

August 2016

Welcome Room 101 families,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 2016-17 school year and to our classroom. My teaching philosophy is to create a positive and nurturing classroom community where all children experience success and where diversity and culture is explored and embraced.

The greatest thing I can do for a child is to teach them *how* to learn and guide them to *what* they need to learn. My hope is to create life-long learners who love to gain knowledge about new things. Through these discoveries, the students will learn from each other and leave this year as confident, proud, patient and more capable people, with questioning minds and loving hearts. I want to teach the students that learning is fun and can be found all around us.

My management philosophy is centered on the main concept of building personal, human connections with students and families based in harmony and mutual trust. I believe in providing a safe, risk-taking environment where cooperative problem solving is practiced by holding regular classroom meetings to resolve conflict. I use a positive approach in the classroom. I want the students to learn how to be “self-managers” and to learn how to individually solve problems. I encourage students to *TALK* out situations amongst each other to find resolutions:

T – Tune in to your friends feelings and listen with empathy.

A – Acknowledge what is causing the emotion.

L – Label how your friend is feeling.

K – Kindle a resolution for your friends needs

If misbehavior occurs and a solution cannot be resolved in this fashion, the student is guided through the steps to best solve the situation. Each resolution is treated individually to meet the needs of the child and the situation. I focus on the behavior not the child. After all, we all have bad days. On a positive side, I have a weekly “star student” and assign weekly student jobs/helpers so that students develop a shared responsibility and investment in the classroom. I believe these practices enable children to learn and grow socially both as individuals and as a community.

A little about myself. I have an undergraduate degree in education and am in the middle of a Masters program in Montessori education. I have both ‘3-6 Year’ and ‘6-9 Year’ Montessori Certifications as well as my Public School Certification. I live in Shoreline with my five year old daughter Indira, and our golden-doodle, Avery. I have a love for the arts, reading and the environment. I incorporate these into my teaching so that my excitement for learning is modeled for the students every day. This will be my 9th year at Daniel Bagley and I am very excited about the 2016-17 school year.

Please never hesitate to contact me if there is anything I can do or additional information I can provide.

Sincerely,

Ms. Richards

Room 101

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