

Dear Parents and Guardians,

All 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students at Cedar Mill Elementary can explore the world through a program called The Passport Club. This is an enrichment program, which the Cedar Mill PTC funds and supports. Each child receives a passport, chooses an individual level of study and collects “stamps” for the passport as she/he learns some or all of the world’s countries over the course of the school year.

How does the program work? Each month a study map will come home with your student. Your student then studies the map at home up to whatever level she/he would like to test for. On test day, teachers bring their classes to the cafeteria where each student is tested by a trained volunteer. For Levels 1 through 4, the volunteer will say the name of the country and the student will need to identify its location on the map. For Level 5, the volunteer will say the name of the country and the student will need to be able to recite its capital with proper pronunciation.

What if my student didn’t get a map or had one but can’t find it? All study maps are also available online anytime! To access the online study maps, visit <https://passportclubonline.com/online-student-study-maps>, select the month to be studied and use our school’s password: **HelloWorld**

Want more information? Please see The Passport Club website at www.passportclubonline.com to learn more about the program and access resources to support your child at home. The Cedar Mill PTC also has a website for Passport Club that can be found on the “Enrichment” page or at <https://cedarmillptc.org/passport-club/>

What are the testing dates for the 2019-2020 school year? Testing happens one Friday each month, (except for the weeks before Winter and Spring Breaks when they are on Thursday) in the afternoon. Here are this year’s dates:

Month	Passport Test Day
September	Friday, October 4th (NEW DATE)
October	Friday, October 25th
November	Friday, November 22nd
December	Thursday, December 19th
January	Friday, January 31st
February	Friday, February 28th
March	Thursday, March 19th
April	Friday, April 17th
May	Friday, May 22nd

I want to volunteer. How do I sign up? Volunteers play a vital role in the success of The Passport Club. Please visit www.myvolunteerpage.com to view volunteer opportunities and sign up to help. We will need 10 passport check testers for each check day. No prior experience is necessary, and a brief instruction will be provided for volunteers at the start of the volunteer shift. If you are not available to volunteer on check days, but are still interested in helping, please contact the coordinator directly. There may be other opportunities to help.

Passport Club Coordinator: Kristi Nelson klknelson@gmail.com

THE PASSPORT CLUB LEVEL EXPLANATIONS

LEVEL ONE: This is an “introductory level” for any student who wants to focus on five countries per month. Most of the **LEVEL ONE** countries are large and fairly well known or are significant in some way such as Panama for the canal. Students will learn a total of 40 countries by year’s end, plus the seven continents learned in September. All students are encouraged to participate in at least **LEVEL ONE** of The Passport Club.

LEVEL TWO: This “intermediate level” involves ten countries per month. **LEVEL TWO** teaches the location of 80 countries plus the seven continents and three great oceans.

LEVEL THREE: This “advanced intermediate level” involves fifteen countries per month, (except September and December), or 115 countries by year’s end. It is a good “compromise level,” and will have some of the lesser known countries and island groupings. It also includes the continents, plus four oceans, two seas, the Equator and the Prime Meridian. It is most often used in third grade classrooms.

LEVEL FOUR: At this challenging “expert level,” students will learn all the independent nations over the course of the year. Twenty-five countries are studied each month (with the exception of September and December). In addition, students learn the continents, oceans, seas, bays, gulfs, Oceania, the Equator and the Prime Meridian.

LEVEL FIVE: At this very challenging level students learn all the countries in **LEVELS ONE** through **FOUR**, plus the locations and pronunciations of the corresponding capital cities for all countries in **LEVEL ONE**. They also learn major deserts and mountain ranges. On test day, **students will be expected to recite the capital city to the corresponding country with proper pronunciation** (except for September where the student will be learning major deserts and mountain ranges and only needs to identify their location on a map.)