August 2013

Welcome to 3rd Grade! My name is Mrs. Fenwick, and I am so excited to be your teacher this year! Wow! Can you believe that you are a third grader? In my opinion, third grade is the best year ever!

 This is my thirteenth year at Valley Park Elementary. I taught 4th grade for one year, and then moved to 3rd grade and have been here ever since. I truly love 3rd grade! On a personal note, I have been married for 16 years and have two children: Mara, who is going into 7th grade and Robbie, who is going into 3rd grade. I grew up in Illinois (about an hour south of St. Louis). I also lived in Kentucky for a few years before moving to St. Louis. There I taught middle school for two years and 3rd grade for one year.

 Third grade is a very exciting and challenging year at Valley Park. You will be in an eMINTS classroom. That means that you will be working with computers to create a number of exciting projects. There is one computer for every two students. We do a variety of independent, partner, and group activities. We also have a Smartboard in our classroom. All this technology really makes learning fun!

 I am so looking forward to working with you this year. I have a slight conflict with Open House this year. My daughter has an orientation for her new middle school at the same time as our open house. I plan to attend her orientation from 4:00-5:00, and I will be at our open house from 5:00-6:00. I am so sorry for any inconvenience. If you cannot make the 5:00-6:00 time slot, the classroom will still be open from 4:00-5:00 for you to stop by.

Until then…read, rest, and RELAX!!!

 **Mrs. Fenwick**

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STAR Binder Information

**S**tudents **T**hat **A**re **R**esponsible

What is a S.T.A.R. Binder?

 It is a 3-ring binder (get a sturdy one), put together by the teacher, housing EVERYTHING students & parents need to keep up with what is going on at school.  No more wrinkled papers in the bottom of book bags.  No more lost notes, homework or calendars.  No more searching the house to find your planner.  Everything is in one notebook!  So if you want to keep up with what’s happening in Mrs. Fenwick's 3rd Grade Class, check out your child's S.T.A.R. Binder.

Why is it important to have?
 This binder helps students to establish good organizational skills during this transitional year- skills that can carry on throughout their time in school.  It also helps promote effective communication between home and school.

What should I **do** with my S.T.A.R. Binder?
 **Do** take care of your S.T.A.R. Binder; it will be used all year!  **Do** check every section every evening, and clean out anything that is old.  **Do** take your S.T.A.R. Binder home every day and bring it back each morning.  **Do** keep your S.T.A.R. Binder clean.   **Do** show your S.T.A.R. Binder to your parents everyday - they will be so proud of your new responsibility!

What should I **NOT** do with my S.T.A.R. Binder?
 Don't make any marks or drawings in or on your S.T.A.R. Binder.  Don't leave your S.T.A.R. Binder at home, in the car or bus, or at daycare.  Don't let anyone borrow your S.T.A.R. Binder or tear pages out of your S.T.A.R. Binder.  Don't put any papers in your S.T.A.R. Binder that do not belong.  Don't eat or drink in front of your S.T.A.R. Binder!

What exactly is in the S.T.A.R. Binder?
 The S.T.A.R. Binder contains the following sections:  pencil/money pouch, planner, Homework & Notes folder (from school and from home), Reading Log, Spelling List & Math Facts, Calendar, Lunch Menu, and other Class Information (class handbook, schedule, specials, cursive letters, and a class list).

