

Dear Parents,

In our classroom, we will have a structure of rules, expectations, and consequences that I feel you should know about. Ultimately in life, your child will need to know how to be **Cooperative**, **Assertive**, and **Responsible**, while also having/showing **Empathy** for others. Furthermore, each student needs to have **Self-Control** in all areas of life. One of our classroom goals will be to teach these “CARES” qualities and help students learn from their mistakes. To do this, a few things need to happen. Our classroom needs to be safe for your child to take risks, but orderly so that each student can reach his/her fullest potential.

Each morning, our class will meet together for Morning Meeting, which is made up of four parts: Greeting, Sharing, Activity, and Message. During this time, each child will feel welcomed and comfortable to take risks and get into their learning mindset. I encourage you to ask your child about Morning Meeting. It is a time to interact with their peers, while incorporating fun and academics all at the same time.

An orderly classroom must have rules in order for students to reach their fullest potential. During this first week of school, we talked about our “hopes and dreams” for third grade. Each child wrote a hope or dream and I will post them in our classroom. After we had our hopes and dreams, I explained that in order to make these possible, we need to have some rules that we all will follow. The students then started to brainstorm rules and had an active part in deciding our classroom rules. I believe that it is important for each student to have a voice in the classroom; therefore, we discussed our rules and each student signed the rules poster.

Once our rules were in place, we talked about how sometimes we might break a rule or make a mistake. I explained that each of us deals with mistakes differently, and that Mrs. Bruder will do her best to help each student regain their self-control and return to our classroom community as quickly as possible. If a mistake happens, we will have four different consequences that could happen: loss of privilege, apology of action, taking a break, or receiving a warning and an explanation of the expectation. Each situation will be different; therefore, the consequences must be different to make them logical. Your child will know the difference and within the first two weeks, each child will have a chance to try the “Take a Break” spot, so they can practice the positive way of regaining their own self-control and deciding when to return. It’s important that a child knows that mistakes are going to happen, but that we need to be able to learn for the next time.

At times, a child may need further assistance with controlling their behavior. Some other strategies that I have used and will continue to use are a fix-it plan (attached), student conferences, students writing a letter home or calling home, behavior sticker charts, or a behavior contract. I will keep you informed if one of these strategies needs to be used.

In closing, I want you to be familiar with our procedures so you can ask how your child feels about his/her behavior in class each day. Also, I would like you to continue to foster the “CARES” qualities (Cooperation, Assertion, Responsibility, Empathy, and Self-Control) at home!

Let’s have a great year!

Thank you in advance,

Mrs. Bruder