

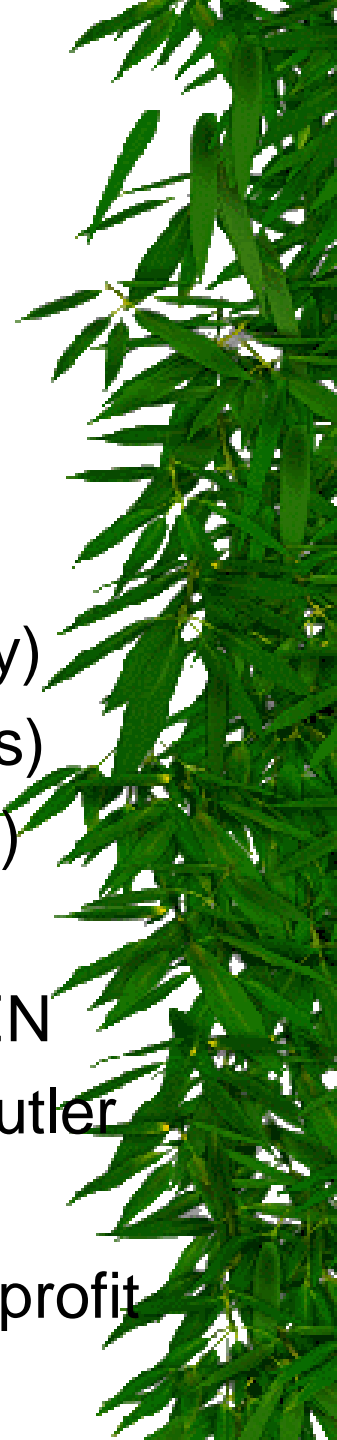
# **Back to School Night**

Mr. VanZant  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Accelerated Math  
Room 218



# My Background

- ❖ Education
  - Temple University (BA in Education)
  - Chestnut Hill College (MS in Applied Technology)
  - Wilkes University (Ed. Development & Strategies)
  - Neumann University (Social Emotional Learning)
- ❖ Over twenty-five years in CB:
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, 4<sup>th</sup> grade, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and PEN
  - Warwick, Titus, Mill Creek, Bridge Valley, and Butler
- ❖ K-8 Parochial School Board
- ❖ Recently served on the board of a small, local non-profit organization



# Accelerated Math

- ❖ A more “in-depth” pace than the heterogeneous classes, but not necessarily “faster”
- ❖ Minimal re-teaching and no re-testing
- ❖ Students are experiencing a new type of pace and challenge- it may take them time to get adjusted
- ❖ If students are consistently struggling with content and/or preparation for class, we (parent, student, and teacher) will reevaluate their placement in the class.



# Accelerated Math

- ❖ *Math In Focus*, will be the primary tool for math instruction. This appears to be a strong program.
- ❖ Bar models

**Problem #5:**  
Sally spent \$53.50 at the grocery store. Her neighbor, Doug, spent \$60.00 more than Sally at the grocery store. How much money did Doug spend at the grocery store?

Picture Work	Number Work
	$\begin{array}{r} \text{Doug} \\ \$53.50 \\ + \$60.00 \\ \hline \$113.50 \end{array}$
<p><b>Answer:</b> Doug spent <u>\$113.50</u> at the grocery store.</p>	

**Problem #11:**  
Three best friends decided to sell tickets for a charity fundraiser. Adelina, Liam, and Riley each sold tickets. Adelina sold 5 tickets. Liam sold 10 times as many tickets as Adelina. Riley sold half as many tickets as Liam. How many tickets did they sell altogether?

Picture Work	Number Work
	$\begin{array}{r} 50 \\ 25 \\ + 5 \\ \hline 80 \end{array}$
<p><b>Answer:</b> They sold <u>80</u> tickets altogether.</p>	

# Accelerated Math

- ❖ Multiple methods will often be taught.
- ❖ General lesson format:
  1. Revisiting/Questioning/Instruction (Why)
  2. Demonstrating New Processes or revisiting Old (What and How)
  3. Guided Practice
  4. Independent Practice
  5. Enrichment/Reteaching



# Assessments

- ❖ Tests
  - At least two days notice
  - No “retests”
- ❖ Quizzes
  - Announced and unannounced
  - Challenging
  - Focus entirely or primarily on newly presented content- not necessarily all that is on the test
- ❖ Problem-Solving Tasks
  - Unannounced
- ❖ Classwork Activities/Projects



# Additional Math Activities

- ❖ Problem-solving activities (both independent and collaborative), as well as math puzzles and games
  - ❖ Stamina when computing and when challenged
  - ❖ Flexibility of thinking
  - ❖ Efficiency of processes and communication
- ❖ Open-ended math problems, as time allows
  - ❖ Playground design
  - ❖ Paper airplane design
  - ❖ Etc.



