Dear3rd and 4th Grade Parents,

I am looking forward to working with your child this year. My philosophy for learning is that each child is unique and learns in a different way. One of my jobs as a teacher is to help your child discover his or her individuality and work with them to maximize it. I have very high expectations of myself as a teacher as well as of my students. My goal is to create a community of learners who are committed to working hard and feel challenged. I want students to leave my classroom feeling confident that they can apply what they’ve learned in school to real-life situations.

 Class instruction this year will consist of text book work, instructional technology, and cross curricular exploratory (hands-on) activities. A focus will be given to improving reading, writing, and math skills. We will also be doing collaborative group work in all subjects. To allow for this I have allotted time into our daily schedule. At least one afternoon a week we will be devoted to exploring the curriculum we are currently studying. For example, we may do a Science Experiment, Michigan Studies, Agriculture in the Classroom,Religion Project, Creative Writing, or explore different kinds of literature.

 Every other week, we will also be having " Shopping Time'" at the Mrs. W. store. The students have the opportunity to earn Mrs. W. dollars for completed (on-time) assignments, signed student notebooks, "Jeopardy" review of class materials, and good conduct/citizenship. They will be able to redeem the points for lower priced items of save them to make a larger purchase on a future shopping trip. I have explained to them that they are responsible for keeping track of their "dollars" and that once earned I will not take away their money for inappropriate behavior. This is set up to provide added incentive to students and to help teach them responsibility and economic skills that apply to real life situations.

 Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. I can be reached through the St. Patrick School Office or via e-mail (**wickenheiser@stpatrick.school**). If you would like to talk in person, I am always available to schedule an appointment before and after school. You will receive a weekly letter emailed to you by Sunday evening of upcoming class activities, information, and dates to remember.

 God Bless,

 Mrs. Wickenheiser