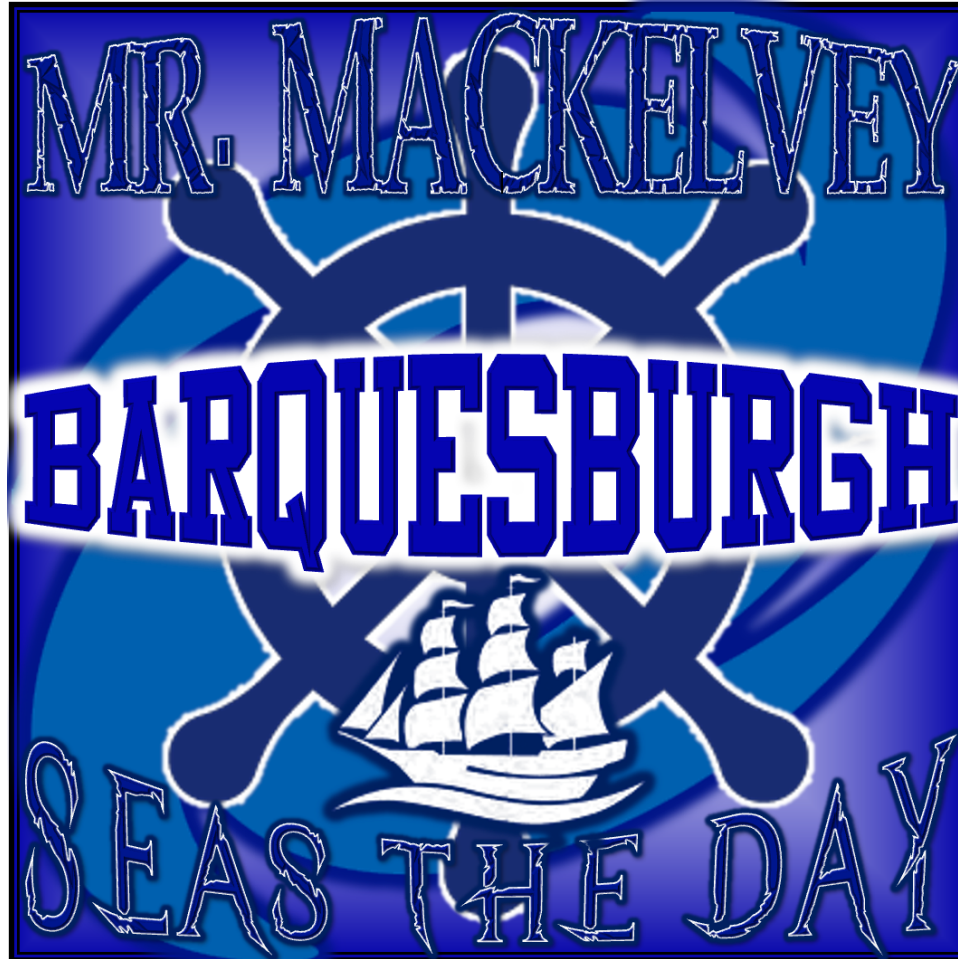


WELCOME TO FIFTH GRADE!



Contents:		
Meet Mr. MacKelvey		Page 2
5 th Grade Classroom Rules		Page 3
Reinforcements		Page 4
Collaborative Incentives		Page 5
Classroom Policies		Page 6
Classroom Communication		Page 7

Barque /bärk/ *noun*

a sailing ship, typically with three masts, in which the foremast and mainmast are square-rigged and the mizzenmast is rigged fore-and-aft.

Burgh /börg/ *noun*

a borough or chartered town-a community.



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MEET MR. MACKELVEY

2023-2024 School Year

Dear Students and Families,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you and your student back for the 2023-2024 school year here at Antilles School! I hope you had a memorable summer vacation spending time with your family members. Please allow me to extend a warm welcome to you and your student as I tell you a little bit about myself—My name is Mr. Connor MacKelvey and I will be your student's fifth grade Mathematics and Science teacher this year at Antilles School while Ms. Vincent will be your student's fifth grade English Language Arts and Social Studies Teacher. We are very excited to provide this opportunity to departmentalize the fifth grade subjects this year to help your student transition into sixth grade next year!

Being no stranger to St. Thomas, I have taught fifth grade at All Saints Cathedral School before moving back to my hometown on the shores of Lake Erie in Erie, Pennsylvania where I just completed my Master's Degree in Mathematics/Science from Slippery Rock University. Being brand new to Antilles this year, I am so excited to be back on island and be teaching fifth grade! Both of my parents were also teachers, and I wanted to follow their footsteps and become a teacher just like them. I also have a sister, Caitlyn, who just graduated this past year with her doctorate in Occupational Therapy from Gannon University's campus in Ruskin, Florida. I graduated from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania's College of Education with degrees in both early childhood education and special education after student teaching at Scoil Mhuire Ballyboden in Dublin, Ireland. It is hard to believe, but I will be entering my eighth year of teaching this year. I am very eager to continue to grow as an educator and make this school year the best year yet for both you and your student.

