



Principal's Page



October 2018

Mrs. Heather Nuneviller, Principal

Mr. Jerry Rogers, 5th Grade Principal
Mrs. Jen Rinehimer, 6th Grade Principal

Dr. Kathie Kotch, 7th Grade Principal

You Matter.

You Matter is a movement to spread the word that your problems, your worries, your fears, and above all you—unique and real you—matter. And because just about everyone—at some point—hits the wall, we're here to help. Spring-Ford Area School District has adopted the "You Matter" initiative and is helping students to understand that everyone can make a difference. Many staff members at the 5/6/7 Grade Center have created Bitmojis and hung them outside of classrooms, offices and on bulletin boards to remind everyone that YOU MATTER!

you matter.



Click [HERE](#) to view the You Matter video for students



you matter.



you matter.



Upcoming Events

- 10/8 No School for Students
- 10/10 Yankee Candle Orders Due
- 10/11 7th Grade Unity Day—Romans
- 10/12 7th Grade Picture Day
- 10/15 5/6 Home & School Spirit Wear Kickoff
- 10/16 5/6 Picture Day
7th Grade Unity Day—Celts
5/6 Title I Meeting, 5:00
- 10/18 Home & School Meetings
7th Grade @ 6:00pm
5th/6th Grade @ 7:00pm
- 10/19 7th Grade Unity Day—Incas
- 10/24 5/6 Unity Day
- 10/29 7th Grade Unity Day—Greeks
- 10/31 5/6 Halloween Parties
- 11/1 7th Grade Unity Day—Egyptians

October Spirit Days

The last two weeks of October are filled with fun activities at the 5/6/7 Center! We will be promoting our theme of Good Character, Good Choices, Drug and Bully Free. Help us celebrate Unity Day, Red Ribbon Week and Mix It Up Day by participating in the following spirit days....



- | | | |
|------------------|---|--|
| Wednesday, 10/24 | Wear & Share Orange to Support Bully Prevention | Wear Orange |
| Thursday, 10/25 | "Redy" to take a stand against drugs | Wear Red |
| Friday, 10/26 | From head to toe, I'm drug free | Wear hats and crazy socks |
| Monday, 10/29 | Being Drug Free is No Sweat | Wear a sweatshirt |
| Tuesday, 10/30 | Be a "smarty" and make good choices for your future | Wear clothes with college logos |
| Wednesday, 10/31 | Drugs are Scary | Wear Orange & Black |

Title I Program Open House Announced



The purpose of the Title I Program is to help students succeed in the regular classroom by aiding in the development of basic and advanced skills in Reading and Math. Once the program is established, it is available to all students in the Intermediate School, based upon their educational needs. The Title I teachers work closely with the classroom teachers to provide supportive and supplemental instruction to help meet the needs of each individual learner. Parents and guardians of students who are identified for Title I services will be individually notified and invited to attend our annual Title I Open House night on Tuesday, October 16, 2018.

American Education Week Scheduled

So that we can accommodate as many visitors as possible, the 5th/6th Grade Center will celebrate American Education Week on November 15 and 16, 2018. This change in schedule is to allow both the 5th/6th/7th Grade Center and Upper Providence Elementary School to have maximum use of the parking facilities. Parents of 5th grade students are welcome to stop by and visit any one of their child's classes during the hours of 9:15am-10:45am and 1:45pm-3:15pm on Thursday, 11/15. On Friday, 11/16, 6th grade parents are welcome during the hours of 9:15am-10:45am and 1:45pm-3:15pm.

The 7th Grade Center will be hosting parents on Friday, 11/16 during the hours of 8:15am-10:00 and 1:15pm-2:30pm.



We are requesting that all parents report to the office upon their arrival. Please email Mrs. Finnegan if you are planning on attending so that visitor badges can be printed in advance. If you have not had your driver's license scanned at this building, you may stop by in advance. It would be greatly appreciated if you could let your child know the approximate time of your visit so that they can inform you in advance of their classroom location.

We look forward to your visit and the opportunity to share with you the many fine activities in which your children are involved.

Unity Days

Our program asks our students and staff who are willing to work on the very sensitive issues of bullying, racism, sexism, alcohol and drug use, and mental health concerns. Unity Day is much more than a one day commitment. Staff and students must commit to ongoing support group meetings to implement the plans created at Unity Day.



The greatest problems in our schools today are staff and students who are disconnected, lonely, and isolated. Throughout our Unity Day program we build connection, pro school bonding and genuine caring. We find that we are much more alike than we are different. We also come to a place where we respect and celebrate our differences. Throughout the day students and staff work in large and small group settings to teach each other and address the deepest concerns in their school. We learn we are not alone. We create a unified community.

Classroom Celebration Reminders



Classroom Celebrations are a special time for students, but can be a difficult time for students with life-threatening food allergies. In order to keep our school celebrations safe for all students, we ask that you please keep food treats to a minimum. All food treats **MUST** be prepackaged and with the ingredient list and nutrition labels with them. Any ingredients or processing warnings that may contribute to a student's allergies may not be brought into school.

