

Welcome to Back to School Night! 2009-2010



Learning for Independence
Ms. Vancavage & Mrs. Hart

Welcome to LFI in Rm. 23

Tonight's Agenda:

Part Two:

A. Welcome:

Please take a moment to write a note for your child to read tomorrow morning! And write down 1 to 3 goals that you would like to have your child accomplish this school year!

B. Classroom Expectations

- 1: Classroom Behavior Management System
- 3: 5 Stars Behavior System
- 4: Popcorn Tickets
- 5: Go for the Gold!

C. Classroom Routines & Procedures

- 1: Snack Procedures
- 2: Lunch Procedures & Inclusion Information
- 3: Community Outings & Classroom Cooking
- 3: Communication Journals
- 4: Homework Folders, Friday Folders, & Homework/Behavior Sheet

D. Questions, Comments, and Concerns

E. Farewell and Notes to Students! 😊

Ms. Vancavage's CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR SYSTEM

Below is the behavior hierarchy that I use in my classroom. Each student begins every day at the top - SUPER STAR. Throughout the day, if necessary, they can be asked to move their name down the "ladder" to warning, timeout, etc. They have to move their name if they are not following the classroom rules, having to be spoken to more than 3 times to follow directions, etc. However, students are allowed to move their name back up the "ladder" when they get back on target, finish their work are listening and following directions, etc. As always there is room for improvement. Then this is marked on their behavior sheet that goes home every night to be signed so you can see how your child's day at school was. If you have any questions or concerns about the behavior systems/strategies or incentive programs that I use in my classroom please let me know.

As always I thank you for your support!

Behavior Hierarchy:

Super Star Day!

Warning

Time Out

No Recess

Principal

Call Home



The five stars program that I use in my class in another behavior management system.

Students earn stars throughout the day by finishing work, helping others, listening and following directions, turning in homework, etc.

The number of stars that each student earns for the day is put up on our 5 stars chart.

Then at the end of the week we total them up. Students who have 15 or more stars get 5 STAR TIME - and they get to do an activity of their choice - games, computer, helping the teacher, etc.



POPCORN TICKETS

Have you heard your child say "I got 3 popcorn tickets today!" or "I got to pick from the prize box!" Popcorn tickets are another incentive program that I use in my classroom. Students earn popcorn tickets for great behavior, helping others, using good manners, etc. The students write their names on the back of the popcorn tickets, crumble it up so it looks like a piece of popcorn, and toss it into our popcorn container. Once the popcorn container is full I pull out a couple "pieces of popcorn," read the names, and these students get to choose something from our special prize box!

Snack Time!

Our class will have a very small snack on everyday! Our snack time will be incorporated into the end of our math block and our transition/15 minute break period. There may be days that your child does not have time for a snack because they have not completed their work, they are out of the class at speech or in a special, or we just do not have time.

The most significant change is that we are not asking for you to send in a snack and a drink everyday we are asking for donations of snack items that can be used as manipulatives for counting, patterning, and other fun food related math activities. Snack items such as small pretzels, animal crackers, goldfish, fruit loops, etc.

I do want to thank those families who have already sent in snack donations - and we have plenty of snacks for awhile - I will send home a note when we are running low on snack items. Thanks for everyone's help and support!

~ Ms. Vancavage ☺

Lunch Procedures & Inclusion Information

Lunch Procedures:

Our lunch this year is 11:40 to 12:10pm with recess immediately following from 12:10 to 12:40pm. We will be eating lunch with the kindergartners and third grade classes. Our class has been divided up between the three 3rd grade classes so they can sit with their general education peers at lunch.

Ms. Terry's class is also eating lunch with us this year and at this point in time they are all sitting together at one table. Ms. Terry, Ms. Altman, and Ms. Ayechemi will be observing their students closely to decide who is ready for this type of inclusion as the school year continues. Ms. Terry's class will be divided up between the three kindergarten classes.

We believe strongly in our students mainstreaming with their non-disabled peers and highly encourage this interaction to happen during lunch and recess when the students can have time to interact with each other.

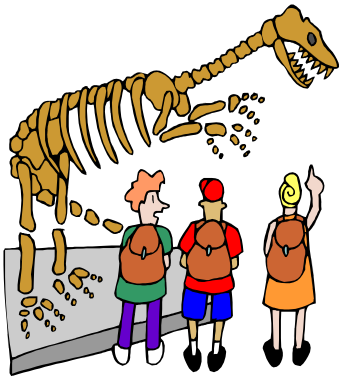
Inclusion Information:

In addition to eating lunch and playing at recess with their general education peers, each student will also have the opportunity to be included for specials: Art, Music, and P.E. Each student will be assigned to a general education classroom aligned to their age appropriate grade level. Once this assignment has been made and the inclusion begins a schedule will be made with the student's name, teacher's name of the

class they are joining, and where they will be included each day. A copy of this schedule will be sent home to inform you of where your son/daughter will be going throughout the day.

As with the lunch routines, we strongly feel that this inclusion portion of our program promotes social interaction with non-disabled peers and helps gain independence. However, we do not want to overwhelm the students with this experience. Therefore, we hope to get each student comfortable with their learning environment before beginning this portion of our program. Our intentions are to start inclusion by the end of the first month of school!

As a result of your son/daughter being included into a general education class, his/her name will be added to their class list to include them in classroom activities, and holiday celebrations. Newsletters of these events will come home with your son/daughter as they come up throughout the school year. It is encouraged and welcomed for you to attend at least one activity throughout the school year with your child's inclusion class to see the wonderful interactions they have with their same age peers. If you have any further questions about this part of our program please feel free to contact me!



