



Dear parents,

Welcome to a wonderful school year! I am so excited to be teaching fourth grade at Oak Grove! We have a frog theme in our classroom, so you'll probably see a lot of frog-related things coming home!!

You will find our classroom rules and how I handle discipline in this letter. Please feel free to contact me with comments, questions or concerns.

There are four expectations/rules in our classroom. They are:

1. Be Safe
2. Work Hard
3. Be Respectful
4. Take Responsibility

While I have very high expectations that all students will do the right thing at all times, I do have a management system for our room. Each student has a "frog" cut out with their name on it on the board. When one of our expectations/rules is broken, the student will move their "frog" into the appropriate pouch.

The first step is a verbal warning. Usually this is all that is needed to redirect someone that might have lost their focus. If a verbal warning isn't helpful for the student, they will have to move their frog into Hop One.

If the behavior continues, your child will move their frog into HOP TWO. Hop two is a note in the agenda to inform you of the choices that your child has made.

The third step (HOP THREE) is when I will send you an email to inform you of their choices. In some cases, an email will be sent after Hop One.

The final step (HOP FOUR) involves moving their frog into the final pouch and being sent to Ms. Jarman and Mr. Baulch. Some situations require me to send children directly to the office, and you should be notified from the office that your child has come for a visit. I will usually email if this happens as well.

Anytime that your child has to move their frog, there will be a note that comes home to inform you about the problem.

At the end of the day, all frogs are emptied from the pouches and we start over the next day as a brand new day.

Once a frog has been put on the board it will take one week of not moving the frog for any reason, for it to go back off the board. All students should strive to get their frog off the board for the whole year.

I believe more in working towards positive things rather than focusing on negative things. The students work together to earn extra minutes of recess, the opportunity to come back to the room on Friday for lunch, and they work as a class to determine the number of raffle tickets that I will pull each Friday for the "chance" raffle. I have a prize box that is full of awesome prizes (no candy). Every child will get to pick from the prize box at least once during the year.

We are also going to have "Warm Fuzzy Fridays" and we will become "Bucket Fillers." More information is available on our classroom website. This year we'll also be playing "Homeworkopoly" each Friday. Your child can play with us by turning in all their homework assignments for the week! It's fun and easy and full of great rewards!!

I have a website that I have worked very hard to create. It would be wonderful if you would bookmark it and refer to it as often as needed. I will have all weekly newsletters posted, a calendar of events (specific for our classroom), information about the curriculum, slideshows of events happening in the classroom, birthday information, star student information and a ton of helpful games and links for you as a parent to use. My website address is: <http://steveandcat.net/mrswalker>.

I also have a Blackboard site that's full of information that may or may not be on the website. Be sure to check Blackboard weekly to see announcements and the homework for the week. I will scan all homework and put it onto my Bb site. Should your child forget their homework, or you be unsure if there is homework (it's in the newsletter and on Bb), check Blackboard and you can print the sheets that go with each day. That will

save you a trip to Oak Grove and will save your child from not being able to play Homeworkopoly for the week!! Everyone wins!

Again, I look forward to working with you to ensure that this is the best year possible for your child. We are a team and together we are going to make sure that 2009-2010 is the best year ever!!

Thank you!

Mrs. Walker

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