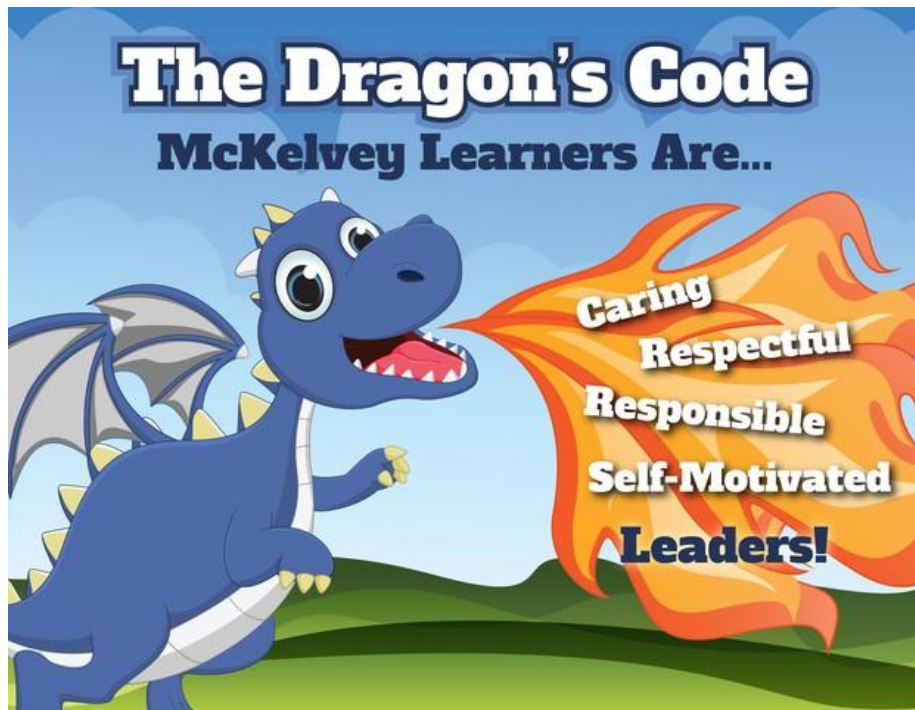


Welcome to  
Mrs. Cherry's  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade



2019-2020  
Handbook

# Welcome to Fifth Grade!

My name is Meredith Cherry and I will be your child's fifth grade teacher. I graduated from Indiana University with my Bachelor's in Elementary Education. I have earned two Master's Degrees; one in Curriculum and Instruction and the other is in Administration. This will be my fourth year at McKelvey and eighth year teaching. I look forward to getting to know you and your family this year. We are going to have a fabulous year!

**Schedule:** In this handbook, you will find our daily schedule along with our special schedule. We have orchestra at 1:35-2:05 on Mondays and Wednesdays. Please be sure your child brings their instrument to school on the days we have orchestra. We will have library every other Friday from 2:00-2:40.

**Classroom Discipline and Incentive Programs:** A positive attitude and good manners are essential for our classroom! Each week, students work towards their earned recess, which will be redeemed every Friday. Braggin' Dragons are given to students who go above and beyond throughout the school day. These slips provide recognition and awards in a variety of ways. Character cards are also utilized in 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms (please see below). McKelvey incident reports will be sent home for serious incidents and Office Referrals will result in a call home. Office Referrals are usually given for severe misbehavior, disrespect, bullying, or violence.

- **Character Cards** In fifth grade, we give stamps at the end of each day to students who earned it based on good behavior. Students should be working towards earning 5 stamps for each week. They have the opportunity to earn 5 stamps (Friday-Thursday) and a Homework Completion Stamp as well. If students go above and beyond, they can earn more than one stamp per day. All weekly stamp totals are added up towards monthly incentives. Monthly incentives are earned every four weeks and require 35 stamps to obtain one of the special rewards. If a child receives a McKelvey Incident Report and/or an Office Referral, they automatically will not receive their earned recess on Fridays.
- **Think Sheets** If a child does not receive their earned recess, we believe that it is important to have a conversation about the week and reflect on how children can improve their behaviors for the following week(s). Think sheets do not necessarily mean your child is in *trouble*, but instead, they can improve their character by following the Dragon's Code more diligently. Think sheets are reflective tools which allow for communication between your child, their family, and myself. As always, let me know if you have questions about this!

