



With Regards, Mrs. Rathbone

August 24, 2009

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to have your child in my class this year. I wanted to take this time to introduce myself and give you an overview of my expectations, discipline plan, and a few other topics. This will be my twelfth year of teaching. I taught for 6 years (1 in Portsmouth, Va. and 5 at A.G. Richardson-4th, 5th, & 6th grade Math, and 2 years in 6th grade). I was fortunate enough to then spend 7 years at home with our children. This will be my sixth year teaching 2nd grade. We have 3 children, 1 in the Culpeper Middle School, and 2 at Culpeper County High School. It has been a thrill and a success to teach and I look forward to sharing a successful year with you.

Expectations

I expect for every student to do his/her best. It is important that they allow other students to do the same. I give ample time for classwork to be completed. If a child chooses not to use his/her time wisely, he/she will complete it either during part of the recess time or for homework. I give number grades on all graded assignments. **If you see a grade boxed in a square, that assignment should be redone, turned back in, and will be regraded.** Please take the time to look for these assignments and review the skill with your child. Homework will be assigned every night and is expected to take 15-25 minutes. Please initial the planner to show that you were aware of the assignments. On most mornings, the student will earn a homework ticket if all assignments were completed neatly by the student. Fridays we have ticket drawings where the students will have a chance to be rewarded with candy, pencils, erasers, stickers, trinkets or a homework coupon. The coupon can be saved and redeemed for an entire night's homework. I have given a homework coupon and a ticket for the student to start the year with. You can find it in the front pocket of the planner.

Discipline Plan

My two classroom rules are "Respect everybody and everything." and "Follow directions the first time they are given." I feel as though these rules cover every other rule that is set. When the rules are not followed, I use a chart in class with names that all start on green, and if needed will rise to yellow (warning), orange (5 minutes off recess), and red (10 minutes off recess and a note or phone call home). Please know that your child will be given many reminders before moving their name. Later I will be rewarding those students whose names did not move the entire week with lunch in class or outside with me. I also have a marble jar for the whole class to work on. Examples of times to earn marbles include silence in the hall, compliments by other school personnel, good behavior in resource classes and times of making me proud. When the marble jar is full the students will enjoy an activity or treat that they are able to vote on before filling the jar.

A Few More Things

Lunch money-please send it in an envelope with your child's name, lunch number, my name and the amount written on the envelope. Remember you can specify how you want the money spent. (Lunch only, no snacks, Breakfast and Lunch, snacks only with salad...) It is my rule that the child choose at least one fruit or juice, and that they leave the line with at least 3 food items and their milk, not including extra snacks. I want your child to eat in a healthy way and I want you to get what you pay for. Too many times, a child will choose pizza only. Please support me on this.

Reading-like last year the children will be grouped by their reading ability and will switch to a different class to get reading instruction more tailored to their needs. The teacher will meet with her leveled reading group for two hours for Reading, Grammar, Writing, and Spelling. We are happy to continue this and to seeing progress for all students in the area of Language Arts!

Book Orders-when you order books from Troll, Lucky, Scholastic or any other book order form you may pay by cash or write **ONE** check to Scholastic to pay for all books ordered. Please feel free to send back any baggie so I can send the books home in it.

Volunteers-I have learned that I cannot survive without the help of volunteers. Your help is truly appreciated at school, from home, in any capacity. Before I start using volunteers in the classroom, I would like for the students to become familiar with my routine. I will begin to use volunteers at the end of September.

Contact Me- I am easily available after school on most Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Please email, send an old fashioned note, or call anytime. I will get back to you in a timely fashion. I am best at responding to emails.

Resource Classes- we have a seven day rotating schedule. That means that every day of the week will not be the same from week to week. Look in the planner for the day's number. Keep the "Daily Schedule" posted on your refrigerator to see which resource we attend on that numbered day. Make sure tennis shoes are worn on P.E. days and library books come on Library days

Again I am so excited to spend this year with your child. I look forward to getting to know you better and I hope I can make it an educational and memorable year for your child. Thanks for giving me the opportunity to work with him/her!

With Regards, Beth Rathbone
erathbone@culpeperschools.org
937-7361

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