

## **Common Questions of Incoming 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents and Caretakers**



### ***Q. What time does school start and end?***

A: Poquessing's doors open at 7:25 a.m. Students may report to the cafeteria or to the gym to play basketball. Students are released at 7:50 a.m. to go to their lockers and homeroom/first period class. School dismissal is 2:55 p.m.

### ***Q. Where is bus information?***

A: Bus information will be found on the Home Access Center. The district will post information when the transportation department has information available.

### ***Q. Where is parent/car drop off and pick-up?***

A: Enter at the one-way entrance off of Heights Lane. Car drop-off and pick-up is at the back of the building, facing Jay Street, at the pool/gym lobby steps. Pick-up at the end of the school day is also in the Ferderbar circle. Do not enter the Poquessing bus circle during posted hours.

### ***Q: Will 5th-graders have scheduling like the current middle school schedule?***

A: Fifth-graders will keep a schedule close to the current elementary schedule, with a dedicated block for English language arts and math. Poquessing's 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are scheduled on a two-teacher team.

### ***Q. What will the 5th-grade academic schedule look like? How will the specials be incorporated into the day?***

A: Students will have a program of studies that includes five core classes (reading, language arts, math, science and social studies) as well as a "special" once a day.

### ***Q. What specials will the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students have?***

A: Fifth grade students have Art, Music, PE, Keyboarding and STEM. Students with GIEPs will have Academic Enrichment instead of Keyboarding.

***Q. Do fifth grade students have a World Language Class?***

A: Fifth-graders have exposure to World Language through an online program entitled *Duolingo*.

***Q: What time is lunch?***

A: Fifth grade has lunch at 12:46 p.m.  
Snack time is 10:12 a.m. Students may pack or purchase a snack or lunch.

***Q. What are the lunch options?***

A: Students may pack or purchase a lunch. Details regarding purchases can be found on the District Food Services website. Breakfast is \$1.60 and lunch is \$3.10. A la carte items are available. Neshaminy uses School Café for payments. You will need to register at [www.SchoolCafe.com](http://www.SchoolCafe.com). Here you can check balances, set balance alerts, set recurring payments, etc. A 5% convenience fee will be charged on all online payments. Payment can also be sent to school by cash, check or money order (payable to **Neshaminy Food Services**). Aramark is the food service provider for Neshaminy.

***Q. Will Kids Club be offered for 5th-graders at the middle schools?***

A: Kids Club will extend their services to middle school students and families. Fifth and sixth grade students needing the service of Kids Club will meet in a designated room at Poquessing Middle School at dismissal time and remain there with a Kids Club advisor. Once Ferderbar dismisses, the Kids Club advisor will walk students to Ferderbar where they will remain until the designated parent/caregiver pick-up time.

***Q. What afterschool activities are available to students?***

A: Poquessing Middle School's 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students participate in Band, Chorus, Orchestra, School Musical, STEM Club, Art Club, Game Club, Computer Club, Reading Olympics, and Intramurals such as wrestling, basketball, mat-ball, street hockey, soccer, and flag-football.

***Q. Will the 5th-graders have recess?***

A: Students will have a 15-minute cognitive break from academics in the form of snack time in the cafeteria. Students may pack a snack and a drink or purchase items from the kitchen.

***Q. What programs will be in place for extra learning support?***

A: Poquessing offers before and after school clinics, W.I.N.\* period at the end of the school day and additional support the teaching staff deems appropriate for each student.

***Q. What is the W.I.N.\* Period?***

A: W.I.N. is the last period of the day and defined as ***Whatever I Need***. It is not a study hall. Throughout the school day, students, guided by teachers, are determining what it is they need to do in the thirty-minute period which will help strengthen their learning. Options include, using the computer lab, returning to a team teacher for extra help, returning to a specials teacher to complete a project, resource room, beginning or completing homework, using the iPad or Chromebook for remediation, IXL or *Duolingo*, etc. This is a structured time requiring sign-out and a hall pass to move from the student's assigned W.I.N. class.

***Q. Where will the children be located? Will they be secluded from the older students?***

A: All grade levels have a dedicated locker area, classrooms, and modified schedules to limit contact between the grades. Students will be escorted to specials at the beginning of the year.

***Q. Who will monitor the hallways and bathrooms?***

A: All faculty and staff are responsible for monitoring student activity in all parts of the building.

***Q. What bullying prevention programs will be in place?***

A: Middle schools currently have bullying prevention programs such as: Rachel's Challenge and SOAR.

***Q. How will younger children be protected from inappropriate behavior on buses?***

A: Buses will have specific seat assignments based on grades with younger students sitting near the front. Bus drivers and students have received orientation on expected student behavior on buses. Principals will review random video footage from buses to monitor compliance. Any student not following the rules will be disciplined up to and including the loss of bus-riding privileges for a specified period of time.

***Q. Will the 5th grade change into gym clothes and utilize the locker rooms like the other students? Will 5<sup>th</sup> grade students swim?***

A: The 5<sup>th</sup> graders will change into gym clothes, but they will not be in the locker room with other grades. Fifth grade students will swim and be required to change into a bathing suit as well. Recognizing that it is often uncomfortable for some children to change in a locker-room setting, we recommend that children wrap a large beach-towel around them and change under the towel. This can be practiced at home.

***Q. Will children with IEPs, GIEPs and those taking speech classes still receive the help they need?***

A: Yes, all such programs will continue. Students with GIEPs will have AE in lieu of Keyboarding and STEM.

***Q: What about school-issued Chromebooks for 5<sup>th</sup> graders?***

A: All fifth grade students will receive a Chromebook, which they will be able to take home once the proper forms and technology fee are submitted. This information can be found on the main Poquessing website. **Fifth grade** Chromebooks will be distributed early September.

***Q. What will be the average class size for the new 5th grade configuration? Please be specific.***

A: As specified in the teacher contract, the class size will range from 25 to 29 students.

***Q. Will the fifth grade students be graded as they are in elementary school or will they move to the middle school grading? Is there a fifth grade honor roll?***

A: They will follow the middle school A – B – C – D – F grading system. There is an honor roll.