

Dear Parents,

2022

Welcome to a new and exciting year at Pleasant Valley School! This year I'm excited about all the new opportunities that we will be able to do this year. Over the summer, I participated in a course that combines Native American Ledger Art with aspects of computer science with circuits and coding. Our class is participating in the first student testing phase of the new curriculum through MSU. If you wish for me to not include your students' final projects in our submission, please let me know.

Our other big opportunity this year is our End of Year field trip. Pre-COVID, I was awarded a grant for a Montana history trip. In early June, we will be headed out on a 3-day overnight trip from Fort Benton to Helena following the Lewis and Clark Trail. Be on the lookout for more information.

This year in library will be working on research skills with a focus on science fair projects. Guidance standards will focus on career paths and social development. If you are interested in specific academic standards (ELA or Math), you are invited to visit MT OPI at <http://opi.mt.gov/Curriculum/Index.html>.

Our first event of the year is our Back-to-School Open House and Barbeque. It will be held on September 9th with the Open House at 5:30 pm and the barbeque to follow at about 6:00 pm. The school will provide burgers and beverages. Please bring a side or desert.

Please review the student information to help assist in a smooth school year. Feel free to call or email me at any time with your concerns or questions. My phone number is 858-2343 and my email address is teacher@pvsmt.org. I am looking forward to a wonderful school year!

Sincerely,

Miss Richelle Sheets

Student Information for 2022-2023

Attendance: Attendance is very important. School is from 8:00 am to 3:45 pm for all grades.

Please see the handbook regarding updates to our attendance policy.

If your child is ill, please error on the side of caution and keep them home. Make-up work can be sent digitally or completed when they feel better and return to school.

Classroom Management: Students will have a communication planner. This planner will be used to communicate between parents and the teacher. Included in the planner will be a list of homework, spelling words, and any notes about the day. Please check planners nightly. This year the students have new planner that also include weekly activities, these are optional.

We will be using Class Dojo this year to award students points for behavior. Please download the Class Dojo app and register as a parent. This will allow you to see what they are earning and you can congratulate them at home as well. This app also messaging capabilities and event notifications. We will not be using SeeSaw this year.

This year's student created rules are:

1. Don't hurt yourself or others.
2. No chatting during work time.
3. Try your Best!
4. Listen to others.
5. Work together.

Schedule: See attached.

Grading: This year we are using standards based grading.

Standards Grades
4 - Student has mastered grade level skills and can apply learning to other situations
3 - Student can demonstrate knowledge or skills independently
2 - Student is developing knowledge or skills with teacher support
1 - Student demonstrates limited understanding or skills with substantial support
N - No Attempt

Homework: I do not assign additional homework. If they have homework, it is work that they did not finish during their specified class time. I do ask that students read for a minimum of 20 min. per night. Please see Red Reading Journals or Book Boxes for more information. Kindergarten reading can be a combination of being read to and practicing their beginning reading skills.

Fourth - Eighth grade will have music homework. They will need to practice their instrument at home. Watch for practice records to sign off on their practice time.

Recess: We have recess every day. Please make sure that your child comes ready to play outside. During the winter, please send your students with appropriate attire to play in the snow (heavy waterproof coat, snow boots, hats, gloves, snow pants).

Birthdays: Birthdays at school are FUN! Some children like to celebrate their special day with a birthday snack. If you would like to send in a treat, please try to let me know in advance. Cupcakes, cookies, and fruit are always popular. It is not mandatory to send in a treat for their birthday. If your students' birthday falls during the summer, they may choose to celebrate on their half birthday or at the end of the school year.

Gym: K-3rd will participate in PE on Tuesday and Thursday. 4th - 8th will participate on Monday and Wednesday. Your child will need to have sneakers or athletic shoes to wear on gym days, these could be the shoes they wear every day. No cowboy boots for PE. Students will also need to wear appropriate clothing. Students may wear gym clothes to school or change before we go over to the gym. PE is before lunch, so older student might wish to have a change of clothes.

Book Orders: I will be sending home Scholastic Reading Club flyers. Last year it was hit and miss on if they sent flyers for each month, however you can find the fliers as well as other books on the Scholastic website. Purchasing books for your child is voluntary. If you choose to order books, slips need to be returned by the 3rd Monday of the month. Checks are written to Scholastic and will be submitted when the class order is placed. If you have internet access, you can order online and pay by credit card. The website is scholastic.com/bookclubs or scholastic.com/newparent and our class code is LC2V8.

Breakfast, Snack and Lunch: Please have students eat breakfast before coming to school. Students need to bring a small snack for snack time and lunch. We have a small refrigerator, microwaves, and toaster oven for students to use. If your student needs to heat their lunch, they need to let me know so we can plan for preparation time. I do keep a small number of snacks on hand for students during the day. Please try to avoid meals that take a lot of prep time as our lunch time is 15 min. for eating and 15 min. for recess.