

August 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself and express my excitement about working with your child this school year. I love teaching and I care deeply about my students. I believe students can grow and develop by examining the issues we cover in class.

Fourth and Fifth Grade ELA/Social Studies will be challenging so it is imperative that you work with your child every night. Homework will be given nightly. Please take the time to review homework with your child. They should be reading for at least 30 minutes every night.

In order to provide students with the excellent educational climate they deserve, students need to respect themselves and respect others at all times. Positive rewards are always given out for excellent behavior and effort.

Balanced Literacy is a key component to student success. Your child will be working in small groups, being a part of guided reading, reading independently, literature circles (book clubs), as well as using different forms of writing-expository, narrative, letters, magazine/newspaper articles, and summaries. Students will also be working on a comprehensive Social Studies curriculum.

Uniforms are expected to be worn each and every day: Navy blue pants/skirts (no blue jeans), navy blue polo shirts, and gym shoes (open toed shoes and sandals are prohibited). Uniforms are on sale at the school.

Volunteer opportunities at the school are always needed. Please contact me, the office or the administration if you could be of service to us. Parent involvement is crucial in terms of Hearst's success.

If you have any comments, questions, or concerns I am available for phone calls and meetings (by appointment please) each day after school. To schedule a meeting, you can contact me at the school 773-535-2376, on the Remind app, my cell 312-545-1192, or via email [sashanahan@cps.edu](mailto:sashanahan@cps.edu).

A supply list is posted on the school website and attached. Please make sure they come to school with all of the materials needed.

I am excited about working with your child and am looking forward to a great school year!

Sincerely,

Ms. (O'Neill) Shanahan  
4<sup>th</sup> and 5th Grade ELA/SS Teacher  
Hearst Elementary School