



Letter from the Teacher

Chris Goede

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Dear 5th Grade Families,

Welcome to the new school year! I am excited to be back at Tom McCall Elementary and share in the fifth grade education of your child. It is my goal to inspire students to be curious about the world around them and to encourage them to believe in the power of the word “Yet”. Just because something might be challenging, it doesn’t mean they simply “can’t” do it. I hope to help students develop a growth mindset in which they strive to become better and progress throughout the school year.

This will be my second year teaching 5th grade at Tom McCall Elementary and my thirteenth year teaching elementary school in Oregon. My family and I moved to the area last year from Portland. We have also lived in Japan and I grew up in Iowa. My family likes to spend a lot of time outdoors doing activities like snowboarding, skateboarding, and camping.

Here are a few reminders and some basic classroom information to share:

- Tomorrow (August 28th) there is an informal school supply drop-off/meet the teacher opportunity from 2:45 - 3:30 pm. I hope to see you then!
- The 1st day of school is Tuesday, Sept. 4th.
- Doors open for breakfast at 8:35am, first bell is at 8:55am, and the tardy bell rings at 9am. We get out at 3:35pm everyday except Wednesday, which is at 2:35pm.
- Some reminders from our Transportation Department:
 - If it can not fit in a backpack it can’t ride the bus. This includes projects, balloons, etc.
 - If you want your child to ride a different bus home, or get off at a different stop, requests for a Bus Pass must be submitted to the Transportation Dept. 5 days prior.
- Snack time will bridge the gap between breakfast and lunch. Things like granola bars, fruit, and vegetables are encouraged. Basically, no soda or candy please. I would also like to provide snacks to kids who can’t or forget to bring their own, so please donate snack items if you can!
- I encourage students to bring a reusable water bottle to help keep their minds and bodies hydrated.
- Students will be required to take *Homework Folders* home and bring them back to school daily that I will create and pass out on the first week. For the first few weeks, only Math homework (about twice a week) and a weekly Reading Log will come home in their *Homework Folders*. Other communication such as newsletters, papers from the office, etc. will be sent home periodically in the *Homework Folders*, so please check them daily. More information will come home about the *Homework Folders* later.
- I use Class Dojo for communication. I have your class codes for the app (iOS and Android) and will be sending them home the first week of school.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me or stop in. The class is always open to parents and volunteers!

Sincerely,

Chris Goede (pronounced GOOD - ah)