**Homework:** Students can expect to have approximately 50 minutes of homework a night. Student's homework will be recorded in their planners and due the next day. Please call or email if your child's homework is taking much longer than 50 minutes per night. The following procedures will be followed for homework in my classroom:

1. Students will be expected to record their assignments in their assignment notebook in order to help them accomplish their tasks every day.
2. All homework is expected to be completed on time, to the best of the students' ability, and in neat writing.
3. Twenty minutes of daily reading will be part of the students' nightly tasks. Students are required to write a journal entry about their reading on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Fifth graders will have math homework every night which is their Daily Common Core Review (DCGR) which reviews math concepts previously taught and more recent problems as well.

Homework Accountability: All students will be held accountable for the completion of their homework assignments. Students who do not complete their assignments on time will attend "homework club" so they can work on their missed work. Attending homework club will result in not earning the homework completion stamp for the week which can act as a buffer for earned recess on Fridays.

Snack: Your child is allowed to bring a nutritious snack each morning such as fruits, vegetables, cheese and crackers, pretzels, etc.

Book orders: I will send home book orders from Scholastic Book Club. If you wish to order, please send a check made out to Scholastic Book Club (NO CASH) or you may order online using our online code (Class Code: LJGW6). The books usually arrive 1-2 weeks after the order is put in. You do not have to order books, but I find the prices to be cheaper than most bookstores. Also, by purchasing books through Scholastic, I am able to get books to add to our classroom library.

Absences: Please call the front office or e-mail me in the morning if your child is ill. Your child will be expected to make up missed work. However, much of our work is done in conjunction with a lesson or activity and cannot be easily made up. If you will be traveling or you know your child will be out, please let me know as soon as you know so that we can make arrangements!

Chrome books: Each child is given a chrome book to complete classwork and enhance their technological learning. These computers are to stay at school and are to be treated respectfully. During the first few weeks of school, we will discuss chrome book expectations along with a contract to hold behaviors accountable. Please look for the actual signed document that will be kept for records within the following weeks.

Field Trips/Volunteers: Fifth graders will get to go to JA Biz Town (October 3<sup>rd</sup> 9:30am-1:30pm), the Gateway Arch (November 7<sup>th</sup> Time TBA), along with our annual fishing trip (May 8<sup>th</sup> 9am-2pm) and graduation party at the YMCA (May 19<sup>th</sup> Time TBA). I always appreciate help from parents and it is great to experience these days with your child! Look for more information about volunteer opportunities as they get closer. However, it is

required that a background check is filled out and cleared before accompanying us on a trip or helping in the building. Visit my classroom website for a direct link!

Effective communication between parents and teachers is essential to your child's success in the classroom. This truly is a partnership that must have an open line of communication. Listed below are ways that information will be communicated.

**Assignment Notebooks:** One of our fifth grade responsibilities is to fill out our planners each day. Students are responsible for filling out their planner each morning. Nightly homework and important information will be recorded in your child's assignment notebook.

**Flyers and Classwork:** Classwork and flyers will be put in student mailboxes and taken home daily. Try to remind your child to empty their backpacks nightly and to make sure all necessary materials are in their bags before they leave for school the next morning.  
\*\*Permission slips will be sent home before field trips. Sign and return at your earliest convenience.

**Phone Calls and E-mails:** Please feel free to contact me at school if you have any questions at all. You can reach me at 814-415-6588. I am available most mornings from 8:00am to arrival, and during my release time from 2:45-3:40. You may also e-mail me at [mcherry@parkwayschools.net](mailto:mcherry@parkwayschools.net). I check my e-mail before, after, and periodically throughout the school day. It is much easier for me to check and respond to emails during the day than it is voicemails.

Thank you for sharing your child with me! I can't wait for a successful, productive, and enjoyable year with you and your families. Please don't ever hesitate to contact me ☺.