

Sandman Consolidated School
838 Seashore Road
Cape May, NJ 08204
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LOWER TOWNSHIP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT
905 SEASHORE ROAD
CAPE MAY, NEW JERSEY 08204

Memorial School
2600 Bayshore Road
Villas, NJ 08251
Telephone: (609) 884-9430
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Maud Abrams School
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Carl T. Mitnick School
905 Seashore Road
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Telephone: (609) 884-9470
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Dear Families,

Welcome to Reading Workshop. We are excited to share the experience of your child's journey with you by taking you on a tour of the workshop experience. Reading Workshop is an approach to the teaching of reading that helps children become lifelong, avid, and expert readers.

In Reading Workshop, class usually begins with a minilesson, in which the teacher shares a reading strategy that will help children become more powerful readers. Then children go off to read - and to work on their reading. Sometimes they are reading partner or book club books, other times they are reading independent books. Very young readers will read two or three books during a single workshop. Older readers will read one book over several days or a week. While the children read, the teacher works with small groups or confers with individual readers.

The independent reading time of the workshop is the heart of the workshop. This is where most of the "magic" happens. Your child, from the first day of school, is set up to be independent during the workshop. During independent work time, students pull from the repertoire of strategies that they have learned in workshop.

Your child will mostly read books from the classroom library and the school library. They'll bring these books home every day to read as well. The children will be interested in a huge variety of books. Some will love sports books, others will love books about animals, others will love adventure stories. Let your child's reading teacher know if your child has special interests, and we'll do our best to encourage those interests through reading.

Our reading curriculum is divided into units of study. A unit of study focuses on a set of reading skills. For instance, in a mystery book club unit, children not only read mysteries, they learn to read more closely, thinking hard about small details that authors lay out as clues.

Our goal is for children to read as much as possible, and for all your children to learn to love reading. Let me know if for some reason reading feels hard, and we'll work together to support your child.

All the best,

Sarah Bowman

Sarah Bowman, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction

cc: Jeff Samaniego, Superintendent

Van Cathcart, Principal

Christina Granero, Supervisor of Academic Achievement

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Dear Sandman Families,

Reading is one of the most important skills your child will develop during their school years. Our district adopted the Units of Study in Reading which follows a reading workshop structure. Reading Workshop is an approach to the teaching of reading that helps children become lifelong, avid, and expert readers. Your child will have opportunities to choose his or her own books for independent reading. Our teachers will work to help all students find a book that they will enjoy and will help them continue to grow as readers.

Each classroom, as well as our Media Center maintains a large library of books. We work hard to keep our classroom libraries/Media Center updated and full of books that are interesting, challenging, and accommodating for all learners. We are sensitive to ensuring that there is appropriate material in our classroom libraries, but you and I may define the word “appropriate” in different ways. Because of this, I ask you to be aware of what your child is reading, so you may approve of the content. Your participation is essential in guiding your child to appropriate and challenging material.

If you would have any concerns about a book that your child is reading please contact the homeroom teacher.

Sincerely,

Van Cathcart

Van Cathcart, Principal

cc: Jeff Samaniego, Superintendent

Sabina Muller, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction

Sarah Bowman, Supervisor of Academic Achievement