

Hello Parents!

I am thrilled to welcome your student(s) to eighth grade, and hope you all had as wonderful a summer as I had! It is a privilege to have this opportunity to assist your child on his/her journey this year. Eighth grade is both an exciting and challenging year, and I want your child to be successful. I am looking forward to being part of the "team" that prepares your child for their leap to high school.

Who am I? I graduated and received my degree from Dominican University. I then received my teaching credential from San Jose State University. My student teaching was done at Homestead High School and Milpitas High School. Before coming to St. Martin School, I started my teaching career at South Valley Carden School, and had been a substitute teacher and swim coach at Rocklin High School. Once I visited St. Martin School for potential employment, I knew I had to work here over my other potential prospects. I knew it was a good fit for me and I chose St. Martin because of the nice environment and the people I met. I have been teaching at St. Martin School for 12 years and consider St. Martin's my second family.

The eighth grade students will study Algebra/Pre-Algebra with Mrs. Mendoza and myself. I will also teach the eighth graders in Social Studies and Religion. Mrs. Lydon will teach Language Arts and Mrs. Slevin will teach Science. The students will be having physical education with Mrs. Eagleson and Mrs. Vehawn will teach music.

Homework - Homework is an extension of what is being learned in class and will be posted daily. There will be homework every night including most weekends.

Discipline - In order to promote a successful learning environment, discipline has to be maintained in the classroom. Our class has rules that need to be followed, and I will use a variety of methods to do this.

Uniforms - I expect every eighth grader to be in full uniform every day. You will all have a copy of the Parent/Student handbook and the policy is clearly stated.

High School Information - As soon as we receive information, it will be passed on to the students and parents.

Community Service - Eighth graders are required to complete 20 hours of community service. This assignment will be offered to the class in October and due in May. Five of the required 20 hours will be taken care of by the students serving dinner during St. Martin's annual Auction and Crab Dinner.

Please-please-please I encourage all students and parents to read the Parent/Student Handbook and the Junior High Parent/Student Handbook. Both documents are filled with very informative and pertinent information. We are partners in your child's education and I know that at the end of your child's eighth grade year, they will be ready for their exciting leap into high school!

If you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me at msmith@stmartinsun.org or call the school office, 408-736-5534.

LET'S HAVE A GREAT YEAR!!!!

Best regards,
Marybeth Smith
8th grade teacher