

To Students and Parents/Guardians,

This is an exciting time for your child and also for me. Let me take a moment to introduce myself and provide a brief background. I am Mr. Jasinski (most of the students refer to me as Mr. J) and I am the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade science teacher. In December of 2004 I graduated from Walsh University in North Canton, OH with a Bachelor of Science degree with concentrations in Math, Reading and Science. I have successfully taken and passed Praxis II exams in Middle School Mathematics and Principles of Learning and Teaching Grades 5 – 9. I am a highly qualified and licensed teacher with Ohio Department of Education. This is my fourth year at Washington Park Community School (WPCS). In previous school years, I have been an instructional aide in Kindergarten, Second Grade, Fifth Grade, and also as a substitute when needed. I have also coached the Newburgh Heights Boys Pony team for the past two summers.

Although the student's are entering his/her last year here at WPCS, some might think this will be the easiest year and that they can coast the whole way through. This is not the case. More responsibility will be placed on your child. After this year your child should be well prepared for high school from all the hard work that they will put in this year. High expectations will be set for every student because whether they know it or not, they are setting an example for the rest of the school. This is the students' last chance to make a positive impression that will be remembered for years to come.

Our expectations for conduct and academic strengths are high. We feel that each child should follow the basic rules of respect for his/her classmates and teacher. The class rules of academic conduct, along with rewards and consequences, are posted in the room where each student can be reminded what is acceptable behavior at all times. This will require a lot of hard work and effort by every child. Therefore, your child **will have homework** just about every night. We do not look at homework as a means of punishment; it is used to reinforce and increase your child's knowledge of the content that is being worked with. Every student at WPCS is provided with a homework assignment book on the first day, free of charge. It is your child's responsibility to use the homework assignment book. Writing assignments in this book will prove to be a benefit in school this year and for years to follow.

Eighth grade is the most important year for your child. To make this year the best for everyone, WPCS has added three more teachers to input their knowledge and experience with the students here. Mr. Fitzsimmons is the Social Studies teacher. Ms. Middleton is the mathematics teacher. Ms. Osterman is the Language Arts teacher. Mrs. Nagy is teaching reading this year. I will be your child's homeroom, spelling and science teacher. All five teachers will follow the same classroom rules and procedures, along with the same discipline policies.

We will be using a check system to monitor student behavior. Each class will have a "check folder" where teachers will place a check/initial to a student's name for inappropriate behavior. The first two are warnings to get back on track. A third check will result in an after-school detention. Any student requiring an after-school detention *will serve the detention on the next day*. A notice will be sent home for a parent/guardian signature and returned to the teacher. The teacher who assigns the detention will handle the detention, unless otherwise noted.

It is very important that your child attend school everyday, unless a serious illness occurs. In the case that your student is absent from school, you **must call** the office to notify us. Upon returning to school it is your child's responsibility to ask each teacher for the work they need to complete from his/her absence. Each child will receive one day per day absent to complete and turn in assignments for full credit.

With your participation both in and out of the classroom, we can look forward to a productive and enjoyable year together. One way you can help is by providing me with any information that will aid me in understanding your child better. Some things that might be of interest are:

- Important life experiences
- Study habits
- Out-of-school activities and special interests
- Feelings and attitude towards school

Summary of how your child's science class will be conducted.

Vocabulary/Vocabulary Quiz: at the beginning of each week a sheet of vocabulary words will be passed out. These words are over the material that will be covered in that week. The vocabulary sheet is due on that Friday. Also on Friday, there will be a quiz over the exact words on the list. Handwriting does count – so make your writing legible! Both papers will be graded and returned to your child.

Daily Science Activity: at the beginning of every class each child will be given a Daily Science Activity sheet. This activity is provided from the Discovery Channel. The questions will cover brain teasers, mazes, crosswords, optical illusions and many other topics. The purpose of this activity is to have your child think differently and approach answering a question differently. These papers will be collected and graded.

Notes: in preparing your children for high school and beyond, I will present the information through a slideshow. Each student will be given a note sheet to write down the topic(s) being discussed. These papers will be collected upon completion of topic, graded and then returned. Handwriting does count – so make your writing legible!

Homework: your child will receive a homework assignment at least once a week. The questions will vary from multiple-choice, short answer and extended response. A great way to answer the homework questions is by using the notes or the textbook. The homework will be set up similar to the Ohio Achievement Tests (OATs) and graded similarly. Handwriting does count – so make your writing legible!

Although I am interested in anything that could be affecting your child, it is not necessary for you to reveal personal information. Please know that anything you do say will be kept in confidence.

If you need to contact me personally for any reason, you can contact me through the school office. The school's phone number is 216-271-6055. I will try to return your call as soon as possible. The quickest and best way to contact me is through the school website, www.wpcschool.org or by emailing me at bjasinski@wpcschool.org.

Attached is the homework policy, class rules, and rewards/consequences. Please read over these items, sign the bottom, and return with your.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jasinski