



News from Room 219

September 2013

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Meet the Teachers!



Mrs. Rudy

I have been working in the Rochester City School District for the past 31 years! During this time I have held various positions. I taught for 17 years and then decided to move into a position that allowed me to coach new teachers. I spent six years as a mentor teacher and assisted new teachers during their first year of teaching. My background is in special education and I have also worked throughout the district as a Teacher Coordinator for Special Education and a Special Education School Improvement Specialist. Last year I worked at School 42 as the English Language Arts Coach and really enjoyed being back in one building again. I decided to return this year to the classroom and am excited to be working with students again in the integrated third grade program. I am so fortunate to be co-teaching with Mrs. Lombardo and look forward to a wonderful year with your children and you!



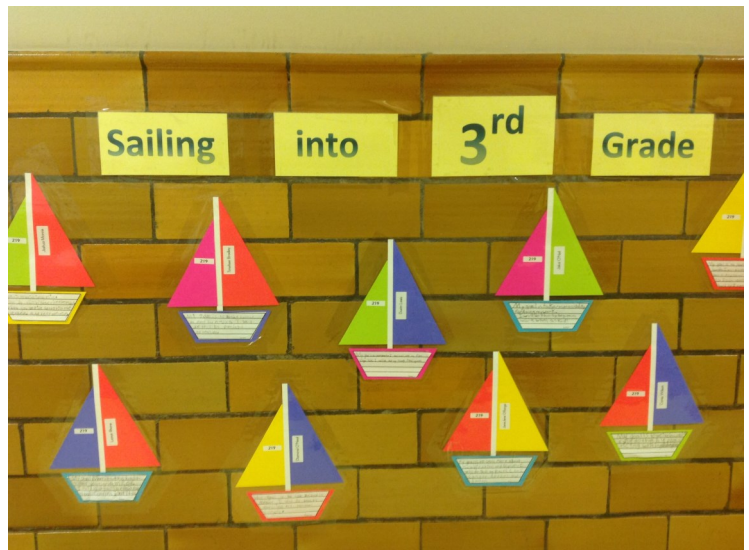
Mrs. Lombardo

This is my twenty-ninth year working in Education. I taught fourth grade in a private school for fifteen years. I taught first and second grade at School 29, and then came to School 42 eleven years ago to teach second and third grade. For the past nine years, I have been the Math Coach here at School 42. I have been looking forward to returning to the classroom this year, and I am very happy to be working with Mrs. Rudy, your children- and **you!!** It's going to be a GREAT year!!

Setting Sail in Third Grade!

During the first week of school we asked our students what they would like to learn in third grade. Some responses included "reading better, solving math problems, and learning how to write in cursive." We discussed that having these goals was not enough. What helps us to meet our goals is having a plan to meet them. After everyone had a goal, we talked about how they could meet those goals; practice more, pay attention, participate in class, and complete homework. Students then decided on a goal and what they could do to meet that goal and then wrote it down


using a sentence frame to help them. Then they had to edit it and write their final copy. Once they were completed each student's goal was attached to their sailboat in the hallway. This is how room 219 has "set sail into 3rd grade!" We hope they all meet their goals this year!



Parents are such an important part of their child's education. Please take the time to review this newsletter as it provides some valuable information about our expectations for you and your child! We look forward to a wonderful school year!

Expectations and Community Contract

We spent a good part of the first two weeks of school teaching the STAR expectations for behavior, practicing rituals and routines, and learning about our behavior monitoring system. (See below for a description of our management system.) Your child brought home a copy of the community contract and by now you should have signed it and returned it. If you have not seen it or signed it, please ask your child about it, sign it and send it back as soon as possible! Thanks!



COMMUNITY CONTRACT

This contract outlines expected behaviors in our classroom. Our community trusts that all students follow these expectations on a daily basis to ensure that our classroom is a safe, productive, learning environment. We believe that every single person in our community is important and when just one person does not follow our community expectations, everyone is affected.

Safety First	Take Responsibility	Act as a Team
I keep my hands, feet and objects to myself.	I come to class prepared to learn.	I do my part when working in a group.
I use materials as directed.	I start working right away and do my best work.	I listen when others are speaking.
I solve problems in a positive way.	I am responsible for my actions.	I wait for my turn.
I walk in the classroom.	I keep my desk neat and organized.	I have a positive attitude.