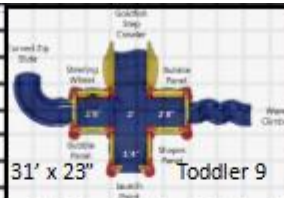




Single Bay Single Post  
Swing  
24' x 31'

Pond Bench

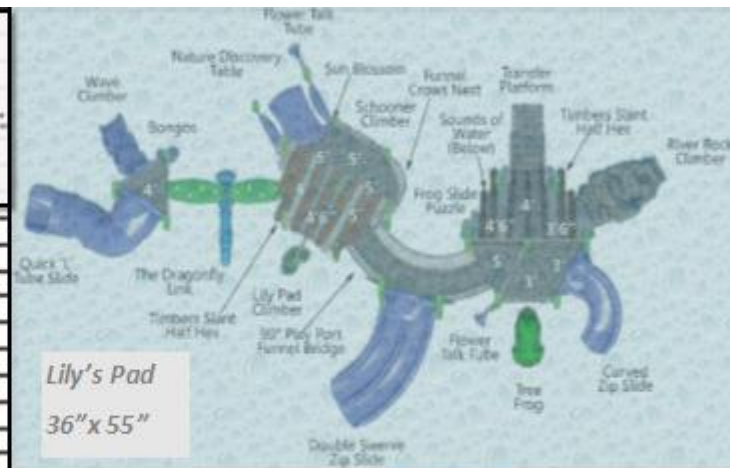
Pond Bench



Toddler 9

1

Heath Ladder  
13' x 25'



Lily's Pad  
36" x 55"

Pond Bench

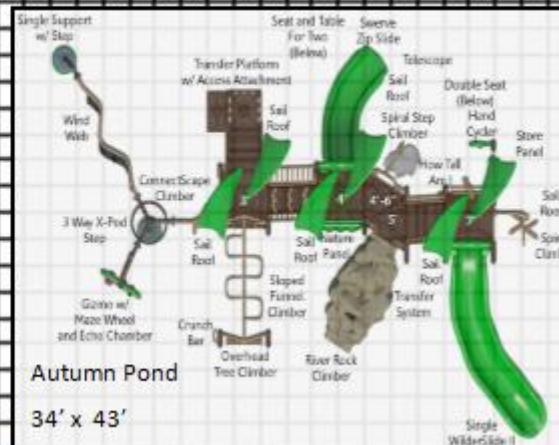
Sandy Shore's Park  
Aoshleigh & Regina  
□ = 2 ft<sup>2</sup>

Miniature  
Whirl  
18' x 16'

1

Jumbo Flyer  
18' x 16'

1



Autumn Pond  
34' x 43'

# What can parents do?

- ❖ Guide your child to self-advocate for assistance or greater challenges, if either become necessary.
- ❖ Engage your child, frequently, in conversation about math concepts covered, as well as activities done in class.
- ❖ Understand that sometimes students will be asked to demonstrate proficiency in a concept using a specific method or process, though more often, students will be able to choose which method they use.
- ❖ Encourage your child to work through any challenges.
- ❖ Contact me if math brings undue stress into your home.



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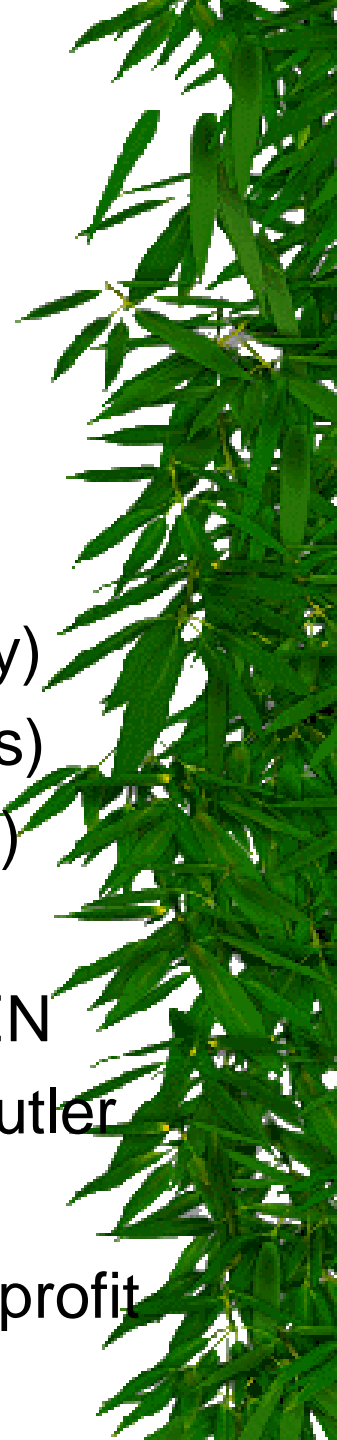


**Show kindness,  
respect everyone,  
and  
judge favorably.**



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# Subject Areas

- ❖ Reading
- ❖ Writing/Language
- ❖ Science
- ❖ Social Studies



# Reading

- ❖ New Program: *My View Literacy* (integrated RELA)
- ❖ Shared Reading (Novels, such as: “*The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*,” *Night of the Twisters*, etc.)
- ❖ IR/Journal Writing
  - ❖ Leveled Library
- ❖ Reading Homework



# Writing/Language

- ❖ Narrative, Informative, Opinion, Poetry, Journaling
- ❖ Handwritten and typed pieces
- ❖ New Program: *My View Literacy* (integrated RELA)
- ❖ Handwriting
- ❖ Spelling and Language  
(No spelling tests.)





