

July 13, 2018

Dear Parents and Families,

Welcome back to school! It is a pleasure to be your child's teacher. I hope this year will be a fun and exciting adventure for all. This letter is to inform you of my teaching philosophy and my expectations for the coming school year.

I believe the purpose of education is to prepare students to be successful, contributing members of society. This is achieved through instilling a love of learning in all students, and teaching them how to find and apply new knowledge. I will help each student identify, develop, and gain new and existing talents and abilities, which they will use to learn and grow. Children are naturally curious, imaginative, and creative; each child has something unique to offer. I strive to include this individuality in our everyday classroom to enrich the education of all my students. Together our class will gain confidence in these skills and use them to guide our learning this year, and throughout their lives. I believe the best classrooms are ones where there is a feeling of welcome, safety, respect, and collaboration. It is impossible for students to thrive academically if they do not have these things. Our classroom will be a community in which all of these traits will exist.

I know, through research and experience, that children learn best through hands-on learning and exploration; some of you might refer to this as play. I know that purposeful play is a very valuable educational tool, and a necessary part of your child's life. This hands-on approach to learning is what you will see taking place in our classroom, often in the form of learning centers. Each student has individual needs, learning styles, and gifts to contribute to our class, all of which will be valued and accepted.

My role as a teacher is to guide students to discover new knowledge, create a safe learning environment, and encourage hard work. One of my hopes as an educator is to share my passion for learning with my students. It is my goal to help each student meet their fullest potential in all areas. I will do this by providing developmentally appropriate activities, leveled learning as appropriate for those who learn at a different pace, and allowing your child to discover knowledge in the way they learn best. I will use frequent assessments, both formal and informal, to help assess and guide our curriculum and lead the class into deeper more meaningful education.

This year your student will be responsible to take an active role in their learning. They are expected to participate, be hard workers, do their personal best, and be accepting of all. They will be encouraged to express themselves, explore, and challenge the ideas that are presented, the materials provided, and other students, and teachers' ideas.

The parent's role is vital for student's academic success. I believe education is partnership between parents, teachers, students, and schools. Without this partnership successful learning cannot take place. I will communicate to you through Class Dojo, conferences, phone calls, e-mails, and letters home. Your support and input is respected and valued.

I hope that together we will create a wonderful year full of learning and fun. We will all be held to high expectations we will work hard, learn, grow, and make the best of our situations, and of course have lots of fun in the process.

Sincerely,

Lisa Cuestas