Entering a new school year, I am very excited to work with you and your student, for it is my goal to create a welcoming and enriching environment to engage all students in our classroom. With it being my eighth year teaching, I am very excited to showcase my skills I learned in school at Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania. I take pride in representing Antilles School, for I support your student's education one hundred percent and strive to provide an outstanding education program for you and your student. I am thoroughly looking forward to our partnership together as we collaborate in making this a rewarding and successful school year for your student, for it is my goal to make sure your student is receiving the most from their education.

Attached to this welcome guide you will find the classroom rules, consequences, rewards, policies, and schedule. Please take the time to read through the information with your student and feel free to contact me throughout the year if you ever have any questions regarding the education of your student or the information within this welcome guide. I am really looking forward to meeting you and cannot wait to spend the year with your student—where we will learn, grow, and succeed together!

Yours in Education,

Mr. Connor MacKelvey, M. Ed.
Fifth Grade Educator

MR. MACKELVEY

Fifth Grade Teacher
Antilles School

REMIND: Text @Antilles5 to 81010



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5TH GRADE CLASSROOM RULES

(Students established these rules together as we constructed our Classroom Constitution)

HAVE YOU BEEN A CANE TODAY?

Caring

Being caring demonstrates you are showing concern and kindness to others. When you are helpful, your classmates notice you use manners such as 'please,' and 'thank you'—exhibiting kindness in and out of the classroom. Through being caring, you follow directions of all adults the first time and use tone, voice, and words appropriately.

Accountable

Your accountability demonstrates you are responsible for what you are expected to do and are always prepared. This is confirmed through making it to school on time, bringing all necessary materials to class, and taking care of classroom resources. It is important to complete class work on time, return completed homework, and ask for help when needed. You are expected to stay on task and allow others to stay on task while minding your own business and using your time wisely. When you are being held accountable, it showcases how responsible and prepared you are.

Noble

Noble is defined as being honest and worthy—you are entitled to honor and respect those around you. It is important to treat others the way you want to be treated while sharing and taking turns, being kind to others, and keeping our hands to ourselves. Telling the truth and being honest are major components of fulfilling noble. Being noble demonstrates that you never lie, always tell the truth, and your information is credible. You know not to plagiarize or copy another student's work, but to demonstrate confidence in your own work.

Excellent

Through demonstrating the characteristic of being excellent, you are of high quality and will always put forth your best effort on assignments—rather than finding the easy way out. You are outstanding by performing best by showing good sportsmanship, asking for help, and always trying your best. By being excellent, you are expected to put your name on your paper, listen and follow directions, and complete assignments neatly and on time.

REINFORCEMENTS

(If students need to reflect on being a C.A.N.E. Student)

First Reminder

Mr. MacKelvey will speak to your student in private and provide a verbal warning, where students will be redirected to review our C.A.N.E. Classroom Constitution they established. The behavior will be documented in Mr. MacKelvey's files.

Second Reminder

Students will be asked to complete a 'BLUE SLIP' behavior management log— recording the behavior displayed in the classroom and why a classroom rule was broken. The student and I will discuss ways to prevent the behavior from occurring again through completing the BLUE SLIP, which must be signed by a family member for the next day).

Additional Reminders

If the first and second offenses are not effective for your student, each situation will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, which may include a conference between the student, teacher, and family members, or a meeting with administration. With your student's interest in mind, we are all working together to resolve inappropriate behaviors to allow students to learn from their mistakes so their behavior does not impact their education. Thank you for your continued support!



Be the CHANGE you want to see in the world!



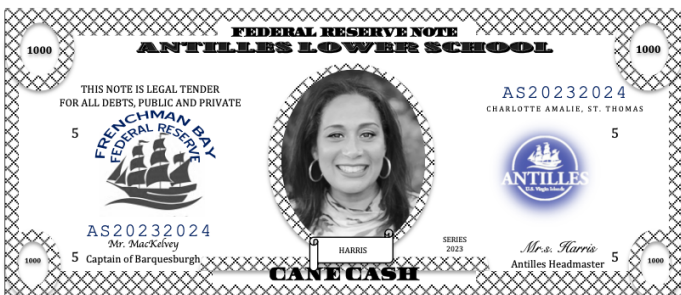
COLLABORATIVE INCENTIVES

Cane Cash

In order to promote understanding of financial management, Cane Cash will be used to reward students for collaborative and appropriate behavior in the school setting. Students may then use their acquired Cane Cash to purchase various incentives, such as having a snack, no homework, calling home to inform family members of superior behavior, or a movie and popcorn party. Students are responsible for being accountable for their Cane Cash Wallet and in depositing funds into their virtual Bankaroo bank account.