We also ask that any parent volunteers have the appropriate clearances updated and on file with the District. To check the status of your clearances, you can do the following:

1. From the Skyward Family Access screen, click on "Report Cards"
2. Click on "Volunteer Dates for FA 18-19"
3. A volunteer is cleared if there is a "Y" in either the "Cleared Sub." or "Cleared Ltd." column. A limited volunteer (Cleared Ltd.) must have a date for affidavit, child abuse 151, and criminal 34. A substantial volunteer (Cleared Sub.) must have a date for child abuse 151, criminal 34, and FBI Act 114.

Please note that once you submit clearance paperwork, it takes up to 2 weeks for Skyward to be updated.....if you are planning on chaperoning an end of year field trip, please work ahead accordingly.

RamQuest Supplies Needed

Ram Quest is looking for cardboard from cereal boxes, cracker boxes, egg cartons, and tubes from inside paper towel rolls. The cereal and cracker boxes can be broken down. There is a collection bin outside the Ram Quest room for items to be dropped off by our students.

In addition, if you signed up to send in supplies through the Ram Quest Sign-up Genius, please send those supplies in ASAP. Mrs. Glass would like to thank all of the families that have sent in their donations so far.

Monthly health tip: Understanding head lice transmission

- Head lice do not spread diseases and are not considered to be a health threat.
- Head lice are wingless insects that **cannot** jump or fly. They only move by crawling and generally do not crawl long distances.
- Head lice are not likely to leave a healthy head unless there is a heavy infestation.
- Head lice are most readily transmitted via head-to-head contact. They are less likely to spread by contact with clothing or other personal items.
- It is unlikely to find head lice living on objects like helmets or hats because they have feet that are specifically designed to grasp on to the hair shaft of humans.
- Adult head lice typically die within 24 hours without a human host.
- Eggs are laid on the human hair shaft at the scalp. Eggs require the specific conditions found on the human head to develop and hatch. Eggs cannot be transmitted from one head to another, nor can they fall off the hair shaft.





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Letter From Mr. Rogers

5th Grade

Hello 5th Grade Students, Parents, Guardians, and Families.

I want to extend a welcome to all families and students to 5th grade. At any point in life when we are making a transition, it can be expected that feelings of nervousness, fear of the unknown and emotional responses will be present. The exciting fact about moving to a new building and a new grade is that there will be plenty of new experiences that will help all 5th graders learn and grow as individuals.

In the beginning of the year we are focused on fostering good academic habits that will carry our students throughout a successful school year. In addition, we will be working on meeting new people, making new friends, joining after school activities and utilizing the resources present here in our school.

Parents are often very interested to learn about the day's events. Often times, our question of "How was your day?" is followed with a "good" or "fine". Here are a few ways to encourage more than a one word answer.

1. What was your favorite part about school today?
2. Was the test you were studying for as hard/easy as you thought it would be? What kinds of questions were on it?
3. Tell me one new thing you learned today and I'll tell you one thing I learned.
4. What story/book did you read today? Tell me about the characters.
5. What are you learning in science/social studies?
6. Tell me about a really easy/hard math problem.
7. What game did you play at recess?

One of the realities of moving to 5th grade is an increase in academic responsibility. Doing homework can be very stressful for families and our students. Have a routine, if possible, for a time to relax from the school day before beginning homework. I would encourage you to communicate with your child's teacher via phone or e-mail on a regular basis and especially any time you have a concern.

I am very pleased to begin this journey with you and your children as they learn, grow and meet new challenges each day throughout the next few years. I am excited to be a partner with you in your child's education. The class of 2026 is off to a great start!

Lessons Learned

The following are just some of the topics being covered in each of the 4 major subject areas:

ELA- Spelling and reading stories from the anthology. Working on the 4 types of sentences and finding subject and predicate. Writing narratives including characters, setting, plot, descriptive language and details.

SOCIAL STUDIES- Learning about Oceans and Continents and early colonialism, specifically studying Jamestown.

MATH-Multiplication of whole numbers including finding estimates, using the distributive property, and traditional algorithm.

SCIENCE- Learning what it means to be a scientist and using the scientific method. Lessons on maps and the way to read maps- specifically studying slope and lines of latitude and longitude.

Welcome to the New 5th Grade Staff

The Explorers Team welcomes Alix Abraham as a Learning Support Teacher. She is very excited to be a part of the team and is doing a wonderful job.

Andrea Sandberg is returning to the 5/6 team as a member of the Colonists Team. She has been teaching at Brooke Elementary. We are very happy to have her back!

The Patriots welcome two new Instructional Assistants in Lynette Offner and Christa Loughlin.

We are very happy and excited to welcome these new members of the 5/6 community.!



From the Desk of Mrs. Rinehimer.....



