

August 1, 2016

Dear Parents,

We are excited to announce a great opportunity, called WOHE Tiger Team, for your child this year. In conjunction with our district's mission statement: **"Student Focused-Strongly Connected-Success Driven,"** your student will be provided with the unique opportunity to experience a team teaching approach to learning. We have thoroughly researched this approach to teaching, gone to multiple trainings, and are excited to provide its wonderful benefits to your student. We piloted this approach to learning last year, and it was very successful.

Team teaching involves a group of instructors working cooperatively and purposefully. It is structured to instruct a group of students in their area of need. This year, your child will work closely with two teachers to help them reach their potential. Your child will spend the majority of the day working collaboratively with another classroom of students as well as an additional teacher. Students will frequently break out into strategy groups, meeting their individual needs, after a lesson is presented by one or both teachers.

Our district's mission statement is the framework for this Tiger Team initiative. It is our belief that team teaching supports this mission in the following ways:

Student Focused:

- Opportunities will be provided to meet the individual needs of students through strategy groups.
- Team teaching provides students with another perspective on the same topic.
- Two teachers are available to answer questions, manage behaviors, and keep students focused.

Strongly Connected:

- Students will build a rapport with two teachers who care for their well-being.
- The opportunities for friendship grow through the additional classroom network.
- Students will have a larger variety of others to partner with for activities

Success Driven:

- Students are motivated to complete assignments and master objectives in order to move on to enrichment activities.
- When students are affirmed by two teachers both their learning and self-esteem improves.
- Students are able to participate in additional learning opportunities a traditional classroom could not provide.

Teaching your child is a privilege, as well as a tremendous responsibility. We will do our best to ensure that each student has a motivating and enriching learning experience in our classroom. We all need to be partners in the learning process. With your help we are going to have a great year. Also, please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns. We look forward to meeting you at Meet the Teacher Night on August 9 Welcome to WOHE Tiger Team!

Always learning,
Mrs. Mary Blackburn
Miss Danielle Jones

417.869.0600

daniellejones@willardschools.net or maryblackburn@willardschools.net

**** FLIP TO THE OTHER SIDE FOR MORE INFORMATION****

Special Notes about School Supplies:

- We do community supplies so don't worry about putting a name on anything or getting any fancy folders/notebooks
- Students do not need a school box from the supply list
- Students only need two folders (community supplies so probably not fancy)

Meet the Teacher Night August 9, 2016:

- In order to give us more time to meet all families, we will split in two different sessions. You may sign-up to come from 5:30-6:30 or 7:00-8:00. This is a little different from the rest of the building, so please plan accordingly.
- Please use the attached link to sign-up for your time. <http://goo.gl/forms/6u1vao2iA7AzgCtD3>

Parent Communication Sources and More Information About Team Teaching:

- Our WOHE Tiger Team website and our Tiger Team Padlet will be used as our primary sources of information. They can be found at wohetigerteam.weebly.com and padlet.com/dj1988/tigerteamupdates.
- For an informational video about Team Teaching, visit our Tiger Team Website.
- For a student video of what to expect on Tiger Team, visit our Tiger Team Website.
- For a FAQ page about Tiger Team and Team Teaching in general, visit our Tiger Team Website

****AN ELECTRONIC COPY OF THIS LETTER AS WELL AS ALL LINKS CAN BE BE FOUND ON OUR TIGER TEAM WEBSITE****

August 1, 2016

Dear 4th Grader,

Welcome to WVOHE Tiger Team! We are excited to have you on our new team. This year you are lucky enough to have both Miss Jones **and** Mrs. Blackburn as your teachers! Tiger Team is combining two classes into one that shares teachers and classrooms as one big family. We will do everything together as one group. There will be times when we work in small groups within the classroom, in order to help everyone learn in the best way for them.

On Meet the Teacher Night, Tuesday, August 9. You will come visit us in our mobile classroom behind the building (please still enter through the building). This space is great for collaborative learning and we love being in "The Guest House". Make sure you bring school supplies so we will have them for our first day of school. (Supply note: We have community supplies, you do not need a school box, and you only need 2 folders)

Our first day of school is Thursday, August 11. Students are allowed into the classroom at 8:20. You will be expected to enter through the building. The official tardy time is 8:40, but we would encourage arriving before the tardy bell so everyone has time to settle into classroom routines.

We are excited to get to know more about you and would like to share a little bit about ourselves. This year will be Miss Jones's sixth year teaching and fifth year at WVOHE. I have a degree from Missouri State University in Elementary Education with an emphasis in eMINTS. I am very excited to have finished my Masters in Educational Technology at MSU last spring as well. I love using technology to make learning fun! I currently live in Springfield with my best friend Lauren, my three kitties Mitzy, Figaro, and Myla, and my dog Juno. I love to bike, camp, and cook food.

This is Mrs. Blackburn's fourth year teaching 4th grade at WVOHE. I have a degree in Elementary Education from MSU. My family consists of my husband, myself, two sons, and two crazy cats. My oldest son will be a Freshman at Willard High School and my youngest will be in 6th grade at Willard Intermediate. We have enjoyed a vacation to the East Coast, swimming, reading, and relaxing over the summer. I am cancer survivor, and I look forward to celebrating my third year cancer free with you!

We are very excited to begin the year. We have so much to learn and so much fun to have! As many of you know, 4th grade is a challenging year. We have high expectations for you. However, we will find many ways to make it interesting and fun. We will be reading lots of books, performing exciting science experiments, and learning about Missouri's history, as well as many other things. We are excited to meet you on Meet the Teacher Night. Welcome to the WVOHE Tiger Team!

Always learning,
Miss Jones and
Mrs. Blackburn