

Shelly K. Durham

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August 13, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to ask your help as a partner in your child's education. I will only have a short time with your child in their journey through life and I want to make a contribution that lasts a lifetime.

My teaching must begin with making your child feel at home in our classroom and with helping all of my students come together as a learning community made up of unique individuals, each with his or her own learning style, interests, history, and dreams. Would you help me be a more effective teacher by taking a quiet moment to write me about your child? What is your child like? What the things you as a parent know that would be important for me to know? What are your child's interests? I want to know how your child thinks and plays. How do you see your child as a reader, a learner, and a person?

Your response may take many forms—a letter, a list, a poem—whatever feels most comfortable and appropriate. Feel free to email me or send your written response with your student to class. Thank you in advance for helping me be a better teacher for your child.

Respectfully,

Shelly K. Durham