

# Welcome to Room 211



## A Little Bit About Me . . .

My name is Amy Asala. I have taught in the Oak Creek district for 23 years as a fifth grade teacher. I have a Master of Arts in Teaching degree and continue to take many classes that help me grow as a teacher.

My husband is a fourth grade teacher in the district, and our two daughters attend East Middle School and the Oak Creek High School.

The goals for my students encompass both academic and personal accomplishments. Academically, I want my students to grow in their knowledge base as well as learn how to solve problems and find the materials they need to make informed decisions. Personally, I want each student to find their passion and grow to be independent contributors to their current phase of life.

In order to meet these goals, it will be important that we all work together as a team. Communication is at the heart of this team-work, and I expect us all to communicate on a regular basis.



## Homework Policy

I assign homework because it is useful in reinforcing what has been learned in class, prepares students for upcoming lessons, extends and generalizes concepts, teaches responsibility, and helps students develop positive study habits.

Assignments will be given Monday through Friday. I will give students some time to complete assignments during the day; therefore, any work that the children bring home is work they have not completed during the school day. This homework should take the students about one hour to complete each night, not including studying for tests, outside reading work, and long-range projects.

I expect students to:

- Do their best work on the assignments—writing neatly and answering questions completely.
- Daily assignments are written on the board. The students are responsible for copying them into their assignment notebook each night. Please sign this book each night indicating that you have **seen and reviewed** the work.
- If there is a legitimate reason why a student is not able to finish homework, the parent must send a signed note stating the reason it was not completed. If a student is absent, special consideration will be given concerning the length of the absence.

I feel that parents are the keys to making homework a positive experience for their children. Please make homework a top priority by providing necessary supplies, a quiet work environment, daily work time, and positive expectations. Please contact me if your child struggles with their homework.

### Communication from

#### Mrs. Asala

- assignment notebook
- Friday Folders
- Web-site Blog
- special notes
- comments on papers
- assessment scores on re-turned work
- phone call or e-mails
- parent/teacher conferences

### Communication from

#### Students

- assignment notebook
- Friday Folder
- six-pocket folder with homework and study guides

### Communication from

#### Parents

- signed assignment notebook and Friday Folder
- notes in the assignment notebook
- phone calls and e-mails

# Assignment Notebook and Six Pocket Folder

The **ASSIGNMENT NOTEBOOK** is an important tool for both the students and parents as it is the best way to keep informed of daily responsibilities.

As a class, we fill out the assignment notebook at the end of the day. We talk about what each assignment is and clarify any questions. The students are expected to fill out the notebook exactly as I have it on the board.

Please check over their notebook and homework each night. It is important that the students hear expectations about the quality of their work from both of us.

Your signature on the bottom of the notebook page indicates that you have seen the completed work and are satisfied with the quality of that work.

The **SIX-POCKET FOLDER** is another important tool for keeping organized..

In this folder, the students will keep their study guides, completed class-work, and homework for the next day. Because it is divided into sections for each class, the students are expected to keep it organized.

The Six-Pocket Folder should come home **each** night because it contains important study guides and homework.



## Friday Folders

Friday Folders have been successfully used in fifth grade for many years. These folders are great tools for parents, students, and teachers.

As a parent, the Friday Folder can be used to stay informed about upcoming events, the work your child has or has not completed, and your child's behavior for the week. Please carefully check through the list of work that is printed on the Friday Folder List. If the work is not in the folder, you should ask your child about their assignment. If you have any further questions, please contact me. I would also encourage you to discuss the goals your child will be working on as identified at the bottom of the sheet.

As a student, the Friday Folder can help keep track of work. Any work that is not up to their level of quality should be corrected and resubmitted for grading. The Friday Folder can

also help them evaluate the areas in which they need to grow. On the Friday Folder review sheet, I ask them to state something they are proud of that week, as our success in this room should be constantly celebrated.