# Science

- ❖ Science Process Skills
- ❖ Units of Study:
  - Energy
  - Weather
  - “Nature’s Decomposers”
  - Health & Personal Safety



# Social Studies

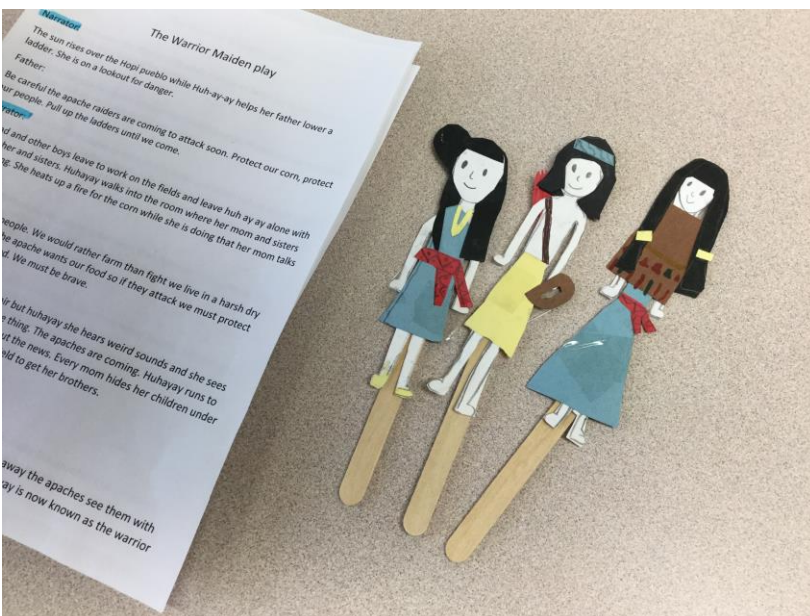
- ❖ *Social Studies Alive*
- ❖ Units of Study:
  - Geography
  - US History (Pre-colonial to pre-Civil War)



# **“Eternal Skills”**

- ❖ Problem-solving
- ❖ Creativity
- ❖ Collaboration
- ❖ Communication





# **enable EMPOWER!**

- ❖ Giving students the skills to claim their success- no matter what their abilities.
- ❖ Improve one step at a time, success does not just appear.
- ❖ A lifelong path and mindset:  
It is the journey that strengthens and builds- not arriving at the destination.



# Homework

- ❖ 50 minutes, on the average, per night
  - Math, **20-30 minutes of reading**, and occasionally, other subjects (“studying” of content for an assessment)
- ❖ Unfinished class-work could also be assigned as homework
- ❖ Students are able to take texts home
- ❖ PLEASE connect with your child about it
- ❖ If there is no homework, the assignment book will actually read “*No Homework*”
- ❖ “Missed Homework Notice” sent home if incomplete
- ❖ Enrichment homework available on my site



# Fear and Stress

- ❖ Anxiety appears to be increasing, for both students AND parents.
- ❖ ~~High Stakes~~
- ❖ The focus is on managing anxiety, the focus is not on escaping anxiety.



# Discipline

- ❖ “Bridge Valley Code of Conduct”
- ❖ Discussions with me during recess (10 minutes)
- ❖ The behavior, not the student.





# Snack

- ❖ We have a “working snack”
- ❖ Food items should be easy and safe to eat while working
- ❖ **Peanut and Tree Nut Free**

# Birthdays

- ❖ Non-food items:
  - Pencils
  - Erasers
  - Guest Reader



# State Assessments and Grading

- ❖ PSSA Math
- ❖ PSSA ELA
- ❖ Trimesters
- ❖ Letter Grades



# Happiness and Gratitude

- ❖ Research has demonstrated a strong correlation between practicing gratitude and being happy.
- ❖ Gratitude journals
- ❖ Teacher Gifts- Donate to a non-profit that your family holds dear



# Things I Thought That I Might Forget, But Did Not Want To

- ★ Trips (Ropes/Peace Valley)
- ★ Laptops
- ★ Bus changes need to be authorized through transportation.
- ★ <https://www.smores.com/1eurg>
- ★ Self-Portraits
- ★ Answer Letters



# Communication

- ❖ E-mail: [dvanzant@cbsd.org](mailto:dvanzant@cbsd.org)
- ❖ Voicemail
- ❖ Sharepoint (in progress- calendar is active)
- ❖ Newsletters (monthly)



# 2021/2022 Class Coordinators

- ★ Monica Beyer
  - [mrsbeyer1@icloud.com](mailto:mrsbeyer1@icloud.com)
- ★ Anjali Shadle
  - [anjalishadle@gmail.com](mailto:anjalishadle@gmail.com)