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Letter from Mrs. Rinehimer

Hello 6th Grade Students, Parents, Guardians, and Families,

Welcome back to the 2018-2019 School Year. It has been a wonderful beginning and we I am so excited to see all of the students back, making new friends and settling in for another year of learning. I have been very impressed with our transition to 6th grade and the students have picked up right where they left off with knowing the expectations, routines and procedures of the building. As we move through this year, you may find your son or daughter changing in some unexpected ways. I wanted to share some ideas for navigating this road with your student.

Students this age will begin to try out a new level of independence. Don't be surprised when they choose friends over you. Don't take it personally or assume they are being disrespectful. Friends play an important role in the student's life and they will begin to spend more and more time with their friends.

Students at this age will begin to think of your questions as intrusive. It may be easier to just sit and let them talk to you without you having to ask a lot of questions. However, don't be afraid to bring up tough or sensitive topics. They are exposed to a lot of information on social media and the internet.

Watch what they are watching, monitor social media and turn off the screens. Just make sure you know what is holding their attention and what they are being exposed to while online. Engage in conversations with your son or daughter about the stuff that interests them and give them an opportunity to ask questions. They often repeat or act out things they see in videos and other online areas that they do not understand.

When it comes to keeping up with school information, I would also encourage you to communicate with your child's teacher via phone or e-mail on a regular basis and especially any time you have a concern.

Warmly,

Jennifer Rinehimer

Lesson Learned

The following are just some of the topics being covered in each of the 4 major subject areas:

ELA- we are examining elements of fictional narratives and constructing our own stories. In addition, we are reading informational text and analyzing the sequence of events within a story. In grammar, we are reviewing subjects and predicates within sentences.

SOCIAL STUDIES- we learned how Paleolithic humans adapted to their environments to survive and are currently learning about the Agricultural Revolution and examining aspects of the Neolithic Age.

MATH- we learned about Ratios and Rates (chapter 1) and have finished up that chapter. The next chapter will be Fractions, Decimals, Percents (Chapter 2).

SCIENCE - We are learning about global winds.

Welcome to New 6th Grade Staff

The Pioneer team welcomes **Courtney Ojakovo** as a English Language Arts teacher. She is an active member in the Spring-Ford community with three children in the district. Mrs. Ojakovo comes to us from North Penn. She received her undergraduate degree from Rutgers University in Communication and Psychology and a Masters in Elementary Education from Temple University.





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Letter from Dr. Kotch

Welcome back to 7th Grade Students, Parents, Guardians and Families,

What a pleasure it was to see so many of you at our Back to School Night a few weeks ago! Our school year is now off to an amazing start, and there is a palpable buzz of excitement in every classroom. Thank you for entrusting us with the privilege of being a part of your child's educational journey here at Spring-Ford.

Overall, many of our students have mastered class schedules, lockers, and tryouts for sports and the winter play. I encourage you to check in daily with your child to hear how they assess their own progress. Evaluating stress levels and monitoring time management are crucial steps necessary for overall academic success, as well as good emotional health. I would suggest finding time together to review grades in Skyward and discussing any concerns. Finally, if you have any question about your child's performance, please contact their teacher to discuss ways to ensure he/she is successful.

Our school staff have been working hard to make sure this is another great year. The fall is the best time for students to get involved in activities in our building, whether it is a club or an athletic team. Research shows that students who get involved in school activities do better in school, so I highly encourage active participation in our school programs and activities.

I look forward to working in partnership with parents throughout these middle school years. I encourage your active participation and involvement in some aspect of our school community that aligns with your interests and family's schedules. Some of the best ways for parents to get involved include participating in our Home and School Association, volunteering and helping chaperone events and trips, or just coming to our Back to School Night.

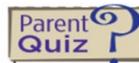
I appreciate your continued support and wish your family a wonderful school year.

Warmest regards,

Kathie Kotch, Ed.D.

House Principal, Class of 2024

Parent Quiz



Are you making time for your child?

Your middle schooler probably doesn't cling to you the way she used to when she was younger, but she needs your time and attention just as much as ever. Are you there for your child? Answer *yes* or *no* to the questions below:

1. **Do you create** opportunities to spend time together doing things that interest your child?
2. **Do you make** the most of times when you have your child's undivided attention, such as in the car?
3. **Do you eat** at least one meal a day as a family?
4. **Do you allow** your child to bring friends to some family activities?
5. **Do you encourage** your child to have experiences that boost her independence?

How well are you doing?

More *yes* answers mean you are adapting to your child's changing needs for togetherness. For each *no*, try that idea from the quiz.

"In family relationships, love is really spelled T.I.M.E."
—Dieter F. Uchtdorf

Welcome to New 7th Grade Staff

Mrs. Julie Davis is new to our team of Special Education teachers. Mrs. Davis has done a fabulous job of embracing her new position and is doing wonderful things in her classroom.

Some of you may know Mrs. Andrea Rees as a 6th grade teacher. She is new to the role of 7th grade Reading teacher this school year. She has settled in nicely to her new role and compliments the rest of the 7th grade Reading department.

