

Welcome!

Hello Pirate Families!

My name is Ms. Sarah Shoup and the 2023 - 2024 school year will be my sixth year teaching in Platte County. I have spent the first five years at Barry School, all in the Fifth Grade! I have grown up in the Northland and I love all of the exciting things to do in this area. This November, I will be getting married, so we will all have to get used to me having a new name! Most of my time is spent reading, exploring outside, cooking new recipes, drinking lots of coffee, and tending to my (many) plant babies.

I am so excited to have you in my homeroom this year! As a teacher, I believe in providing student choice, making learning fun and relevant, and building life skills that will go far beyond the classroom. In our classroom, we are a family. All students are welcomed and every voice matters. I'm excited to work as a team to make this year amazing!

Schedule

<u>Time</u>	Class	
8:50-9:20	Morning Meeting/Circle Time/Lead	
9:20-10:20	Rotation #1	
10:20-11:10	Rotation #2	
11:10-12:00	Specials	
12:00-12:10	Rotation #2 cont.	
12:10-12:40	Rotation #3	
12:40-1:13	Lunch	
1:15-1:45	Rotation #3 cont.	
1:45-2:25	Small Group Reading (Homerooms)	
2:25-2:55	Writer's Workshop (Homerooms)	
2:55-3:25	Recess	
3:25-3:30	Pack Up	
3:30-3:50	Closing Circle/Dismissal	



Title I School

As a Title I school, Pathfinder receives additional federal funds to support academic success for all students. Part of being a Title I school means building home to school connections and making our commitments to families clear. In an effort to do just that, we will be sending home Title I Home-School Compacts in the coming weeks with all students to be signed and returned. These compacts will outline what Pathfinder will do, what parents will do, and what students will do to ensure success in school. Please sign this when it comes home and get it returned for us! Any guestions about the compact or Title I programming in general can be directed to Dr. Bohn, our Principal (bohna@platteco.k12.mo.us), or Mrs. Miller, our Assistant Principal (millere@platteco.k12.mo.us).







As a building, Pathfinder has established consistent behavior expectations in all areas. Students will be taught what it looks like to be Respectful & Kind, Responsible and Safe at Pathfinder. Keep your eye out for more information regarding these expectations in upcoming Pathfinder Press editions!

Individual Rewards: As part of Class Dojo, students will earn points. Students will be able to cash in their points on a predetermined reward chart. Students will have the option to spend them how they choose or save them for bigger rewards.

Classwide Rewards: Students will earn classwide rewards when we meet our classwide goals. Each week we create a goal that will help everyone in the classroom.





Calm Corner & Buddy Room

A large part of behavior is tied to emotional regulation. When students are dysregulated, it often manifests in unexpected behaviors and it is our job, as educators, to help students implement strategies to get their bodies and minds under control. One of the ways we do this at Pathfinder is through the use of Calm Corners. Every classroom has a Calm Corner. This is a comfortable space in the learning environment where students can go when they are having a big feeling. The purpose of this space is to give students a chance to take a break and get their emotions under control. Oftentimes, students will draw, journal, or practice deep breathing exercises with a fidget in hand while in the Calm Corner. When they are ready to process with an adult and rejoin the learning activity (typically 5-15 minutes is all it takes!), students are able to do so in productive, regulated way!

If a student is unable to regain control in their Classroom Calm Corner, they may be asked to go to a Buddy Room/Desk (typically across the hall) to practice calming strategies in a different environment. When the student is regulated and ready, they will complete a Reflection, talk through what happened with their teacher, and return to their classroom. If your child goes to a Buddy Room, we will send home the Reflection Sheet for a signature!



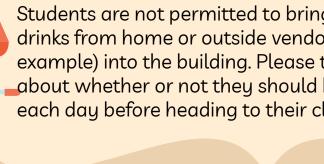


Breakfast

Breakfast will be available from 8:30-8:50 AM in the Pathfinder Cafeteria daily. Students that arrive to the building or the cafeteria past the time of 8:50 AM will bring a grab-and-go breakfast to the classroom. The daily breakfast menu can be found on Nutrislice (through our website) and costs for school breakfast are as follows:

- Elementary Breakfast: \$1.95
- Reduced Price Breakfast: \$0.30

Students are not permitted to bring breakfast food or drinks from home or outside vendors (QuikTrip, for example) into the building. Please talk with your student about whether or not they should be going to breakfast each day before heading to their classrooms!







Snacks, Water, & Allergies

I5th Grade will have snack this year. Each student will need to bring in a healthy, individual sized snack. All snacks must be peanut/tree nut free (as they will be eaten in classrooms). Please pack your child something that is minimally disruptive to the learning environment and (ideally) something they can open themselves.

Students may always have a water bottle with them in the classroom. Pathfinder is equipped with several bottle refill stations throughout the building. Please note that sodas, juices, sports drinks, etc. are not permitted due to the sugar/artificial dye's effects on our carpet when spills occur. Just water, please!





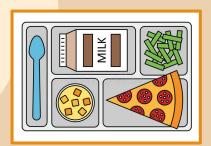


Each day, students will have a 25 minute lunch in the Pathfinder Cafeteria. Each morning students will be asked to select from the following: Home Lunch, Salad, Hot Lunch Choice 1, or Hot Lunch Choice 2. The daily lunch menu can be found on Nutrislice (through our website) and costs for school lunch are as follows:

- Elementary Lunch: \$2.70
- Reduced Price Lunch: \$0.40

Students that bring a home lunch may bring items that contain peanuts or tree nuts. We will have a separate allergy table for each classroom grouping to avoid any issues. If you are sending your child with a home lunch, please help us ensure an efficient and positive experience by double checking that the items included are largely items that your student can open independently.





Recess Temperature Guidelines

The Platte County R-3 School District has established best practices regarding extremely high or low temperatures as these relate to outdoor and indoor recess. The guidelines are:

- Indoor Recess will be held when the temperature or heat index is above 95 degrees Fahrenheit
- Indoor Recess will be held when the temperature or wind chill is below 20 degrees Fahrenheit





Transportation Changes

All transportation changes need to be made by calling the office (816-436-6670). We will not take your child's word for any transportation change. All changes need to be made prior to 3:00 each day.





Volunteers

Volunteering will vary depending on the time of year we are in. I am always welcome to have an extra hand when we complete certain projects, copies to run off or lamination to cut. If you are interested in volunteering, please let me know and I will keep it noted to contact you when the time comes.



Birthday Treats & Celebrations

We believe that birthdays are an important time in a child's life, and Pathfinder students will receive a Birthday Book in celebration of their special day. However, for several reasons including increased food allergies, preservation of the instructional day, and student equality, students are not allowed to bring treats from home or have flowers/balloons or other items delivered to the classroom for birthdays, going-away parties, or other personal events. If a student receives a delivery at school, the student will be notified to come to the office to view the item. Parents will be responsible for transporting the item home. Birthday party invitations may only be distributed if invitations are given to every student in the class.





Communication

Phone: 816-436-6670 ext. 3244

Email: shoups@platteco.k12.mo.us

The 5th grade team will sending home a weekly Smore on Fridays! Please be on the lookout this newsletter for updates regarding learning targets, fun things going on, and upcoming important dates.

All past newsletters and any pictures will be located on the Class Dojo, which is always linked in the newsletter.





Text Notifications

The District uses text messaging and automated phone calls to notify parents of upcoming events and days off, school closings due to weather, and during emergency situations. Newly enrolled families will automatically receive an opt-in message from 67587. If you missed it, simply text "Yes" to 67587 to receive text messages.



