



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How do I contact Mrs. Black?

My planning time is daily from 8:30-9:15 a.m.

My contact information is . . . Elana Black

PH: (810) 225-5252

elblack@pinckneypirates.org

2. My child said that he did nothing in class today. Is that true?

No, we learned all kinds of fun things in class today, and you can see what your child is doing each day in class by viewing my agenda which is found under the Parent tab on the Pathfinder home page.

3. How will I know if homework has been assigned?

On my agenda, I will indicate whether there is homework and the day it is due. If no due date is posted, it is due the next day.

MATH: The purpose of homework is for your child to review and practice the new math content. I don't expect him to have mastered the new content in 50 minutes. So math homework is assigned and reviewed in class. Then it is recorded in MiStar as a "5" for completing and correcting the work and a "0" for incomplete.

SCIENCE: Homework is rarely given, but if your child has science homework, it is because it wasn't finished in class or they are working on a project. All assignments will be kept in a binder and can be used to study for assessments.

4. How will I know if my child turned in his homework?

Our district uses MiStar for recording and reporting grades. Homework is 20% of the overall grade and tests are 80% of the overall grade. I will send you an email on the days your child has not turned in their work. However, if you do not have an email or have questions regarding your child's progress in math or science, please call or email me.

5. Why don't you grade homework?

I don't grade homework because the overall class grade should answer the question: "Did the student learn and achieve the learning targets or standards?"; A summative assessment would answer this question, and not homework. Homework is the part of the learning journey that informs the student, the parent and the teacher of the progress the student has made towards the learning target or standard.

6. Why does my child need a 1-inch binder?

Students can keep their notes, work and assessments in their binders so that you and your child can view his progress of the learning targets or standards at anytime and use this information to prepare for any future assessments.

7. My child says that you hate him and are deliberately failing him because you hate him. Is this true?

Stop! Why are you asking this question? Do you really think that this is true? Often students don't want to disappoint their parents; and when they earn a low score, it is easy to blame the teacher. Please know that I love teaching! Teaching middle school students are challenging because of the constant drama, the BO and all the perfumes and AXE spray used to try to cover it up and the numbers and the words that I, the teacher, avoid saying in class because they will giggle every time. However, while I am spending 180 days with these weird, smelly, hormone-driven creatures in tennis shoes, I will also have a chance to learn their fears (everything) and their hopes, their dreams and what makes them laugh. Chances are I will also witness at least one of their top ten most embarrassing moments. I love teaching because they make an impression in my life, and I have an opportunity to make a difference in their lives!

8. My child is struggling in math. What can I do?

Math can be a challenging subject to learn. However, please do not say to your child that "I don't know how to do this new math" or "I was never good at math". It will unconsciously give your child the idea that he doesn't need to learn this math because he views you as a successful person "who was never good at this **new** math. So why should he have to learn it?" Instead please encourage your child to persevere through the homework problems and to ask questions in class. In addition, I am available to work with your child before and after school; and you can contact the Pathfinder Family Resource Center to ask for a list of available tutors.

Here is an excellent article that explains how you can help your child in school: [Important: The Undeniable Link between Rescuing and Responsibility – What Parents Need to Know This School Year | Parent Toolkit Blog](http://www.parenttoolkit.com/index.cfm?objectid=86585700-41C4-11E5BDFB0050569A5318)

<http://www.parenttoolkit.com/index.cfm?objectid=86585700-41C4-11E5BDFB0050569A5318>

9. We are going on vacation. How will my child get his work?

When you know in advance that your child will be missing several days of school, you can contact the office; and they will have your child give a form to each teacher to explain the work he will need to do during his absence. Assignments are never counted late in math and science class, and they are not recorded for a grade in MiStar. However, it is important that your child does the work so he is informed and prepared for any summative assessment.

10. Will MSU beat Michigan again?

Yes! Without a doubt, the MSU Spartans are going to tear those ugly Wolverines to pieces. For this reason, I am collecting boxes of tissue so that I can pass it out to all those weeping Wolverine fans after the football and basketball game against MSU. The tissues will also be available at anytime a student needs one.