Inclusion Field Trips

LFI Parents --

As some of you may know, the LFI program at Stonegate makes every effort to have our students included into activities with their grade level peers, such as specials (Music, Art, Media, and P.E.), lunch and recess, and class parties/activities (Halloween, Valentines Day, End-of-the-Year).

Last year we had several parents who were interested in sending their students on the K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th or 5th grade field trips. We would like to extend this opportunity to the students that are in both of our classes. This is a fantastic supplementary inclusion opportunity for your child. I would love for all of our students to have the chance to attend 2 or more field trips with their inclusion class. However, in order for your child to participate you will need to chaperone your child on the field trip(s).

There are several parents from Stonegate ES who are willing to help support our students participating in their inclusion class field trips and other activities. These parents are willing to volunteer their time to chaperone some of our students on their grade-level inclusion field trips.

If you want to pursue this opportunity and/or receive information concerning specifics about the inclusion field trips or if you do not want your child to participate in these activities please fill out and return the permission slip below. Thanks again for all your help and support! If you have any questions and/or concerns please contact your child's teacher

☺ Ms. Vancavage & Ms. Terry ☺

Inclusion Field Trips

Student Name

Parent Signature & Date

Yes -- I would like my child to have this opportunity!

No – not interested in these activities for my child!

PLEASE CHECK ONE!

Yes – I will be able to cover the cost of the field trips/activities for **BOTH** my child and the chaperone!

YES – I will be able to cover the cost of the field trips/activities but **ONLY** for my child!

YES – but I am **NOT** able to cover the costs of these field trips/activities.



Community Outings

As part of our Learning for Independence/ FLS program, we will be going out into the community each week to become better acquainted with our neighborhood grocery stores, restaurants, postal services, etc. Included as a handout with tonight's information is a tentative schedule of when and where we will be going. I will provide more specific information before each trip to let you know if there will be additional items your son/daughter may need to participate in community (i.e. money, library card, etc.). We welcome parents to come and help out on these outings but we do ask that you let us know in advance so that we can be prepared (i.e. room on bus/transportation, purchase extra ticket in some cases, etc.)

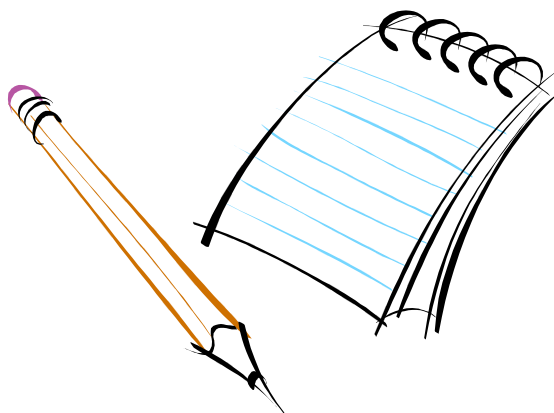
Cooking Activities

Our program also incorporates cooking activities into the week. We will purchase items necessary to cook during our once a month trip to the grocery store. We aim to cook every other week! Every time we cook, we will put a copy of the recipe & activity into our cooking binder so at the end of the year your child will have a cook book full of things that they can make with you at home. We encourage you to repeat these recipes at home and enhance their independent cooking abilities! ☺ If your son/daughter has a favorite 'simple' recipe at home, feel free to send it in and we will attempt to make it at school! ☺



Communication Journals

Each student is given a marble composition notebook with their name on it. This notebook is known as their communication journal and will be sent home each day! I am a firm believer of open communication between the parents, teachers, and students. I also know that most of you enjoy hearing about your son/daughter's day at school. Therefore, we will use this journal as a way to communicate with you and we encourage you to write back when necessary to communicate with us. For example, we will inform you of their behavior (good/bad), upcoming events such as community outings and what they will need for it, and/or just write to inform you of when your son/daughter has accomplished something great! Please make sure to take the time to check/read this journal each night. Also, feel free to share this information with your son/daughter. Chances are they might remember something that happened that day and want to share the news with you themselves! We ask that this journal be sent back to school each day as well. If at any point during the school year this journal goes missing or falls apart, just let us know and we can replace it! ☺



Take Home Folders

In addition to your son/daughter's *Communication Journal*, you will also notice a **HOMEWORK FOLDER** coming home each night. Please check this folder **EVERY** night. This is where we will send home notices or important information from the school. Occasionally we will send home student work samples to let you see how well your son/daughter is doing in class and soon enough there will be homework in the folder too!

Also in this folder you will find the **HOMEWORK/BEHAVIOR SHEET** ~ this important sheet will give you a quick reference to the type of day your child had. We will indicate how many stars your child got for the day, where your child ended up on the behavior hierarchy, and what color card your child ended the day on. This sheet will always reflect on the color of the card at the end of the day with an explanation of any behaviors that may have occurred throughout the day. We ask that you read this each night, sign it and leave in folder to be returned. As is the case with the *Communication Journal*, this **HOMEWORK FOLDER** must also come back to school each day! If anything should happen to this folder, (lost or damaged) feel free to let us know and we will replace it! We want to make sure we have a way of getting important notices and papers to you at home! 😊

Same goes for the **FRIDAY FOLDER** - it will come home every Friday - please look through the items in the **FRIDAY FOLDER** and check the *Communication Journal*! Returning these folders, getting the **Homework/Behavior Sheet** signed, and/or the *Communication Journal* signed are homework responsibilities of your child - so please help them get this completed! 😊