



Mr. Devold's Class

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Out of the Class but not out of the Building

Parents, the next three weeks I will be filling in for Mrs. Sanders as the principal while she is gone. (September 29-October 16) My substitute will be Mrs. Severson, who has filled in for me on frequent occasions over the years. She is familiar with our students, and our school, and best of all she is familiar with the routines of our class.



However, as with any substitute, there may be some inconsistencies with communication from the class to home. Also there will be some differences in expectations between myself and Mrs. Severson. Please know that she will be leading the class, even though I will be in the building.

I do hope to engage in some of the instruction of the class, but while functioning as the principal, I cannot commit to a scheduled instructional time because I may be called away or needed during a time I was planning on delivering instruction.

To help the students function more independently in my absence, students have a long term project of study and investigation focusing on a Native American culture. It is a significant amount of work to perform in the weeks ahead. Additionally students will be working on a science assignment that is part of the Mind-A-Mazes competition held by the district. That requires a great deal of time and effort for success, and is another project that allows student work independence.

We have a great class, Mrs. Severson is a great stand in for me, and I will still be in the building, but please be aware that the next 3 weeks might be a bit less conventional.

Work Plans & Mission Accomplished

So, you may have heard about "Mission Accomplished" Friday's, but may not quite know what it is all about. The kids are using a new Work Plan this year, and it guides them through choosing work to accomplish during the week. I set a goal of work to finish, and if a student can complete 90% of the work, by the beginning of the day on Friday, they have "Accomplished the Mission" for the week.

Students who earn a "Mission Accomplished" Friday are able to choose a preferred activity like reading, drawing, playing a strategy game, or learning something new like computer coding.

Annual/Bi-Annual Field Trips

3 years ago, our school adopted the Conscious Discipline program as an approach to helping students work through problems and to improve their school experience. Part of the program focuses on maintaining a "Safe Place" in the room, where a student can go and get composure if things just aren't working out for the day/moment. Students choose to go there and work through feelings that may be getting in the way of their academic work.



The "Safe Place" has been a very valuable portion of our class, but I am looking to improve it. A component that is missing is the "Friends & Family" book, The goal of this book is for a student to have a place that they can look to help them see/find a positive message or image to help them get through a difficult time in the day. It can be a motivational saying, or a motivation note from a parent. Images of things that are important to the student. Images of happy times, or fun experiences. Simply put the Friends and family pages should be a "Happy Place" for the students so they have something to help them get back on track if the day is falling apart.

I am asking students to develop two pages that will be slipped into a page protector sheet. Please help you child find images and inspirational messages to bring in, or write a motivational note for you child to read. We can put them together here, or you can make this at home and they can simply bring in finished pages. Students should use 8.5x11 in paper to create their Friends & Family pages.

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT IMAGES & MESSAGES WILL BE ABLE TO BE SEEN & READ BY OTHER STUDENTS.

Students not completing their work in time for my Work check on Friday morning, will have the rest of the day to finish up. Any student who has overdue work cannot earn a "Mission Accomplished." Also, students who loose their Work Plan during the week do not earn a mission accomplished since they lost and important document to their success. However, The studnets are rising to the challenge and really attending to their work and helping each other out. They love trying to achieve the mission each week, and understand that Friday is a valuable day even if they aren't able to achieve a "Mission Accomplished."

On The Back:

Active Homes

Special points of interest:

- October 1-3—5th Grade School Climate survey.
- October 17th—End of the 1st Quarter—NO SCHOOL
- October 29th—Early Release Day @ 1:55
- October 30th & 31st Parent/Teacher Conferences.
- November 27th & 28—Thanksgiving—NO SCHOOL
- December 16th—TENTATIVE—Challenger Center Mission for 5th & 6th Grade. 4th Grade to FAA & Airport
- December 19th—End of 2nd Quarter - NO SCHOOL
- December 22nd-January 2nd— Christmas Break