

September 2008

The educational staff at Stowers believes the children of our soldiers are the most important part of Stowers Elementary School! Our focus is providing a pleasant, safe and friendly learning environment for your child.

Check out our Website: www.am.dodea.edu/benning/stowers

Dear Parents,

We have completed six weeks of school year 2008/2009 and most of our students have settled into the daily routine of school – arriving to school on time every day, completing work, and following rules. However, we need your help with some of our students who have not made the transition into the new year as smoothly as others.

First and foremost, please make sure your children arrive to school every day on time. Students can't learn if they are not here, and their day is bumpy when they arrive to school after instruction has already begun. Students really need to arrive a few minutes before 8:30 if they eat breakfast at home; before 8:20 if they eat breakfast at school. On the flip side of this, we have several students arriving to school way too early. Students are not supervised before 8:00; therefore, they do not need to arrive before 8:00. We have some children arriving between 7:15 and 7:45, which is too early for them to be here.

Secondly, we have quite a few students who are not completing and returning homework. Homework is important for several reasons. All homework assigned is based on standards/skills that have already been taught. Students are not given homework on material that has not been taught in the classroom. It is an opportunity for students to practice what has been taught so teachers can determine how well students understand what they should have learned in the classroom. If several students have trouble with the assignment, this tells the teacher that either more work is needed to help students grasp the concepts and skills, or the directions for completing the assignment were not clear. Homework is also an opportunity for you, as parents, to see how well your child understands the subject matter. If your child has great difficulty understanding what to do and how to do the work, or takes a long time to complete the work, please contact your child's teacher. When a parent tells us that they are spending hours a night helping their child complete homework, something is wrong. **No child, regardless of grade level, should spend hours each night on homework.**

Following rules is an area we really need your help. The majority of our students are respectful and well behaved; however, we have quite a few students who know the rules for his or her classroom, but for some reason have great difficulty following them. They are talking instead of listening and/or working, out of their seats without permission, say hurtful things to others, or have trouble keeping hands and feet to selves. Please take some time to talk with your child about expected behavior. When children are disruptive in the classroom, their behavior takes teaching time away from the teacher, and learning time away from other students. No student has the right to interfere with valuable teaching and learning because he or she can't behave.

Parents, your help is needed in all of these areas. Children must know that their education is a priority in your home. They should know that you have high expectations for them, as does the school. Please have discussions with them at home regarding your expectations for behavior and let them know that you expect their personal best in their school work. Support like this at home goes a long way at school and for this we are grateful.

Respectfully,

Angie L. McPherson