

September 2, 2014

Dear Families,

Welcome to Room 15! I am excited to be your child's third grade teacher. My goal is to provide the best education possible for your child and prepare them to be successful students. I need your help to achieve this goal. A good learning experience is built upon cooperative effort between parent, child, and the teacher. My expectations for conduct and academic growth are high. With your participation we can look forward to a productive, creative, and fun year together!

Let me introduce myself. My name is Nicole Drou   (Drew-say) and this is my third year teaching at Darnall Charter School. My hobbies are playing soccer and volleyball, enjoying movies with my fianc   and parents, and hanging out with my dogs, George and Jerry. I received my Bachelor's Degree from San Diego State University and my Multiple Subject Teaching Credential and Masters of Education Degree from the University of California, San Diego. I currently teach Student Council to 6th–8th graders at Darnall. In Student Council we will be planning Spirit Days, running fundraisers, and leading school events. I aim to engage all students in an environment that promotes all types of learning while fostering a sense of success in each individual student. I look forward to getting to know you! Working with your child is a privilege and I am looking forward to working together to make this year a wonderful experience.

I have a blended learning environment so it is important that you have access to the Internet at home in order to make learning accessible and successful for your children. Blended Learning is an education program taught online and face-to-face in the classroom.

HOMEWORK

Your child will receive homework **each** night. It is important that you set a routine for doing homework, such as after your child has an afternoon snack. Your child should have a quiet place to work, and after it is completed please check it. It should then be placed back into their **homework folder** and the folder into the backpack. Once a routine like this is established, homework will become second nature.

Please look for your child's homework along with their Homework Log to be sent home every day in your child's **homework folder**. The homework will be as follows but is subject to change:

1. One Math sheet
2. One Language Arts sheet
3. 20 minutes of silent or oral reading
4. Study weekly spelling words (students will receive a list on Mondays and will take a test on Fridays)
4. 5 minutes of Multiplication Facts practice with flash cards (which we will be making in class)

The homework will be due the day after it is assigned. PLEASE LOOK OVER YOUR CHILD'S HOMEWORK AND SIGN THEIR HOMEWORK LOG EACH NIGHT!

Students who fail to bring their completed homework will have the opportunity to complete their missing work during Fun Friday. It is both your child's and your responsibility to make sure your child completes all homework as per **The Darnall Charter Parent Compact**. Thank you for your help and support in this matter!

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

I believe that self-discipline is very important. I have developed a discipline plan that gives every student the opportunity to manage his/her own behavior. Please encourage your child to make good choices at school and at home.

Darnall Expectations:

1. Be Respectful
2. Be Responsible
3. Be Safe

I don't expect perfection! We ALL make mistakes. I do expect that we don't continue to make the same mistakes. We will be using Class Dojo and Dolphin Dollars to reward positive behaviors. The students can earn Dolphin Dollars from any staff member for demonstrating the Darnall Expectations, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe. They have to turn them in each week for a chance to win a school wide raffle. The raffle winners will earn a Free Dress Day, which falls on the last Tuesday of each month.

Class Dojo (www.classdojo.com) is an online tool used in the classroom that will be shared with parents. You will be able to check your child's behavior online daily. I will present this information at Back to School Night and will share parent codes with you then.

If the student chooses to misbehave they will then be asked to sign the "Responsible Thinking (RT) Book". If they continue to misbehave they will receive a referral to the office.

Responsible Thinking (RT) Book: I will have a red 3 ring binder that contains a copy of our classroom rules and several blank copies of my Responsible Thinking Plan.

The plan has 2 short prompts for students to write on their own.

Once students have completed the plan correctly, they sign it, the teacher signs it, and the students must take it home to have their parents sign it. Then the student returns it to the teacher on the next school day, or else I contact parents and communicate with them personally about the problem.

This type of plan places the responsibility on the students for their own behavior and gives them a chance to think about how to improve their behavior. It also gives the parent a chance to discuss the student's behavior with them. It's a time of training!

Parent/Teacher Communication

The relationship that you and I share is integral to your child's academic success. Please don't hesitate to contact me whenever you need clarification of an assignment, curricular area, or anything else. The BEST way to contact me is through email. I will get back to you quickly, as I do check my email every day.

Let's make this a successful and fun academic year! I hope we can work together to make it one of growth, discovery, and significance for your child. Thank you for your support!

Ms. Drouse

ndrouse@darnallcharter.org

Please sign and return the bottom portion

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I have received and read a copy of the homework and behavior policies.

Student Name _____

Parent Name _____

Signature _____

**Welcome to Ms. Drouse's
Third Grade Class!!**

