

BBelding Area Schools

The right size. The right choice.

Welcome to School
Edition

Class Phone: 794-4772

E-mail: simmonsm@bas-k12.org

SIMMONS' EXPRESS

A LITTLE ABOUT MR. SIMMONS



This marks my 25th year of teaching for Belding Schools. As a life-long resident of Belding, having attended and graduated school from here, I have come to personally know many of my students' families.

I have a Master's Degree in Education from Grand Valley State University. I am married to Mrs. Simmons, who teaches fourth grade at Woodview, and have three children, Jalen, Nolan, and Gracen.

In my spare time, I announce football and basketball for Belding High School, speak at churches and special events, travel, enjoy sports, and enjoy meeting new people. This past year, I completed my theological studies and hope to be a licensed minister by this fall. I still plan to continue my teaching, however.

Treating people with fairness and respect is a major characteristic of my life and I hope you will detect this quickly in my relationship with your child.

I am the grade level chairperson for fifth grade at Woodview and serve on other committees within our building.

SCHOOL FORMS AND PAPERWORK

Parents seem to have the most homework on the opening day of school. We send home a number of forms and papers for parents to observe and sign. Please return these forms to school as soon as possible, particularly your child's emergency form. Also, make sure that you sign forms correctly or the office will return them to you. Thanks for your flexibility!

CLASS BOOK ORDERS

Each month, we send out a Scholastic book order. We highly encourage students to purchase books at a discount price to build their own personal reading libraries at home.

Our September order will be sent out on September 17, so be sure to send me your orders. Please make checks payable to "Scholastic Books" or else send cash. Thank you!

STUDENT ACCOUNTABILITY CHECKLIST

1. Conduct yourself as a fifth grader.
2. Be responsible
3. Respect others' right to learn.
4. Exercise self-control.
5. Respect others and their property.
6. Avoid putting down others.
7. Listen to others who are speaking.
8. Build a positive reputation.

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WELCOME TO FIFTH GRADE!

We would like to welcome everyone back to school and to an exciting year planned for fifth grade! We have many interesting projects, class trips, and activities planned for this coming school year. As always, we would invite our students' parents to be as involved as much as you possibly can. We can only do these special things with the help of our parents volunteering their time.

Fifth grade is a major year in the life of students. This marks their final year of elementary education. We have many important academic and social skills that students need to achieve before they are ready for junior high school. We will work very deliberately and consistently on addressing these skills in the classroom so that all students can achieve. School working with home will equal a positive school year!

PARENT E-MAIL CONNECTION

One of the things that we do on the Simmons-Alderink team that has gained the most positive comments is that of connecting with parents via e-mail. Many parents do not receive special notes or announcements that their children are suppose to be taking home to them. In addition to these notes, we like to send the information, important announcements, reminders of tests, personal reports about your child, etc. through daily e-mails to our parents. This will keep you informed in a current manner so you can always know what is happening with your child.

We will be sending home a neon green slip whereby you can send us e-mail information. From that we will create a parent database so we can begin sending important messages to you. This will really keep you in the loop as to what is happening, so we encourage each family to return the green slip so we can connect with you!



"No individual has any right to come into the world and go out of it without leaving behind him distinct and legitimate reasons for having passed through it."

~George Washington Carver

STUDENTS RECEIVE INFORMATION BOOKLET

Students will receive a fifth grade information booklet in class on the first day of school. We will be reviewing the information in the booklet together. Parents are also encouraged to read the information to understand our expectations, how we reward positive behavior, how we work together in class, and some class requirements.

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ROOM PARENTS AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We will be taking a number of classroom trips this year, in addition to having some special holiday parties and activities. WE NEED PARENT HELPERS! If you would be interested in helping us out for trips, parties, or special activities, please complete the form attached to this newsletter and send it to Mr. Simmons. I am also in need of three parents who would be willing to take on the coordination of planning our three holiday parties (Halloween, Christmas, and Valentine’s). If you would like to oversee the planning of one of these parties please let me know on the form as well. Thank you so very much!



CLASSROOM DONATIONS

We are in need of some items for our classroom this year. If you would be willing to help us out, we could use boxes of Kleenex and packs of washable markers. We go thru these items quickly each year and could replenish our supplies. Thank you for your generosity!

STUDENT AGENDA USE

Each student at Woodview has received a student agenda. I require that my students fill these out each day in class and have a parent verify each day’s entry by signing a signature each day in the agenda book. This is one way that assures me that we are keeping communication between home and school active. Thank you for understanding the importance of signing your child’s agenda daily.

TEAM TEACHING IN FIFTH GRADE

Mr. Alderink and I team teach in fifth grade. Mr. Alderink will start the year teaching Math and Social Studies. I will teach Language Arts and Science. At the midyear point, Mr. Alderink will teach Science and I will teach Social Studies. If you have questions related to your child’s academics, this will help you to know which teacher to contact for which subject.

MORNING SNACK TIME

Students are permitted to bring a healthy snack for morning break. Bottled water is also permitted. No candy, sugary snacks, or pop is allowed in class, unless it is a birthday treat.