

Disclosure Statement 2015-2016

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We look forward to working with you and your child this year in fifth grade! Please read all the information below carefully with your child. They explain many expectations for you this school year. This is also the discipline plan and homework policy for our class. The plans will be thoroughly discussed and explained to all students in class and reviewed during the year as needed. Your support and cooperation at home will help ensure a successful and rewarding educational experience for your child.

These rules are for all children and will be in effect at all times at Draper Elementary.

School Rules

1. Be Kind
2. Be Safe
3. Be Responsible

Classroom Promises

1. To follow directions the first time
2. To be prepared
3. To respect others and their property
4. To come to class and be on time
5. To make good choices

We believe in positive reinforcement in our classroom, our first priority is to recognize students making safe, kind, and responsible choices. If a student chooses to not follow a rule, I will first invite him or her to correct the problem. If the student refuses, he or she will conference with me to see what changes we can make in the classroom to help him or her succeed. If this fails, the student will next work with Mrs. Riddle, our principal, to find a solution to the problem. During this process, we will contact you as needed to enlist your input and knowledge of your child to solve the problem as quickly and fairly as possible.

Grading

Students will be assessed on a 1-2-3 scale aligned to Mastery. Mastery of the standards is achieved when students demonstrate that they can apply acquired knowledge and skills consistently over time to support future learning. Students will demonstrate their application of these skills and understanding through class assessments, assignments and projects and other indicators.

Homework

Homework is important because it is a valuable aid in helping students make the most of their experience in school. Homework is given because it is useful in reinforcing what has been learned in class, teaches responsibility, and helps students develop positive study habits necessary for success in middle school and beyond.

Nightly homework (Monday–Friday) will include: reading, Daily Common Core Review worksheet (5–7 math questions), weekly study skills for language arts, and unfinished work as needed. Students should also spend a minimum of 1 hour (total) a week practicing typing and Reflex Math. When students are prepared with basic skills, they are ready to succeed!

Please note that homework should never exceed 50 minutes a night. If you find your student is struggling to complete the above requirements in this time please contact me as soon as possible.

Attendance

There are many experiences, particularly in science and social studies for which your child needs to be present to gain the full benefit. A hands-on science experiment cannot be “made up” effectively, nor can group work solving critical thinking problems. Please make every effort to have your child at school, on time, each and every day. After an excused absence, a student will have 5 school days to turn in fully completed paper and pencil assignments. However, there will be many important experiences that I cannot arrange to make up. Please be aware that our school day runs from 8:40AM–3:20PM Monday through Thursday, 8:40–1:40 on Fridays.

Birthdays

I will leave celebrating birthdays up to individual families. Sending a small non-food item or treat as part of your child’s birthday celebration is fine, but is not expected and is totally up to you. Our schedules are very tight and leave little room to vary from the expected content, please make sure you communicate your intentions with me a week in advance. Students with summer birthdays can choose another day during the year to celebrate (half birthday).

Toys, Cell Phones, etc.

Toys, skateboards, roller blades, electronic games etc. are not allowed at school, unless given special permission. Bringing things from home to play with at recess is risky. These items can get broken or lost, or sometimes even stolen. They can also become a problem in the classroom because students want to play with them or keep them at their desks. We have a lot of equipment for the students to use on the playground, if you do bring anything, please make sure it is labeled with your child's name.

Please note that cell phones and other devices are permitted at school, but done at student's own risk. When used appropriately, electronics can enhance the learning environment and increase achievement. Examples of this are: taking pictures of "notes" on the board for study purposes, using an online dictionary, submitting assignments via Google Docs, working on ePortfolios, Reflex Math, Moby Max, etc. Students are not permitted to call/text unless given explicit permission from their teacher or other staff members in the building.

Extra Information

Our students are lucky to live in a global society where information is always a few clicks away. In our class we use a Twitter account and a Facebook account to communicate with parents and families. Please take advantage of our varied online communication to communicate with each other and me! I will sometimes put small incentives on these pages so students and families stay involved, keep an eye out! In addition to daily communication on social media, be on the lookout for weekly emails. These will typically go out on Sunday afternoons. Our school PTA uses Signupgenius.com to schedule volunteers. I love volunteers in the class, so please see me if you are interested or have questions. Classroom Volunteering can be one hour or 50! The more volunteers we have, the more we can accomplish for your child. Be sure to keep me updated on changed emails and make sure all members who need information are included.

Thank you,

Ms. J. and C. Laoshi