

The Word From Third Making Contact

Wednesday, August 21 to Friday, August 23

Our First Week

If you asked your third grader what new information he or she learned in math or reading this week, he or she might answer with "nothing!" That's actually quite true! I strongly believe that is well worth devoting time to learning procedures and expectations in a very clear and explicit manner during the first week of school. This helps to lay the foundation for an excellent year of learning.

We have also taken time this week to get to know each other through discussions and icebreakers. I value creating a safe learning community in the classroom. We all learn best when we feel a sense of belonging, when we respect each other's thoughts and ideas, when we have an understanding of rules with the accompanying positive and negative consequences, when we are challenged to think, and, quite importantly, when we feel safe taking risks and making mistakes. While our first week is over, we will continue with community building lessons and discussions throughout the year.

Meet Ms. Eichstaedt

I am so thrilled to be your child's teacher this year. While I am excited to see you all on Curriculum Night, I wanted to take a little bit of newsletter space to introduce myself. For those of you meeting me for the first time, here is a quick bit of background.

I am a product of Wheaton schools. I grew up on the north side of town and attended Sandburg School, where my mother was a second grade teacher. After graduating from the University of Illinois in Elementary Education, I began teaching at Burley School, an elementary school in the Chicago Public Schools system. I taught fourth grade for two years and second grade for seven years. While teaching at Burley, I received my Master of Education Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from National-Louis University. Ten years ago I finished the coursework for my Master of Education in Math Education. In 2017 I finished my coursework for an English as a Second Language endorsement. I am fortunate to be starting my seventeenth year with the amazing third grade team, the wonderful staff at Whittier, my fantastic students, and you!

If you have any questions before we see each other on Curriculum Night, please don't hesitate to send me a note (see box to the right).

I know you've had so many papers to read after the first day of school that I wanted to take an opportunity to remind you of the best ways to reach me. If you have a concern, I don't want you to hesitate to contact me. However, the best way for you contact me will depend upon your needs.

If I need to be aware of a change in your child's regular day (for example, a doctor's appointment or going to BASP), please send a note on paper or in the assignment notebook. If you weren't able to write a note, please call the office and leave a message. Please do not send a time sensitive email. One year, I read a message at 4:00 in the afternoon from a parent asking me to tell her child to go to the car rider line at the end of the day. Yikes!

Email is wonderful if you have a question, if you would like to share information, or if you would like to schedule a phone call or meeting. My goal is to respond to emails within twenty-four hours. My address is karen.eichstaedt@cusd200.org (Karen is my given name-Kary is the nickname I prefer). You are always able to call Whittier at 630-682-2185. If I am in a meeting or unable to come to the phone, I will return your call as soon as possible.

Thank you so much for taking this information into consideration.

**Curriculum Night is
Wednesday, August 28.
I'll see you there!**

Besides teacher presentations at 7:00 and 7:30 and the book fair in the library, parents will also be able to sign up for parent/teacher conferences on the 28th. You may want to bring your calendar with you!

3E conferences will take places on:

- o Tuesday, October 22 from 4:00 to 5:00
- o Thursday, October 24 from 4:00 to 7:40
- o Tuesday, October 29 from 4:00 to 7:40

