

# **Middle Primary Handbook**

## **Mrs. Brady's Class 2018-2019**

Please take a minute to look around the room to see some of the projects your child has been working on during the first week and a half of school. You may also look through their desk to see what text books we will be using this year as well. I have enjoyed getting to know your student, and I look forward to building a stronger relationship with them and you throughout the year.

**Classroom Rules-** This school year we are using our school rules as our classroom rules also. Our school rules come from a program called PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports). Our rules are:

- We are Safe!
- We are Kind!
- We are Responsible!

We also spent a lot of time the first week of school talking about being Bucket Fillers. When people are Bucket Fillers they are saying and doing kind things to fill other people's buckets as well as their own. In addition, we discussed and practiced Garfield School's version of the Golden Rule: Treat others the way **they** want to be treated. I encourage you to incorporate these rules/ideas into your own home.

**Sharing-** Every morning during our morning meeting we have a share time. This is an opportunity to develop oral language and listening skills. Rather than sharing an object or a toy, I prefer to have students share an experience. Toys can be too distracting and can lead to jealousy, resentment, and feelings of inadequacy. Instead, we will have a different topic every day and students are always welcome to pass if they do not feel like sharing. However, I understand that students sometimes have a souvenir from a trip, or have discovered something interesting outside that they would like to share. If it is set up ahead of time, I would be happy to let them do that.

**Objects From Home-** Students do not need to bring **anything** from home. All the supplies they need will be provided by the school, unless otherwise specified. Things that are brought from home will be sent back with one reminder. The next time it happens I will hold on to it until a family member can come pick it up. It gets very distracting and the desks get cluttered, which makes it hard for them to find text books and assignments.

**Homework-** Each week you can expect homework packets to be sent home on Tuesday with work for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. ***Packets are not due until Monday Morning, but may be turned in on Friday if the work is completed.*** It is up to you to set the schedule for your child. It works best for most families to plan for 15-30 minutes of homework time per night. Some families require that homework is turned in by Friday so that the weekend can be spent on family activities while others have hectic weeks and need the weekend to catch-up. I know that many students are involved in activities after school and do not get home until late. I never want homework to be “too much” or a burden on families. Please feel free to talk to me if your child is struggling to get his/her homework done.

- Homework is designed to reinforce the skills we are working on in class, so your child should be able to work fairly independently.
- Help your child be successful with homework by choosing a quiet place to work. You may need to help with reading instructions, especially at the beginning of the year.
- Keep homework sessions short and positive. It is ok to take breaks when your child is feeling frustrated (or when you are feeling frustrated)
- If homework is not turned in, is incomplete, sloppy, or full of errors, I require children to work on it during the first half of their free choice time.
- **Please send homework back on Monday even if it is incomplete, students can work on it during Free Choice Time.**

**Independent Reading-** Students should be reading about 20 minutes per night. They should be reading books at their independent reading level either from the school/public library or from your personal collection. If you would like help finding out your child's reading level please ask! I would be happy to help you and your child pick out great books to read at home. It is my hope that your children will read independently, read to someone, and be read to throughout the week.

**During independent reading, children need to be able to accurately read 99% of the words on any given page.** The inability to do so leads to comprehension problems. Even when a child can read (decode) every word on the page, they may not be able to understand the meaning. The way that young readers become better readers is through lots of easy reading. Through easy reading, their brains are actually doing the important step of organizing and solidifying their reading skills. When children try to read books that are too difficult, they often get frustrated both with reading and themselves! You can support your child at home by being positive about his/her reading, making all reading experiences as fun and pleasurable as possible, and reading aloud to her/him as often as

you can. Eventually children will be competent and comfortable reading longer, harder books on their own. Be patient- they will get there!

There is a weekly reading log that will be attached to their homework packet every Tuesday. Please help your child be successful in keeping track of the books they read and returning the log with his/her homework every Monday.

**Library-** The students check out library books on Friday. All books should be returned to the green bin next to my desk by the following Friday. Mary, our librarian prefers that books are returned no later than 2 weeks after the checkout date. Each week, the children have the opportunity to check out 3 books – Two at their reading level and one free choice book. They bring home the free choice book and the two independent books stay at school. If your child has several overdue/lost books he/she will not be able to take books home until the books have been found.

- **Silver S books-** I check out books from the county teachers' center for in-class reading and to have books that go along with the unit we are studying. These books have a silver sticker with a black S. The kids have been instructed to keep these books in the classroom. If you notice that one has come home by mistake, please return it to school ASAP.

**Parent Volunteers-** This year I have a wonderful student intern from Humboldt State who is with us three mornings a week. I would love to have a parent helper on Mondays from 10:45-11:40 to help with two independent centers. Sometimes I only need a parent helper for a few months until the kids get used to working more independently. Please let me know if you are willing to help out with that.

**Newsletter-** I will be e-mailing a weekly newsletter most weeks during the middle of the week. The newsletter will explain what we've been doing in the class, what we will be doing in the coming weeks, and any important reminders or events. There will be some weeks where I will not do a newsletter, such as parent conference week, or any other time where I have a chance to talk to families in person. If you have not received any e-mails from me so far, please check in to make sure I have the correct e-mail address. I have included a section called "Snapshot of the Week" where I will share a picture from our week. If you do not want your child in the pictures that are e-mailed out, please let me know. I request that these photos are not shared on social media so that we can respect the privacy of the students in our class.

**Snacks-** We have two snack times during the day. One is at 10:15 and the other is following Music or PE at 2:00. I do not provide snacks for students so please be sure to pack extra food in your child's lunch to be eaten during snack time. Also, please send snacks even if your child is ordering school lunch. They are often ravenous by 2:00!

**Keep the lines of communication open!** I want to give all of your concerns the time and attention they deserve. Sometimes mornings can be hectic and I will not be able to give you the time or thoughtful response that is necessary. You can always set up an appointment to talk to me after school, pop in the classroom at the end of the day, e-mail me at [mbrady@garfieldschool.org](mailto:mbrady@garfieldschool.org), or call the school at 442-5471. I am usually at school from 8:00-4:00, but can stay later on Wednesdays and Thursdays if necessary.