

February 2018

Now that the Spring/2<sup>nd</sup> semester is upon us and we begin gearing up for New York State testing please keep in mind a few things. School begins at 7:30am each day - please make every effort to have your child in school on time. Regular attendance at school is extremely important to your child's academic success. Being in school, on time, is the first step in assuring that your child will be able to complete all of their work, have all necessary information presented to them first – hand and experience a sense of positive self – worth as it relates to school.

I recently sent out my first set of Attendance and Tardy letters to those parents/guardians whose child has either excessive absences and/or tardies. Please keep in mind it is the responsibility of every parent/guardian to insure that any child under 17 years of age is in attendance at school on a regular basis (New York State Education Law 3205). If there is anything I can do to help you and your child with attendance/prompt arrival at school please let me know.

To help prepare your child at home for the NYS tests (as well as local exams) that will take place in April and May and their schoolwork in general please consider the following:

- Talk to you child about school, ask them questions about their day, their interests, etc.
- Ask your child about homework, look at it with them and go over it with them
- Supply a location and time where your child can complete their homework without distractions
- Make sure that your child goes to bed on time each night
- Don't skip breakfast!

According to 'The Children's Reading Foundation' ***20 minutes a day of reading aloud with your child*** strengthens relationships, encourages listening and language skills, promotes attention and curiosity, and establishes a strong reading foundation. These skills are essential for success in school and in life and continue to be very important as your child moves through the Middle School years.

Once a child begins to read, it is essential to continue reading aloud together. Like other skills, reading is mastered over time, with lots of practice, and with the help of another person. There is practically no way to do it wrong, but there are ways to do it better. We are here to help you. The routine of sharing books together creates lifelong readers.

The magic of this process is the simplicity of action. Any adult can do it, in just about any place, with little or no expense. It doesn't matter what language is spoken. Non-reading parents can make up stories to go with the illustrations. The essential elements are scheduled time with books and a positive attitude!

Make reading together the most important - and happiest - 20 minutes of your day!

Now that the Spring/2<sup>nd</sup> Semester is upon us we have begun to think about scheduling for next year. If you would like to request a specific teacher or team for the 2018 - 2019 school year I must receive your request in writing on or before May 15<sup>th</sup>. Please remember requests must address student learning styles vs. teaching styles. We will do our best to honor requests – but

we can not guarantee that your request will be filled. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Have a great February and March!

*Mary Beth Fiervo*