As a teacher, the Friday Folder is a major communication tool. I use it as a way to keep you informed of what we may be covering in the next week. From time to time, I may even write additional notes commenting on something that I think is important for you to know about your child.

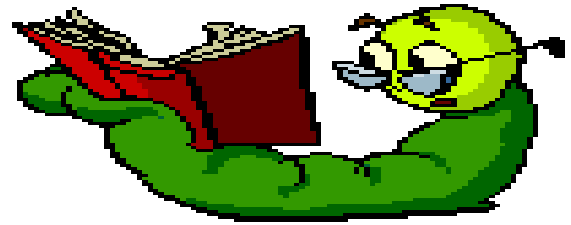
Due to the importance of this folder, I ask that you check it each week, sign the sheet, and return it to school on Monday. You can include any questions for me on the sheet.

If there isn't going to be a folder for the week, it will be written in the assignment notebook.



# Reading Outside of School

Reading is an integral part of everyone's life. At this stage of your child's learning, reading plays an important part in their educational success. In order to further develop their skill and increase their enjoyment of books, I require the children to read outside of the school day.



## Focus on These Types of Literature

- Fiction: realistic fiction, historical fiction
- Non-fiction: informational, actual events
- Fantasy and Folklore
- Poetry
- Biographies or Autobiographies

## Record Your Reading

I require the students to read for 20 minutes for **five** out of the seven nights of the week.

I will send home a calendar each week. Please help your child fill out the calendar by marking the title of the material read and the amount of minutes read on the date they completed the reading.

Please **sign your name** on the slip as a way of validating your child's reading choice. I will keep track of the reading they do at home as a way of helping them keep up with their reading commitment.

The reading calendars will be returned after each week. Those student who keep up with their reading requirements will earn monthly rewards.

### Read, Read, and Read Some More . . .

For some students, reading is a struggle. I have found some strategies that may make this experience more enjoyable.

- Allow your child to read comic books and magazines once in a while.
- Have your child read to a younger sibling. This can be a powerful tool in increasing confidence and fluency.
- Allow your child to work towards a reading goal and a trip to their favorite bookstore to pick out a new book.
- Pick out a book to read **WITH** you child. Read page-by-page or chapter-by-chapter. Sharing the reading task with your child helps model good reading behavior and give you some quality time together.

# Healthy Snacks



Your child may bring in snacks for the morning snack period. The items must be healthy:

*fruit, veggies, cheese, crackers, popcorn, pretzels, fruit bars, yogurt*



A water bottle filled with *water* is also permitted. Please do not send your child with juice, kool-aid, energy drinks, or soda.

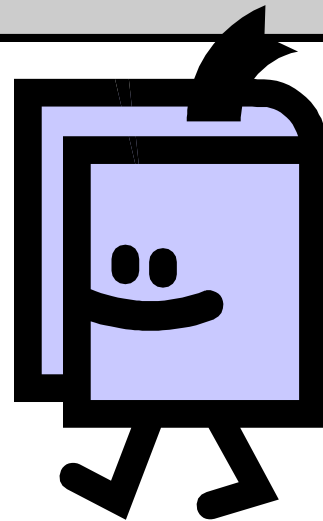


Your child's birthday can be celebrated in school. They may forgo the "no sweets" rule if they choose to bring a treat to share with their classmates.

## Book Orders

I will be sending book orders home once each month from **ARROW—Scholastic Book Clubs**. If your child chooses books to order, please send the payment (checks only) in an envelope with your child's name and amount enclosed.

This is a wonderful way to purchase books for your child while also supporting the classroom. Each purchase helps me order free items for the classroom.



## Contact Me Anytime . . .

I am looking forward to working with you and your child this year. Please feel free to contact me with any feedback or questions that you may have.

- Assignment Notebook Notes
- Telephone: 414-768-6220
- E-mail: [a.asala@ocfsd.org](mailto:a.asala@ocfsd.org)