**Welcome to Ms. Stephanie’s Class!**



**HI PARENTS!**

This is my first-year teaching at CHES in the self-contained classroom and I am so excited about what we have planned for this year! Previously, I have been an assistant in a self-contained classroom, as well as in Kindergarten and First Grade. I love working with children and feel strongly that every child deserves a chance to learn.

**OUR CLASS**

My classroom is a self-contained Special Education class, but it is structured similarly to a typical classroom. Because we have a smaller class size, we can provide academic instruction for our students in smaller groups with more teacher support. We are also able to diversify instruction based on each student's specific needs and ensure that every student receives a great education.

**DAILY ROUTINE**

We have a daily routine that includes a morning routine (calendar time, introducing sign language, weather, phonics) and daily rotations for Math, ELA, and Reading. The Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards and each student's IEP goals are reflected in these rotations. We will also work on social, behavioral, communication, and emotional skills during the day. The Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards and each student's IEP goals are the basis for all of our classroom activities.

**SNACK**

We will have a snack time mid-morning each day. Please send a snack with your child.

**PEER BUDDIES**

Due to the current circumstances from COVID19, we are not allowed to have peer buddies this year. However, I will be giving each child a Beanie Baby to keep at their desk with them. This will substitute as best as possible and allow them to still have a “buddy”.

**REMIND 101**

We will be using the Remind 101 app for daily classroom-based communication. I like Remind 101 because it allows easy and quick communication between the classroom and home. The link for our class Remind can be found on my website.

**HOMEWORK**

A weekly Homework sheet will come home every Monday with various activities to work on throughout the week, including a reading log and a weekly chore. The completed sheet will need to be returned by Friday (or the last day of that week). Homework will not be graded.

**MONTHLY FAMILY PROJECT**

It can be so much fun sharing about each child and their experiences with the class. In order to provide our students with an additional opportunity to practice sharing about themselves, we will be sending home a "monthly project" beginning in September. Monthly projects are designed to be simple and
flexible. These are to be completed by the child with the assistance of a parent or sibling. These projects are meant to be fun and engaging- please do not stress about creating over the top projects! Family projects will be sent home at the beginning of the month and returned at the end. Each monthly project will have a due date.

**CORE WORD OF THE WEEK (W.O.W.)**

Core vocabulary is a small set of simple words, in any language, that are used frequently and across contexts (Cross, Baker, Klotz & Badman, 1997). Core Vocabulary words are functional words that are easily generalized across communication contexts and communication partners. Word of the Week (WoW) is a systematic instructional strategy for teaching Core Vocabulary Words. We will be focusing on one word a week, and we will practice using that word in many different environments. Check the weekly newsletter for tips on reinforcing these lessons at home.