(Please read with your fifth-grader)

Dear Fifth-Graders and Families,

Welcome to the fifth grade! I am looking forward to a great year together, with lots of learning, hard work, and fun.

I’d like to share a little about myself by telling you about my summer. First, it was fun. I went to a friend’s wedding, watched fireworks over the Hudson River on the Fourth of July, helped take care of my adorable one-year-old twin nephews, rode the train to visit my family in Jersey, and relaxed on the beach with my cousin. I really enjoy reading. So, I also spent a lot of the time with my nose in a book. I’m curious to find out if anyone in our class had any similar experiences. I can’t wait to hear about your summer vacation and to learn all about you!

The reason why I want to learn about you is because I know that each of us has unique strengths and challenges. For example, one of my strengths is reading for long periods of time. Another is running long distances. I love to read and run. Too bad I can’t do both at the same time! One of my challenges is to finish writing a novel that I started two years ago. I know that if I put forth consistent effort, I will achieve this goal and feel very proud of myself.

I know that when you put forth your best effort you can accomplish amazing things. I believe it is possible for everyone in our class to achieve great things. Scientists who study human brains are finding out that people can become smarter if they work hard and practice their thinking skills. So, that’s exactly what we will do this year. I also know that kids learn in different ways. That means that even though you will all be expected to achieve the same learning goals, I will provide a variety of interesting ways for you to achieve them.

I am sure you are curious about what you will learn and what fifth grade will be like. So, I’ll give you a sneak preview of two things that I’m ecstatic about. One, we have a new Smart Board for our classroom! I can’t wait to show you how it works and help you learn with the touch screen. It is very cool. Two, I’m excited about the projects we will do in our class this year. Get ready to be creative. Some of these projects include making maps, debating controversial issues, and creating iMovies. You will have opportunities to come up with ideas of your own for projects and make decisions as a class. Additionally, we will discuss entertaining novels and read nonfiction about topics in science, like volcanoes and earthquakes, and in social studies, like ancient civilizations. In math, you can expect to investigate interesting problems and you’ll have a chance to invent your own ways to solve problems.

Working hard—and having fun while we’re at it—will get you ready for middle school, high school, college, and beyond! I’m looking forward to meeting you on the first day of school. Enjoy your last few days of summer!

Sincerely,
Ms. Cynthia L. Curtis
Fifth-grade teacher
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