

## Welcome to Ms. Cruz's Class Room 104

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to a new year at Titusville Intermediate School. This is a 12:1:1 special class program that provides students with academic and social/emotional challenges with support to be successful in the public school setting. This program is comprised of no more than twelve students. This small group setting allows individual attention to meet both academic and social/emotional needs. Teacher assistants are available to assist students. Students typically stay with me for the ELA and Math blocks as well as a period that is reserved for Study Skills. Students are required to meet curriculum goals as well as IEP goals. The school psychologist, social worker, speech and language therapist, occupational and physical therapists work with the program to aid in its success. Students may be mainstreamed into a buddy class for Science, Social Studies, Specials, and any other subjects they prove to be ready for.

In addition to meeting curriculum and IEP goals, students are responsible to meet daily behavior goals. To assist students in meeting these goals, we use the character-development program Bucket Filler. This program focuses on the following:

- It's a new twist on the Golden Rule.
- The books and presentations explain that we carry an invisible bucket in which we keep our thoughts and feelings; when our buckets are full, we are happy, when they are empty, we are sad.
- The goal is to create more rewarding lives and a positive culture as you increase kindness, respect, and courtesy.
- Decrease mean spiritedness and negativity
- Learn how to keep your bucket filled by understanding and rising above bucket-dipping situations.

Within this system, students have the opportunity to earn "puffs" each day that they can use to fill their classroom buckets. The five basic behaviors my teacher assistants, the buddy classroom teacher and I look for throughout the day are:

- Respect for Adults
- Respect for Peers
- Self-Respect
- Task Completion
- Using Help

The goal of implementing such a system is to assist the child in developing appropriate social skills and learning to self-regulate his or her own behavior. Students earn a tangible reward once their "bucket" is full.

I am tremendously excited for this upcoming year. It is a privilege to teach your child and a responsibility I take very seriously. Enjoy the rest of the summer and I look forward to seeing you in the fall!!!!!!

# Ms. Cruz's Supply List

In preparation for a successful year, I ask that you kindly purchase the attached list of supplies for school.

- A good supply of No. 2 pencils (Ticonderoga please)
- A small pencil sharpener
- Erasers
- 3 highlighters
- 12 glue sticks
- Pencil case
- Kids scissors (a pair they are comfortable with)
- (2) 1 in. binders for ELA and Math (5th Grade Only)
- (4) Grade 3 composition books (can be found at Staples or Wal-Mart)
- 2 durable bottom pocket folders for homework and classwork
- Mouse for computer
- 2 sets headphones for computer
- A great attitude!