August 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome! I am thrilled to be teaching first grade and look forward to a wonderful, yet atypical school year with your child. Covid-19 has certainly changed our definition of “normal.” The top priority of our faculty and staff will be to keep your child as safe and healthy as possible, while providing a strong education. I am so thankful to have the opportunity to interact with your children in-person, and I hope that will continue to be the case for the entire school year!

Allow me to share some information with you about myself, our daily routine, and classroom procedures. I have been a classroom teacher for 29 years. I spent 13 years in the public school system and 16 years in private schools. I have experience in teaching preschool thru 4th grade, and first grade is my all-time favorite! I hold a Bachelor’s degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education and a Master’s degree in Early Childhood Education. I have been married for 21 years to my husband Jim, and we have two children, Thomas and Gracie. I have seen this school from both sides- as a member of the faculty and as a parent. Both of my kids graduated from St. Mary’s and are now a sophomore in college and a senior in high school. It seems like just yesterday that they were both here starting first grade!

Each day your child will bring home a “take-home” folder. Please go through it each night and look over completed classwork, homework, notes, and information from the office. Make sure to return the folder daily. I will also send graded tests home in this folder. Please sign the tests and **return** them to school as well.

You will find a strip of “happy faces” in the take-home folder. Each happy face that has been crossed off signifies a warning given for inappropriate behavior throughout the day. This will be used to keep you informed of your child’s daily behavior. There will also be a calendar that remains in the folder. The calendar will list important reminders for each month. If your child has at least one happy face left on the strip at the end of the school day, I will draw a “smiley face” on the calendar for that day. If your child has all of the “smiley faces” crossed off, then a “frown” will be drawn for that day. Although I don’t foresee any problems, if one should occur, I will write a note, email, or call you personally to discuss it. I also hand out “chips” for good behavior. The students can cash these chips in for prizes on a weekly basis. **Please initial the calendar and the strip each night.**

Attached you will find some additional information. Please look it over and let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for sending your child to St. Mary’s and giving me the opportunity to be his/her teacher. One of my main goals, besides providing a quality education, is for your child to feel welcome, at home, and loved while in my care. Everyone here at this school is like family, and I sincerely hope you enjoy your child’s years at this school as much as my husband and I did. Please know that I pray for my students and their families, and I would appreciate you keeping me in yours!

Sincerely,

Jeri Carroll

The mission of St. Mary Help of Christians Catholic School is to prepare the way with a high quality education in the caring spirit of the Beatitudes.