

# Mrs. Wolfe's Behavior Expectations

I believe that all children are able to behave appropriately in our classrooms and will tolerate no behavior which interrupts my teaching or any student's learning. In order to guarantee your child and all the students in our room the excellent learning climate they deserve, I am utilizing the following discipline plan starting today. In addition to this, the class will be working together to amend and to edit these so that they become *our* expectations.

- Treat others with respect.
- Follow directions the first time given.
- Be prepared. Have materials ready, and turn in work on time.
- Use an appropriate voice level for the activity in which you are engaged.

Positive reinforcements for excellent choices will include stamps in assignment books, verbal praise, notes/phone calls home, and special privileges. In addition to individual rewards, our class will be working on a group goal of earning a million dollars. As excited as I am about this goal, I'll refrain from telling you all about it. This is a conversation your child will be eager to have with you.

Consequences will include verbal reminders, student/teacher conferences, time to think and regroup, written behavior contract, time to work away from the group in another classroom, call home, or office referral.

## Communication

Two way home/school communication (day shift and night shift) is paramount to your child's success. I will be keeping you informed of happenings at school through my weekly Wolfe Notes, an electronic newsletter. These will also be available on the blog on my website (the-wolfe-web.com).

***Please note that if you would like to receive these via email, you will need to send me your email address electronically. In order for both Josephine and I to be able to add you to our email lists, please send an email to:***

[Joy\\_j\\_wolfe@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Joy_j_wolfe@mcpsmd.org); [Josephine\\_mannino@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Josephine_mannino@mcpsmd.org); [joy@the-wolfe-web.com](mailto:joy@the-wolfe-web.com).

It would be very helpful if you would put both your entire name and your child's in the body of the email in order to help us quickly familiarize ourselves with our families.

If you ever have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me by email. I will make every possible effort to check each at least once during the day and will also check email nightly from home. You are also welcome to call the school and leave a message, but I have fewer opportunities to return phone calls than I do to return emails. Be aware that it may take longer for me to get back to you by phone. Feel free to send notes with your child as well.

# HOMework EXPECTATIONS

Homework is an important tool for many reasons. It helps students enhance their experiences at school, reinforces and extends what has been learned in class, prepares students for upcoming lessons, teaches responsibility, allows parents to become involved in daily learning, and promotes development of positive study habits, and organization.

You may expect math homework any night Monday through Thursday. I generally refrain from sending home much science homework as your child will have many assignments in language arts and math. Weekend homework will only occur when a student chooses to work on a long term project.

Your child is responsible for writing homework down daily in his/her assignment book and having assignments completed by the beginning of class the next day. Assignment books should be reviewed nightly by a parent or guardian. I will post assignments on Schoolnotes.com, but it is preferable that this be used as a parent tool. The responsibility of keeping track of assignments is a large part of the lesson for students.

Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are due at the beginning of class the following day. If homework isn't finished, especially in math, your child will miss out on the rich mathematical discourse which occurs among the students at the beginning of each class period.

Please note that the homework grade is part of the Learning Skills grades and does not count directly toward the subject grade. The homework score comes from homework being completed in a timely manner to the best of the child's ability. With the exception of excused absences, late homework grades will not be entered.

There are occasional legitimate reasons for a student not completing a homework assignment. If there is a problem which causes a student to be unable to finish the assignment, please send a note to me on the date the assignment is due stating the reason it was not completed. A parent or guardian must sign the note. This will allow me to give additional time for completion of the assignment. ***Please note that unexcused absences and extracurricular activities such as sports, music lessons, after school classes or clubs, etc. are not legitimate excuses for missing homework.*** Should this happen once or twice, your child's grade won't be compromised. Should it happen more often, you may need to help your child make choices about priorities.

After an excused absence students will be expected to check in with me and to get missed assignments from the absent folder. I will be happy to help a child catch up in such cases. Due to MCPS policy and to the tremendous amount of time that it takes to preplan for unexcused absences due to vacation, we are not able to give assignments to students who are planning to be out of school due to travel, etc. If possible, missed assessments will be

given upon a child's return to school. It is the parents' responsibility to work with students on missed skills in these instances.

It is my belief that homework should be a part of a child's life without replacing the existence of said life. Kids need time to be kids, to play, and to explore their own interests. It is not my goal to keep your child busy with homework assignments from the moment they get home until they drag off to bed looking bleary eyed and exhausted. Should you find that homework is taking more than an hour to an hour and a half on average, please contact me so that we can work together to find a solution.

Thank you for your support, and I look forward to sharing a fantastic year with you and your child!