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**ROOM 206 NEWS**

**August 23, 2019**

 Dear Parents,

 Welcome back! I hope everyone’s summer vacation was fun and

 restful. I'm very excited about my new class and I’m looking forward to a

 productive year. Here are a few items of important information for this

 first week of school.

* **Communication:** Please check your child’s backpack each day for mail, graded assignments, test and quiz grades (if any). I will usually send a reminder email if I’ve sent home any important graded tests or assignments. I will also send a monthly class newsletter via email attachment on the first Friday of each month. As the need arises, I will also send emails with important news and reminders. Students will also have an assignment book which parents should check and sign at the bottom of each day’s entry. You may write notes to me in their assignment book, but the best way to reach me is through email (**minorj@district65.net**) or on my classroom phone

 (**847-905-3626).**

You may also visit my class website by entering <http://mrjminor.weebly.com/> or by going to the staff directory on the Willard website. My web page is currently under revision for the new year and should be complete by the end of September.

* **Homework:** I assign homework Monday through Thursday. There is always a math assignment (usually in the math *Study Links* book, but sometimes in the *Math Journal*). I also expect students to read for at least 30 minutes each night in addition to regular homework. Occasionally, there will be an additional reading or writing activity related to our new reading and writing workshop curriculums.

 I don’t give routine homework on the weekends, but there will be special projects with deadlines that may require work on Saturday and Sunday. Students should always find time to read on the weekends as well.

 Students will write their homework in their assignment books, but I will

 also enter daily assignments on my web page starting later this month.

* **Mystery Bags:** We always start the year with a special “Getting to Know You“ activity. To prepare for this, please have your children gather 3 objects or pictures at home that are representative of their personalities, families or interests, and place them in a paper bag (which I’ll provide). Please be sure the objects fit in the bag and do not reveal the student’s identity. Of course do not include any objects that are too valuable or precious.
* **Snacks:** In 4th grade, students are responsible for bringing their own snacks each day. We will have a short snack time every morning. Try to send healthy food for your kids.
* **Birthdays:** We do celebrate them in class, but due to the possibility of food allergies, we do serve special food treats to the whole class. On their birthday, students will receive a small gift from me, and then will choose a short “free time” activity for the entire class. We will celebrate summer birthdays on the “half” birthday.

I know this will be a great year with your children. Please don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Thank You,

John Minor