

Tuesday, September 27, 2011

Greetings, Parents!

I thought it might be helpful to you to understand how I have grouped your children in reading groups, as well as how I am grading Riggs and sentences in other areas. Please contact me if you have any questions about the following explanations.

Reading Groups - I group students according to the skills they need to improve upon. I do not rely solely upon any one assessment tool. I look at skills in reading fluency (especially decoding skills), comprehension, summarizing, demonstration of comprehension in various forms, etc. I have stressed to students that groups are not based on high and low readers, but on skills that I can instruct and help them to improve upon together in a small group.

Riggs - Scoring for Riggs is as follows:

- Homework - Students write each word 2 more times after we write it in class together; page number, part of speech, and definition from dictionary; sentence for each word (10 points per word)
 - Words - 2 points (1 each including markings)
 - Dictionary - 3 points (1 for page #, 1 for part of speech, 1 for definition)
 - Sentence - 5 points (Capitals, end punctuation, spelling word correct, complete sentence, correct usage)
- Tests - Quizzes are never graded, but are checked in class so that students may study each evening. Tests are given on Thursday and Friday. These are graded. Students receive 4 points for each correct word on a test:
 - 2 points for correct spelling
 - 1 point for correct markings
 - 1 point for neat handwriting

Please encourage your child to study words every night. Also, please encourage your child's best handwriting on every assignment. If I can't read it, I count off or I

give it back to be re-done and assign a late grade. Students should feel proud about what they turn in.

Sentences written in other areas are graded so that there are 2 points for mechanics (using the question as part of the answer, capitals, punctuation, spelling) and 1 point for each part of the correct answer. Sentences may be worth 3 or more points each.

Students are expected to include a first and last name on every paper, as well as the date and assignment. In fourth grade, students are asked to redo assignments on which they did not complete their headings correctly. Please encourage your child to slow down and check these things before they turn in a paper. Papers turned in with no name are posted for one day for students to claim, but they are also given a late grade because I cannot give credit for something not turned in on time if I do not know who earned that credit. Also, homework assignments not turned in first thing in the morning are considered late; students must turn work in ON TIME each day. These small things will make all the difference in your child's experiences at CCA. Thank you for your support!

Educationally yours,

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