

July 27, 2006

Dear Parents,

I am sure many of you are singing, "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year." I know I am! I am excited for this school year to start. This is going to be a busy year with lots of learning for your child and for me. I am sending this letter to tell you a few of my expectations and pet peeves.

Important Notice: I will be hosting a Back to School Night in my room on Thursday, August 3rd. I will have three 15 minute sessions; one starting at 6:30 p.m., the others following at 6:50 and 7:10. Hopefully you will be able to make it. I will be covering curriculum, homework, and frequently asked questions.

"Is there going to be any homework?" That seems to be the first question students ask. The answer is YES! Your child will have homework almost every night. They should spend time each and every night reading. The requirements for outside reading will be sent home at the beginning of each trimester. (First trimester requirements were sent home yesterday. Additional copies will be available at Back to School Night) I expect students to study spelling, vocabulary, daily oral language, daily analogies, and math facts throughout the week. Students will also have Discovery Quest and math problem solving weekly. In addition to this, any work not finished in class is homework. Please help your child find a place to do homework each night.

"I didn't finish my assignment, can I turn it in late?" The answer is NO! Now that your child is in the upper grades, she/he is old enough to be responsible to finish things on time. I think it is extremely important for students to accept responsibility and develop good work habits and time management habits. To help them accomplish this I will go with the policy that work is due when it is due. Please remember, if your child misses school due to an excused absence she/he will have time to make up the work. Please encourage your child to stay caught up on assignments. I will be sending home daily assignment sheets to help you keep tabs on what we are doing. Please sign these on Thursday evening and send back to school on Friday--this is one way to keep our communication lines open.

"Will I miss anything if I stay home from school? Will I miss anything if I wander into class 5 to 10 minutes late?" The answer is YES and YES! What your child learns at school greatly depends on them being at school. While assignments can be made up, it is nearly impossible to make up discussions, lectures, group work, and science labs. It is important that your child comes to school on time. Students have tasks to do the minute the bell rings. The early morning work needs to be completed in class as it

is corrected the same day. These assignments will also be the basis for many of the end of week tests.

“Does my child need any special supplies?” The answer is SORT OF. I will be providing community crayons, colored pencils, rulers, and scissors. If your child would like their own supplies that would be fine. Some students like to have their own package of markers for various art assignments. I would like everything to fit in the small size school box. One thing I would like every student to have is a composition notebook—you can find these on sale at Wal-Mart right now for \$.50.

“Do I need anything donated for the class?” The answer is a definite YES! The first thing I would love donated is TIME! If you can help here at school I would love it. If you are willing to complete tasks at home for me let me know. I love to have willing parents to help with jobs in the classroom! The following items are things you can donate to our class:

Kleenex band-aids ziplock bags paper towels
dice (for math games) cards-full or almost full decks (for math games)

I am also asking for a \$4.00 donation for Junior Scholastic. This is a great tool to help us discuss current events and issues. If you could send that donation in as soon as possible that would be great!

I am looking forward to this school year. I know we will have a fantastic time learning together. I want this to be our most memorable year at Orchard Elementary. Hope to see you next Thursday at Back to School Night!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Johnson