



Dear Parents and Students,

I am excited to have you in my class this year as 4th graders! We will become a class of learners who respect each others' differences and celebrates with each other that which makes us unique. In this classroom, *everyone* belongs. I am anticipating a GREAT year for everyone.

About me: Anyone who knows even a little about me knows that birds captivate me. Vacations for me usually involve at least one day devoted solely to bird watching. Family is important to me, and I love to spend time with my nieces and nephew. I also like to travel, with trips to Alaska and Hawaii already under my belt. I was raised in the North Branch area and graduated from Central Michigan University with my Bachelor's degree in education. I also hold a Master in the Art of Teaching degree from Marygrove College. This is my 14th year teaching, all of which have been here at Schickler.

Here are a list of recommended items your child will need for the school year and also an optional list of additional supplies. The supplies on the optional list will be provided for class use, but your child may want their own personal set to keep in their desk. Please help your child to be prepared for the school year as your budget allows.

Needed

- * Pencils
- * A box of tissues for the class

Optional

- * Markers, colored pencils, crayons, glue ...
- * Spiral Notebooks
- * 2 Fancy Folders (one for home, one for here)
(Plain ones will be provided)

In order to help make this a successful year, I would like to go over our classroom rules and responsibilities. Our classroom rules will follow along with the Schickler School rules. In our class, we will:

- Be Respectful, which includes:
 - Treating all adults with respect and authority
 - Treating classmates and adults the way we would want to be treated
 - Listening when the teacher is giving instructions or speaking, or it is a classmate's turn to speak
- Be Responsible, which includes:
 - Completing and turning in assignments
 - Making good choices
 - Correcting behavior when a bad choice is made
 - Taking responsibility for learning
 - Filling out planners AND showing them to parents daily
- Be Ready, which includes:
 - Completing assignments on time
 - Having any books, folders or other supplies needed for class every day
 - Being where you need to be at the appropriate times
 - Following directions the FIRST time given

If students make poor choices, there will be consequences to help remind them to make good choices.

1. Student will receive a verbal warning to correct behavior, but card remains on green
2. Student will need to flip card to yellow
3. Student will need to flip card to red and lose a recess
4. Student will need to flip card to blue, make a phone call home, and may also receive a pink or blue slip
5. Student will need to pull card and give it to the teacher and will be sent to the office to speak with Mrs. McCallum or Mr. Warren. The student will most likely receive a detention along with a blue slip.

Severe disruptions or violations of the school and class rules may result in going directly to Mr. Warren. If students make good choices, their positive behavior will be encouraged through our school-wide Positive Behavior Program.

When assignments are not finished within the time allowed during the school hours that will become homework. Homework needs to be completed and turned in the next day. Parents, please take the time to look over your child's homework to insure it is fully completed. Any assignments circled in the planner are homework. If students use their class time wisely, they may not have homework. There may also be long-term projects throughout the year. There may be some time to work on these in class, but time at home will be required. These projects will be announced and information given concerning them well in advance of their due dates. Reading at home is something that I would expect all children to do every day for a minimum of 20 minutes. Students will keep a monthly reading calendar that will be turned in at the end of the month.

Lastly, please look at the planner and sign it daily. This will be a very valuable tool for parents to know what their children are learning. Students will be required to circle any assignments that are homework, making it easier for you to know which assignments to look for as homework. I will be checking the students' planners every day to be sure they are filled out correctly. I will also circle any homework and/or mark them with a star matching the color your child's card was on for the day. This way, you will know how well your child behaved and know what is or isn't homework. I will also use it as a communication tool, so look for notes from me. Please feel free to communicate with me via notes in the planner as well.

If you have any questions ever, don't hesitate to email me at tvantine@lapeerschools.org or call before or after school hours or leave a message on my voice mail here at work: 667-2440 ext 4229. You may also visit my webpage at lapeerschools.org. Go to the "schools" tab, select "Schickler", and then select Miss Van Tine under "staff". I will have a section with copies of all of the notes sent home located there. Together, let's make this a great year!

Miss Traci Van Tine
4th grade teacher