

September 5, 2006

Dear families,

My name is Cathy Walker and I will be your child's 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher for the 2006-2007 school year! I'm very excited to begin this school year and I've spent a lot of time this summer planning and preparing for this year! All that's left to do is actually start teaching!

I would like to tell you a little bit about myself. I started teaching in December of 2000 in a third grade class over at Redner. I taught third grade until the 2004-2005 school year. I was given the opportunity to move to 5<sup>th</sup> grade two days before school started! I was so nervous and wasn't sure what I was doing, but the year was fantastic. I learned that I absolutely LOVE teaching 5<sup>th</sup> grade!! It's a unique grade and a very important one. It's my job to get the class ready for middle school!! This is no small task!!

I graduated from EMU in December of 2000 with my BS in Elementary Education. My major was the Social Studies group (Political Science, History, Geography and Economics) and my minor was the Science group. In 2003 I finished graduate school and earned a MAEd in Curriculum and Instruction. I went back to school shortly after, and in 2005 I graduated with a MAEd in Administration and Supervision. Though my degree could lead to being a principal, I have no desire to leave the classroom!!

I got married this summer to my husband Steve (I used to be Ms. Kramer). We flew to the Bahamas and stayed at the Sandals Royal Bahamian resort in Nassau. We got married on Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at noon and we were both barefoot and on the beach. It was absolutely perfect!! Steve is an environmental manager (he's an engineer) at Federal-Mogul's Headquarters in Southfield.

Your child might come home and say, "I've got 5 teachers in my class!!" Please don't freak out! There's only one teacher (myself), however, we have a student teacher in our class (for the fall semester) named Diane Sabol. We also have a para-professional with us (not sure who it is yet), a pre-student teacher named Miss Diana (she'll be in our room every Wednesday all day for the fall semester), and the Teacher Consultant Donna Ellis will be with us for reading and math each day. As you can see, that means a lot of adults and extra support for all the students in my class!!

I encourage all of you to take some time and look at the classroom website. I've spent hours upon hours creating it and adding information that I feel is essential for you as a family to have. I believe strongly that we are partners in your child's education and I'm so excited to work with you this year!!

Please do not hesitate to contact me about anything!! Right now the best way to contact me is to e-mail me at [grade5teacher@gmail.com](mailto:grade5teacher@gmail.com) or [walker@gw.lincoln.k12.mi.us](mailto:walker@gw.lincoln.k12.mi.us) and I'll get back to you ASAP!! I'm looking forward to a great school year!

Mrs. Walker