

# PTO Newsletter

Parents - Teachers - Students



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 "State Street PTO" &  
 "State Street Elementary  
 School"



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**YOU made PTO thrive  
 in November!  
 THANK YOU!!!**

## A Month Full of ThanksGIVING

### Giving Back to Our State Street Family & Community

We are thankful for our State Street Family - teachers, staff, students, families and the surrounding community. To show our appreciation, PTO planned several "give back" events throughout the month of November and were overwhelmed by the response. Because of YOUR support, PTO was able to donate 5 boxes of food to the We Care Food Pantry in Baden, organize & sponsor a Used Book Sale where families could purchase books for only \$0.25 and provide a wide variety of free indoor recess items to teachers for their classrooms. Thank you to everyone who donated their time and resources to make these events possible!

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## Mobile Science Lab

### An Interactive Field Trip Style Experience

We welcomed the "Mobile Agriculture Education Science Lab" to State Street Elementary on November 29th! The 40-foot mobile classroom stayed at State Street for 3 days and provided interactive STEM-based science experiments and lessons to our students. "Each lesson on the Mobile Ag Lab focuses on increasing student knowledge on the importance of agriculture and its impact on their daily lives." Checkout more information here: <https://pfbfriends.com/ag-lab/>



## Fundraisers

### Thank You for Your Support!

For the month of November, PTO partnered with a local business - Moe's Wexford. Each taco kit purchase helped both PTO and Moe's!

This fundraiser was specifically planned for November to help relieve the burden of cooking during the week of Thanksgiving. We sold a total of 42 taco kits, raising \$370 that will help pay for field trips, field day, assemblies and more!



## Treasurer's Corner

### Finance Update: October

It was a slower month finance wise, as PTO is taking a break from fundraising during the holiday season. We look forward to FUNdraising again in January!

#### **Summary of November Income:**

- Moe's Taco Kits - \$370
- Vendor Rentals for Santa Shop - \$385
- Fall Spirit Wear Fundraiser - \$387

#### **Summary of November Expenses:**

In addition to used books and indoor recess items, YOUR support allowed PTO to give-back about \$1,200 to our students! These funds paid for a 3-day mobile science lab experience for PreK - 5th Grade students.

**STATE STREET PTO  
THRIVES BECAUSE OF YOU!**

**THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!**



We'd like to give a big, beautiful "THANK YOU" to our donators, volunteers, teachers/ staff, vendors & community groups who helped make PTO possible in November!

### **Volunteers**

- Beverly Cobern
- Kim Fabrizio
- Daniel Meunier
- RaeAnne Smedley
- The Used Book Sale could not have happened without the help of our fabulous:
  - Custodians
  - Principal Jo Ann Hoover
  - Student Council Members
  - State Street Family

### **Vendors & Community Groups**

- **Moe's Wexford** - thank you for partnering with us for our November fundraiser. We wish your small, locally owned business much success!
- **Red Wing Shoes Cranberry Twp.** - thank you for donating over 10 large boxes to collect book, indoor recess and food donations throughout the month of November. We wish your small, locally owned business much success!
- **We Care Food Pantry of Baden** - thank you for all that you do for our community and families in-need!

# Meet Our First Grade Teacher

## Mrs. Gretchen Clinger

Mrs. Clinger has spent most of her life in Western Pennsylvania and enjoys rooting for Pittsburgh sports teams - Go Penguins and Steelers! She grew-up in New Brighton and attended Clarion University where she received a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and Special Education, as well as a master's degree in Curriculum Instruction and Design.

After college, Mrs. Clinger returned to the North Sewickley area where she currently lives with her husband and two daughters, who keep her busy when she is not at school! She has taught in the area for 17 years: 3 years at Rochester Elementary School, 3 years at Ambridge Area Middle School and 11 years of first grade at State Street Elementary School. Mrs. Clinger loves teaching 1st graders because it is rewarding to watch students make so much academic growth throughout the year. Also, most 1st graders love school!

Her favorite part of the school year is Christmas! By December, the students are settled into a good classroom routine and are excited for the holiday. The school is busy with the hustle & bustle of holiday festivities and first grade does "Christmas Around the World".

If Mrs. Clinger wasn't teaching, she'd most likely be a pharmacist... but we sure are glad that she chose teaching! Thank you for sharing your love of reading with our first graders and taking them on lots of reading adventures. Most of all, thank you for using your creativity to make learning so much FUN!



**Mrs. Gretchen Clinger**  
1st Grade Teacher  
State Street Elementary School

**Contact Information:**  
724-266-2833 ext. 4260  
gclinger@ambridge.k12.pa.us

- **Favorite Color:** Purple
- **Favorite Food:** Spaghetti
- **Favorite Drink:** Coffee
- **Favorite Snack & Sweet-Treat:** Popcorn
- **Favorite Hobby:** Outside activities, hiking & boating
- **Favorite Author:** Colleen Hoover (currently)
- **Favorite Quote:** Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.

# Meet Our First Grade Teacher

## Ms. Jessica Niemeier

Ms. Niemeier dreamt of being a teacher since the young age of five. Both of her parents were teachers, so she grew up knowing that teaching was her true calling. Ms. Niemeier grew up in Monaca, PA where she graduated valedictorian of her class with a 4.2 GPA. After high school, she played basketball at LaRoche College while earning a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and Early Childhood Development with minors in Psychology and Special Education. In the first few years of teaching, Ms. Niemeier attended night classes at Penn State University in order to earn a Master's Degree in Teaching and Writing Curriculum.

After college, Ms. Niemeier was hired by the Ambridge Area School District and is currently in her 19th year teaching for the district. Her career began as a learning support teacher at State Street Elementary. She then taught 6th grade at Economy Elementary for 10 years and followed 6th grade to the Middle School where she taught ELA for 2 years. Currently, Ms. Niemeier is in her 3rd year teaching 1st grade at State Street Elementary and is also a member of the Leadership Committee. Prior roles include: Child Study Team at Economy Elementary, 6th Grade Department Head, After-School Tutoring and Assistant Girls Varsity Basketball Coach.

Her favorite part of teaching 1st grade is teaching students how to read! She loves watching their growth throughout the year and seeing the students smile with pride and accomplishment as they fluently read their first book. Watching students learn and grow (academically and behaviorally) while having fun is the BEST! We are so thankful Ms. Niemeier shares her love of teaching and reading with our school and students!



**Ms. Jessica Niemeier**  
1st Grade Teacher  
State Street Elementary School

**Contact Information:**  
724-266-2833 ext. 4206  
jniemeier@ambridge.k12.pa.us

- **Favorite Color:** Hot Pink
- **Favorite Food:** Sushi/Thai
- **Favorite Drink:** Starbucks
- **Favorite Snack & Sweet-Treat:** Salt & Vinegar Almonds / Dark Chocolate with Peanut Butter
- **Favorite Hobby:** Fitness (running, lifting weights, basketball)
- **Favorite Author:** Shell Silverstein
- **Favorite Quote:** Hard work pays off.