

WELCOME

I would like to welcome you to a new school year. I am very excited about the year ahead and all that we will accomplish together. I know that with your help this will be a successful year. Together we can do so much more.

TEACHING STYLE/HOMEWORK

Our classroom is a multi-age room that will have lots of group work and differentiated instruction. Your child is going to be asked to look at his/her own work and not what others are doing. In order for me to meet the needs of all students, I will incorporate all learning styles in the room and give the students' choice in many of their assignments. For example, our homework each week will be based on points and choice. Your child will be given Spelling words, vocabulary words, and English and Math objectives each week. They will then have the rest of the week to complete their homework assignments. They will have a set of activities worth different points to choose from. By the end of the week they must have a total of 15 points. This will be 5 points in Spelling/Vocabulary, 5 points in English and 5 points in Math. The goal is for them to complete the homework, but pick the activities they like best. Homework will always be due on Friday, unless we are out of school. In that case it will be due the last school day of the week.

ACCELERATED READING/ MATH

Another way that I plan to work with your child's individual needs is through Accelerated Reading and Accelerated Math. These two programs allow students to grow and learn at their own pace. This year I will assign goals for AR based on your child's reading level. Each child may have a different goal and that is okay. Research shows that goal setting improves reading achievement. My goal is for your child to become a stronger and more active reader. I will reward them greatly for their reading accomplishments. In order to assure that each child has a fair and honest chance at the AR program, you and your child will be asked to sign an AR code of conduct contract. This just makes everyone aware of how the program is designed to work.

AM is a new program for me that I am very excited about our students being able to use. This Math program will aid me in evaluating your child in Math. It will not take away from one-on-one teaching. I plan to use the program as a supplement to our already put together curriculum. This being my first year to have AM, I plan to take it slow and learn along the way. I know that you will also see how great both programs are when used correctly.

STOPLIGHT BEHAVIOR SYSTEM

Another very important factor in a good cooperative classroom is behavior management. This year I will be using the Stoplight Behavior System. We will develop a set of class rules within the first week of school. These rules will be posted and the students will be asked to follow them at all times throughout the building. The behavior chart has a system of four cards: green, yellow, orange and red. Each day your child will start on green. If a rule is broken then they go to yellow. If another rule is broken they go to orange and fill out a behavior plan. This plan, written by the child, will help prevent future inappropriate behaviors from happening. After a child has filled out the plan, it will then go home and be signed by the parents. If a child continues a behavior

during the same day or a severe discipline problem occurs, the red card will be pulled. At this time your child will be taken to the office. As a class we will set up the rules and boundary lines for our room. Students will be rewarded for good behavior and the class will have many opportunities to earn fun days and dress up days throughout the year.

TAKE HOME FOLDERS

Each Monday your child will receive a take home folder. In this folder you will find work that has been done in class and during centers. All papers that are stamped "Please sign and Returned" must be returned the following day. All other papers in the folder are to be taken out and left at home.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND FEES

I am aware of how hard it is buying supplies this time of year. I want you to know that both the Weekly Reader and Scholastic News will count as weekly quiz grades. Both of these are great programs and your money is being well spent. The students learn so much from both of these weekly newsletters.

Using these publications, your child will read around 32 newsletters throughout the year.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDERS

Each month you will receive a book order form from Scholastic. These forms give the best prices in the latest books for children. The best way to encourage them to read is to order books. Each time you order points build up for our classroom. With those points I order books for the classroom library and class sets for us to read together. I cannot tell you enough how important these orders are and would love to show you the books that I have been able to order for our classroom. The orders are usually due around the end of the month. This year Scholastic is offering parents the option to order online. You will be able to order anytime that month and it will go to our classroom account. I will send you more information about this new option later.

I know that we will have a great year. Please stay very involved with your child's schoolwork and encourage them to read. You need to check your child's planner for dates of events and assignments. Again, I look forward to the year ahead and feel free to call me or set up a conference if you have any questions.