

September 4, 2013

Dear Parents,

Hello and welcome to a new school year. Thank you for sharing your wonderful children with me and your patience in receiving this important information. I hope it answers your questions.

My name is Tricia Weston or Ms. Weston, as the children call me. I have been teaching for 20 years in both special education and general education. I also have my Masters degree in the Art of Teaching. My children are Jacob, 17, and Lauren Rose, 13. They attend WHS and WMS. They are wonderful children and they are my life outside of school and, often, the topic of many of my stories in class. I am looking forward to adding your child to my daily life as well. Thank you for sharing them with me!

Below I have listed some important information so you know a little more about our classroom and school.

BIRTHDAYS: We realize that children love to share the excitement of a birthday and this can be a bit disappointing. Willow Hill has taken on the policy that we cannot celebrate each child's birthday due to many factors. We will celebrate in our own way in class for your child on their special day. Thank you for your understanding and following this policy.

CLASS PARTIES: We will have three parties throughout the school year- Halloween, Holiday and Valentine's Day. If you would like help plan one of the parties, help or send in something to share at a party, please let me know by indicating your choice on the sign-up sheet attached. I would really love to invite one parent to be our "Room Mom" and organize these events with other parents. This would take a lot off of my shoulders. Let me know if any parent would be interested in taking on this role for our classroom.

COMMUNICATION: This is extremely important and it does not need to wait until conferences. I welcome you at any time. We need to work together to make this a successful year for your child and I am looking forward to hearing from you. You can expect

newsletters, Report Cards three times this year, conferences two times this year (or when needed) and you will see a Daily Assignment Book (DAB) to come home nightly. Please read over this DAB nightly and sign it. It needs to go home each night and returned each day. Please feel free to email me or call me when necessary. I am here for you and your child.

TAKE-HOME FOLDERS: Along with the DAB, your child will bring home a plastic folder with important papers in it daily. This is my way of making sure homework and important notes are getting home on a regular basis. This folder will be labeled "Stay" on one side for papers that can stay at home for your information. The other side will say "Return" for the papers that need to be returned to school the next day such as homework, permission slips, lunch money or notes to be signed. This folder will also include their spelling work. Your support in making sure that these come back to school daily will be greatly appreciated and will help make your child successful.

HOMEWORK: This year your child will have about 30 minutes a night of homework. This homework will include reading minutes to be signed in the DAB, spelling homework, and some math homework. It will vary and should be independent practice of skills taught in class. I will send more information with each homework assignment.

SNACK TIME: Our tummies are rumbling as we are getting use to eating lunch later in the day. Therefore, a healthy snack is important each day for your child. Snack should be sent everyday. It needs to be healthy such as fruits, vegetables, crackers or whatever else creative you can think of. Please be advised no nut foods are permitted in the classroom at all due to allergies. They can bring items that contain nuts for lunch, however.

Please do not send candy or items that are too sugary. Our lunch is at 12:50 and our snack time is at 11:00am. Thank you for helping to remind your child to pack a nut-free snack each day.

WATER BOTTLES: Water bottles are welcome in the classroom. Our brains need water to learn and I encourage your child to have one. Please be sure that it closes well to prevent spills. Please, only water is allowed in the classroom.

SUPPLIES: Thank you to so many of you who have sent in supplies for the class and for your child. It is so helpful and makes our days go smoother. I think we are set for a while. I just want to remind families that your child needs to have gym shoes in their lockers to help

keep our floor safe and nice. Art shirts are not needed because Mrs. Rueles said she is set with those.

* PLEASE HAVE YOUR CHILD BRING IN A PICTURE TO HANG ON OUR FAMILY TREE.

EMAIL: I usually communicate through email. Please make sure I have all of the emails that you would like me to have. I can send hard copies if email is not available. Just let me know. I also have a Moodle site found under the Willow Hill site. You go to the site, find the Staff tab and scroll to my name to find it. I will update that as needed.

TESTING: We will be taking the NWEA and MEAP this year.

Our Specials Schedule:

Monday	Art
Tuesday	World Language
Wednesday	Gym, World Language, Music
Thursday	Library ? (TBA)
Friday	Gym, Music

*All of our specials are in the afternoon.

Thank you for taking the time to read all of this information. Please contact me with any questions or concerns. Again, thank you for sharing your child with me each day. They are really wonderful.

westontr@tcaps.net

933-8544

Tricia Weston

Classroom Information Sheet

Child's Name: _____

Email addresses: _____

Please send hard copies of information. _____

Phone numbers: _____

Are you available to help in the classroom? _____ When? _____

Please check all that apply.

I would like to be the Room Mom/Dad. _____

*Please be advised that helping could mean sending in a treat/supply, helping at the party or organizing the party.

I would like to help with the Halloween Party. _____ Phone Number _____

I would like to help with the Holiday Party. _____ Phone Number _____

I would like to help at the Valentine's Day party. _____ Phone Number _____

How would you prefer to help?

Best times to contact you? _____

"Normal" after school transportation or plans? _____

