



Dear Parents,

I want to welcome you to the new 2011-2012 first grade year. At this time, I have sixteen students (8 boys and 8 girls) as members of our first grade class. There are five first grades at Dike-Newell School. We all work together to bring the first grade children of DNS the best possible education. Each first grade teacher puts her own touch on her classroom and into her teaching materials but we will all cover the same curriculum and we work together as a team.

You will notice a little bee theme going on in our classroom. It is intentional to remind students to **be kind, be responsible, and be safe**. We will **begin** the year with a social studies theme of getting to know one another, how to work together in our classroom, outside our classroom, and at recess. Social skills are necessary in society and we will spend a good month practicing our skills before moving on to other science and social studies themes. Students will be held accountable for their actions.

Our classroom is very hands-on. The students move a lot. We do not use desks but tables and the floor instead. There is a lot of team and buddy work. I find students respond very well to movement and choice. They will be making many personal choices throughout their school day with my guidance.

There are several things you can do to ensure your child's success in school. No one thing is more important than the other but collectively they make a huge difference.

- 🐝 Punctuality and attendance is key
- 🐝 A good night's rest is necessary
- 🐝 A substantial breakfast helps student's focus
- 🐝 A nutritious snack and drink (for mid morning) gives fuel (lunch is late)
- 🐝 Checking our communication folder for notes and homework
- 🐝 Read to your child and listen to him/her read to you nightly
- 🐝 Complete math homework (if it is too difficult, do it together or flip the page over and help your child with a concept you know he/she needs to work on)

- 🐝 Make sure your child knows that you value education and school (they hear what you say)
- 🐝 Call or email me at the first sign of any problems (I check email morning, noon, and after school...I cannot be called to the phone during teaching time but can be reached before and after school)
Email: wbrown@rsu1.org Phone: 443-8285

Your child's education is about you, your child, and me. We are a team and together we can accomplish great things. This will be my 33rd year of teaching. I have loved every assignment I have had from K-8 but first grade is my all time favorite and the grade I have spent the most time teaching. If your child is willing to work and you and I are there to guide and assist, your child will succeed.

If you can find the time to volunteer, I would love to have you join our classroom. I will be sending home a volunteer schedule after school begins. If you cannot join us but want to engage with our class there are other ways (home help like cutting, chaperoning field trips, sending in ingredients for cooking projects, etc.). Let me know if you are interested.

I author a web page, a blog, and a wiki. The kids will be using a lot of technology with supervision. The web page and the blog are open to all. The wiki is closed (for security reasons) to the public but once students know their username and password, they will be able to show you their work. Please feel free to check it all out on my web page.

www.mmbay.net

I look forward to seeing you again or meeting you for the first time at our Open House.

Wanda Brown