

August 3, 2017

Dear Student and Parents,

Once upon a time a little girl went to her first day of kindergarten. She came home and announced that she was going to be a teacher...and here I am. In second grade I started tutoring my classmates during recess. My formal training was completed at Illinois State University where I earned a degree in Elementary Education in 1991 and later added an endorsement in Special Education. This will be my 8th year at Plato. One of my favorite places to be is in the classroom and I hope your child will feel the same way. Teaching your child is a tremendous privilege as well as a tremendous responsibility. I am excited to partner-up with you in this learning process.

Most schools have a mission statement declaring they engage all students, they differentiate to each individual's needs and they promote lifelong learning. At Plato Academy this is more than a mission statement, it is an every day event. My students are encouraged to be out of their seats collaborating and communicating with each other, sometimes loudly, and creatively searching for solutions to problems by using their critical thinking skills. I join them in this process and learn as much as they do. I look forward to making many cherished memories alongside my future students. To be a part of this experience fills me with joy and reminds me of why, ever since the first day of kindergarten I have yearned to be a teacher.

Many children have questions about their upcoming first day of school. I would be tickled to receive a call, a text, or an e-mail from my students before school begins to answer all questions or hear ideas. Before school even begins encourage your child to create a plan on when and where the backpack will be loaded and unloaded. LABEL ALL PLATO UNIFORMS. Please pack a change of clothes, including socks, to be kept at school. Also begin the practice of using the bathroom every morning right before leaving the house.

Because the art of communication is vital to a successful education, I compose a few questions each week specific to our learning and investigations. Use these questions found in your weekly newsletters to engage your child in conversation. Then contact me to share some of the interesting comments.

Questions to ask your child after the first day:

- How is your class different this year compared to last year?
- How many ovals are in your classroom?
- With all the books in the world, why do you think Mrs. Teresa chose to read the ones she read for the first day of school?
- What steps did you use to complete your toothpaste experiment? (First, next, then...)
- What do you think is going to happen at school tomorrow?

Your partner in education, Mrs. Teresa Pape ☺

Please let me know that you have received this and please feel free to ask many questions.

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"When you study great teachers... you will learn much more from their caring and hard work than from their style." --William Glasser