

Dear Grade 5 Families,

We are thrilled to have your child in our co-taught Grade 5 class this year! We would like to introduce ourselves to you and tell you a little bit about what we will be doing in class.



Ms. Teixeira has been working with BPS for 18 years. She has worked very closely with students from the elementary level including building relationships with families and the community of Boston. She comes to the Roger Clap School as a new member bringing along with her a strong passion for teaching, particularly for the community where she was born and raised. She is super excited to work with your student this year!

Celeste McGhee will be a learning specialist with the 5th grade team. She has taught for over twenty years in a wide variety of schools and roles. Most recently, she taught sixth-grade math and served as a math interventionist for grades K-5 in Cambridge Public Schools. Her passion is helping students develop into joyful, confident, independent learners through thoughtful collaboration with co-educators to build learning communities that know success comes through persistence, perseverance, and partnership. The two mottos that encapsulate her vision for classrooms are—*You are stronger, braver, and smarter than you think* and *Together, we can do hard things*. Some of her favorite things are math games and puzzles, reading and journaling, and spending time with my three (all-grown-up) sons.



Mr. Akers has been working in Boston Public Schools for several years. He is excited to work with the 5th grade students this year!!!

Our class is co-taught by multiple adults, Ms. Teixeira, Mr. Akers, and Ms. McGhee. That means we are all responsible for planning, teaching, and assessing learning. Co-teaching has been adopted by many BPS schools and is proven effective as two professionals collaborate to plan lessons that are engaging and informative. Having multiple teachers in the same classroom looks different depending on the activity we're working on in class and the needs of the students. Sometimes we will split the class into two groups with each teacher teaching one of the groups; this allows for a smaller teacher-to-student ratio for more complex topics. Occasionally, one teacher will pull a small group aside for additional-support instruction while the other teacher assists students with an extension assignment. This way, students receive additional support when needed or they receive meaningful extension activities led by a teacher instead of busywork to complete independently at their desk.

Students will be learning a lot this year! In ELA we will read stories about human rights and the biodiversity of the rainforest. Students will build fluency and problem solving skills with Illustrative Mathematics. In history, students will explore early colonization and the growth of colonies. In science, students will learn about the cycle of matter and energy in healthy ecosystems.

Please don't hesitate to call or email us at any time. We look forward to a successful school year.

In partnership,

Ms. Teixeira, Teacher

Mr. Akers, Paraprofessional

Ms. McGhee, Learning Specialist