

August 18, 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Hello! Welcome to a new school year at Freedom Elementary. My name is Kristie McKinnon. I am excited to be your child's third grade teacher this year. This is my twenty-sixth year to teach in the Waynesville School District. I have been married for 20 years and have three children and three grandchildren. I love teaching third grade. The students are excited and eager to learn each day they come to school.

This semester, Ms. Paige Whitaker, will be completing her student teaching in the classroom through Drury University. Paige worked last school year as a substitute teacher for the Waynesville School District is a welcome addition to the classroom teaching staff.

Third grade is an exciting time for students. It is a transition year where students grow more independent and gain more responsibilities. Students will have daily assignments that they are responsible for completing at school and turning in on time. Students will also have homework assignments that need to be completed and turned in on time. Assignments will be written in a daily planner that your child will bring home every day. Please review and sign your child's planner each day. Your child will return it to school each morning. I will check and stamp your child's completed and signed planner every morning. Please see the "planner letter" included in this handbook for more information. Your child's classroom paperwork is also an excellent way to keep tabs on the curriculum and your child's progress. I will grade papers daily and send them home with your child as soon as possible after they are graded. Please also remember to check PowerSchool for your child's grades.

Each Monday, I will send home a curriculum note that will provide you with information about what your child is currently studying in class. This note will also be posted on the classroom web site.

Monday the class will begin reading a story entitled, First Day Jitters. Your child is encouraged to bring his or her Treasures reading textbook home to practice reading each evening. Your child will also be assigned a "chapter book" to read. Your child will be responsible for reading one chapter book that has a "Reading Counts" test every two weeks. This is a 10 point assignment every two weeks, but up to 10 bonus points can be earned every two weeks (20/10). Please have your child keep his or her reading books in his backpack when not being read. This will assure that they will be returned to school each morning. A spelling list for each story will be in the Monday curriculum note as well as written in your child's planner. Please have your child practice these words. The spelling words can also be found online at

spellingcity.com. Go to "Find a List", Teacher - "Kristie McKinnon". There are spelling practice games and sheets that can be printed out for each week's spelling words. The class will have a spelling test and a reading comprehension test at the end of each story, usually on Fridays.

Your child will eat lunch at 10:50. You are welcome to come eat lunch with your child anytime. If you are purchasing a lunch from the school, please pay in the office before joining your child.

Each day your child will have special classes from 1:25 - 2:25. The following is a schedule we will use throughout the year:

**QUARTERS 1 & 3**

Day 1 P.E Coach Rawlings

**Day 2 P.E. Coach Bildner**

Day 3 Music Mrs. Shaw

Day 4 Art Mr. Jackson

**QUARTERS 2 & 4**

Day 1 P.E. Coach Rawlings

**Day 2 Library/Guidance**

Day 3 Music Mrs. Shaw

Day 4 Art Mr. Jackson

Thursday, August 18 is a Day 1.

Library Checkout will begin soon. Wednesdays from 1:00 - 1:20 is the class checkout time. Your child may checkout 2 books at a time.

Your child's birthday is a very important day! You may send treats for the class on your child's birthday. Actually, you may send snacks any time. I don't use a "snack calendar" in the class, but feel free to send snacks for the class whenever you'd like.

Your child may bring a water bottle with a "pop-top" to keep at his or her desk during the day. We take 3 - 4 scheduled restroom/drink breaks during the day, but most children seem to need more liquids than they can get in drinks at the water fountain.

I have also sent home a copy of the class discipline policy. Please read it carefully with your child, sign it, and return the bottom portion to me as soon as possible.

Thank you for your cooperation. Please feel free to call me at 451-2100 or e-mail me at [kmckinnon@waynesville.k12.mo.us](mailto:kmckinnon@waynesville.k12.mo.us) if you have any questions. My planning and conference hour is 1:25 - 2:25. I am looking forward to a great year filled with positive learning experiences for your child.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kristie McKinnon