Respect	Show Kindness
I follow directions quickly and quietly.	I treat others the way I want to be treated.
I listen and pay attention to the speaker. (<i>SLANT</i>)	I try my best to help others and our community.
I use the right voice level and tone when talking to others.	I am able to work with everyone.
I take care of our learning environment.	I use kind words.


How Is Your Day Going?

We want to explain our management system used in our classroom. The bulletin board in the front of the room contains a pocket chart with a set of colored cards for each student. Everyone begins the day on blue. If a student does not follow the classroom expectations, the color changes to green. If another expectation is not followed, then the card changes to yellow. If another expectation is not followed then it goes to orange, then red. Our goal is for every student to stay on blue every day! Each card is equivalent to a monetary amount and students earn money which they can then exchange for social acknowledgements or prizes. For example, if a student wants to have lunch with an adult they can purchase that for a specified amount of their earned classroom cash. No money is actually exchanged since we are using a credit/debit system. Students can also earn classroom cash in their account for completing homework, receiving acknowledgement tickets from teachers, and doing classroom jobs. This management system is our classroom economy and students will learn about banking and the value of money while they hopefully behave as expected within the school environment.



Supplies Still Needed!

Many of our students have already brought in supplies for the year! However, there are still students who need to bring in supplies. The first week of school we sent home lists with the students who had not brought the supplies in yet. Please remember to send in the supplies as soon as possible. If you are unable to get them please write us a note in your child's agenda. Please see the list below.

WHAT?	HOW MANY?
Folders <input type="checkbox"/> Please just get the solid colored folders.	2 Red 2 Green 2 Blue 2 Orange 2 Yellow
Composition Notebooks	2 
Glue Sticks <input type="checkbox"/> Please purchase the glue sticks that are white and not the purple ones since those are very messy.	4 Glue Sticks
Package of lined paper	2 (wide ruled- NOT college ruled)
Pencils	4 Packs of 12 yellow #2 pencils
Crayons	2 Packs
Tissues	3 Boxes
Hand Sanitizer	1 bottle

Attendance and Illness

Regular school attendance is critical to the learning process. Our instruction officially begins at 9:15 and we expect students to be in their seats ready to begin at that time. When your child is absent or tardy, he or she misses valuable instructional time. Please send a written note whenever your child is absent. State law requires us to code each absence as lawful or unlawful.

Daily Participation

We not only need your child in school, but we need them to participate. If a student refuses to participate in class activities and complete their assignments, they will not progress as much as they could if they participated! We expect students to be respectful and do their work! Please see the community contract that was brought home the first day of school for the classroom expectations.

Physical Education Schedule

Our class participates in physical education on A and B days. Since we are on an A, B, C, D rotating schedule Physical Education occurs on different days of the week throughout the year. Please check the monthly calendar for when your child has Physical Education and make sure they wear sneakers on A and B days.



Homework and Classwork

We believe that homework is necessary for practicing skills that have been learned or for enriching the classroom experience. In order to help students be more organized and get their assignments done, we have provided each student with a blue homework folder and an agenda for writing down their assignments. **Please check the agenda and the homework folder daily and discuss the homework with your child.** In October we will include a Home Reading Log which must be signed by the parent each evening. We encourage parents to review the contents of your child's homework folder and agenda each evening. We will often write notes in the agenda as a way of communicating with you. We expect all homework to be turned in on time! Students should pack their backpacks at night with all the materials needed for the next day. Organization is the key to success!

Water Bottles Donated!

Every student in our class has a water bottle so they have access to water all day long. These heavy duty high quality water bottles were donated by Thermo Fisher Scientific., a company here in the Rochester area. We hope that students will take care of their water bottles so they will last all year long! Students fill their bottles once in the morning and once in the afternoon. As long as they use them responsibly they can remain on their desks. However, if they play with them, or use them inappropriately, they will be taken away. We hope they follow the expectations so they can take a sip of water when they need one!



Dream...Believe...Achieve