Cane Categories

Within Mr. MacKelvey's classroom of Barquesburgh, students are grouped into five 'Categories,' with three/four students per Category. The five 'Cane Categories' will be challenging one another through competitive activities as well as following the classroom rules and procedures for rewards, such as Cane Cash or being ready to line up at the doorway first. Each crewmember of the 'Cane Category' plays an important role in the group, such as the Chief Meteorologist, Supply Rescuer, and Hurricane Hunter. Roles will be switched on a bi-weekly basis so each student has an equal opportunity to succeed.



CANE CASH



'CANE CATEGORIES

CLASSROOM POLICIES

Birthdays



Birthdays are a very important and special day for all students, as they grow one year older. If you would like to celebrate your student's birthday in school, you may provide treats for our entire class. If you prefer to not send in a treat with your student, you may donate a class book for our classroom library, in which we will read on that special day. For students who are born in June, July, and August, we will designate their 'half-birthday' during the school year to celebrate. Lastly, if you are having a private Birthday Party for your student outside of school, **please DO NOT send your student to school with private party invitations unless everyone in the class is invited**, for we do not want to hurt anyone's feelings in the classroom.

Holidays



Learning of various cultures and educating students how individuals live around the world is a very important aspect of understanding diversity. If time permits, we will celebrate holidays such as Labor Day, Virgin Islands/Puerto Rican Friendship Day, Halloween, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanza, Chinese New Year, Groundhog's Day, Valentine's Day, President's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Transfer Day, Easter, Cinco de Mayo, Memorial Day, etc. **If you do not feel comfortable with your student learning of various cultures and religions, please let me know and I will accommodate your student appropriately.**

Homework



Homework is an important piece in fostering the academic achievement of students and in extending school activities into the home and the community. Homework should provide reinforcement and extension of class instruction, and should serve as a basis for further study and preparation for future class assignments. **Students will receive homework assignments Monday through Thursday in mathematics class.** There will not be any homework assignments assigned in Science class, unless it is to prepare for an exam. Assignments are assigned on Monday, at which students will receive their homework for the entire week, so if students need to work ahead as they review previously taught material, they may. Assignments are to be turned in the following day (unless otherwise noted). Students may also use in-class time to complete work or seek assistance. Homework should not take more than 30 minutes to complete, unless it is a project. If it takes longer than 30 minutes, please sign and return the unfinished work. Parents/Guardians are asked to please review their student's homework every night as well as the Weekly Homework Policy sent home this week.

Late Assignments



All homework is to be turned in the next day or submitted via Google Classrooms if absent at home. In fifth grade, one of our goals is developing a sense of responsibility with assignments. If a student comes to mathematics class unprepared with their completed homework, the student will have a conference to work together in solving the issue. If it becomes a pattern and frequent occurrence, family members will be contacted so we may work together to resolve the issue.

CLASSROOM COMMUNICATION

Remind App

I highly recommend all family members download the Remind App or text '@antilles5' to 81010. You can sign up to receive messages directly from the app, as an email, or as a direct text message. On some weekdays at 3:00PM, a text message will be sent out to inform family members of upcoming field trips, special events at school, etc. Pictures and files will also be sent through this application to keep you informed of what is taking place in our classroom of Barquesburgh. Family members may also use this as two-way communication to contact me directly via text message. For more information on how to sign up, please see the handout in your student's 'Take Home' Folder, or sign up using the QR Code above.

Mackelvey.Weebly.com

Please save mackelvey.weebly.com as a bookmark or favorite website on your web browser. Through this website, my goal is to establish an epicenter devoted to family members and students in developing stronger communication between school and home. The links at the top of the page will allow you and your student to access contact information, weekly riddles, and numerous educational resources for the subjects of mathematics and science. Although this website is mainly for your student, it is also a great resource for you to stay connected with our classroom in mathematics/science.

Google Classrooms

Assignments, assessments, and up-to-date grades will be uploaded and posted on Google Classrooms so you can stay informed on your student's academic progress, posted assignments, and upcoming assignments in both mathematics and science. This will be especially useful if students have missing assignments, or if they are absent and have assignments to complete remotely.

Weekly News/Email

Once a week on Fridays, Ms. Vincent and I will be sending home a combined email to update you on current happenings for the entire fifth grade as well as what to expect for the following week through an email.

