

“OUR PROMISE”

As I mentioned in the newsletter this past week, every child is doing a great job adjusting to a new situation. However, as a teacher I need to make sure that I set the right “tone” for the classroom at the beginning of the year. This will help prevent problems later on. ***As a class, we have come up with a set of guidelines for the classroom called “Our Classroom Promise” (which I briefly described in the Parent Packet you received on Parent Night).*** These rules are similar to Park School’s code of conduct for all students, and they fit well with the school-wide theme “Be The One...”.

Each child has agreed to try to follow these guidelines by signing the promise. Many students are doing a wonderful job with this. I have noticed that a few of the students are “testing” me to see how much I will allow them to do and get away with. In order to be fair to the whole class, I need to establish a few consequences for those students who continuously disregard “Our Classroom Promise”. This should fit well with our “Clip Chart” system that the children are using to monitor their behavior in class. These consequences will be given out in the order listed below during each subject block throughout the day (reading, writing, math, etc.). When a new subject block starts, each child starts back at the top of the order for consequences for “negative” behavior. Below is the list of consequences for all students who consistently break our classroom guidelines during any given subject block (reading, writing, math, etc.)...

1. A Verbal/Hand Signal Warning -

A child will be given a warning, either verbally or through a hand signal, and asked politely to follow “Our Classroom Promise”.

2. Time-out -

After a student has received a verbal/hand signal warning, and continues to be disruptive to the class during the same subject block, he/she will be asked to take a “time-out” at his/her seat or away from the rest of the class. The student will use this time to think about what he/she did wrong and how he/she can change his/her behavior. When the student is ready, he/she may rejoin the class at any time.

3. Parent Contact (Note/E-mail/Phone Call) -

If a student has went through the first two steps and “CHOOSES” to continue to act inappropriately during the same subject block, he/she will be removed from the rest of the class (“time out”) and parents will be contacted. This contact may be made

through a note sent home in the child's "Daily Work" folder, through an e-mail, or through a phone call.

4. Phone Call Home -

Hopefully no child gets to this step. But, if he/she does, I will be forced to make a phone call home to parents *immediately* (if their child has went through the first three steps, during the same subject block, and continues to make "bad" choices on how to act in our classroom).

5. Mr. Field -

The last step in our classroom consequence system will be to have the child sent to the office to meet with Mr. Field. I will make sure parents are notified if this would ever happen.

Although there are some consequences for negative behavior in my classroom, I try to focus most of my attention on positive behavior. If students are trying their best to follow "Our Classroom Promise", I will be rewarding their behavior in several ways through our classroom "Clip Chart" system. They may earn WOW tickets (students' names get put into a drawing for gifts every Friday), prizes from my treasure chest, and extra time at recess or with school technology (laptops, iPods, or the iPad). Also, at the end of each day of school, the class votes on whether or not they tried their best in class. Depending on how many students tried their best, the class receives a certain number of tootsies to put in the "Classroom Party" jar. When the jar is full of tootsies, our class receives a party! **In addition to all of these positive rewards, I will be using the book "7 Habits of Happy Kids" by Sean Covey to help teach students the qualities of a good leader.**

I know this may be a lot to take in...I understand. Believe me when I say that the children are doing wonderfully. This plan needs to be implemented so that ALL STUDENTS have an equal opportunity to learn. If I start letting things go, I'm not doing my job as a teacher. I expect all of my students to conduct themselves as young ladies and gentlemen. That will stay the same throughout the year. As a parent you can help me by talking to your son or daughter about this plan at home. I will be going over it in class but repeating it at home won't hurt. If you have any questions...any questions at all, please e-mail me or send me a note. I would be happy to try to clear up any problems or misunderstandings. Thanks for your support!

Sincerely,

Mr. Glenn Weber