



Welcome!

A Brief Introduction

Hello! I'm Dave Stafford, one of the three third grade teachers at Oak Ridge this year. Ms. Canavan will be teaching a 2nd/3rd grade combination and Ms. Roman and I will have 3rd grade classes. We will be planning field trips for each of the classes and sharing other activities like assemblies and recesses, for example.

In our classroom, I'll be teaching Math, Science, Language Arts, and Social Studies. We will also have Spanish with Mr. Gonzalez, Music with Ms. Sander, Phys. Ed. with Mr. Lewis, and Art with Ms. Lukaj.

This is my third year at Oak Ridge but actually my fifth year teaching third grade! I'm also starting my 22nd year teaching elementary in Royal Oak.

Not only do I teach in Royal Oak, but I also live here! I have a son who is in his second year of college and a daughter who is a senior at ROHS.

My youngest daughter is an 8th grade student at Royal Oak Middle School. We like to go to parks in Royal Oak and ride our bikes around. Maybe you have seen us riding to Starr-Jaycee Park!

I'm very excited to be starting a new year at Oak Ridge. I think our school has one of the best programs in the district and the staff at Oak Ridge has a reputation for excellence! I look forward to getting to know this year's students and parents. Stop up in room 212 and say "Hi" next time you are at school.



If you have any questions, please call before or after school or email me at: staffordd@royaloakschools.com

Because we have so much to learn this year, we'll be "hitting the ground running" as they say. But we'll also take some time to get used to procedures and policies in the classroom. We will be using daily planners and Friday Folders. I will assign an appropriate amount of homework for third grade, but we are going to work up to that gradually. We will be taking the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) early again this year. We will be testing during the first weeks of October. To prepare, we will be using some excellent materials that teach key writing and math skills as well as review a bit for the test. This will be an effective, organized way to ease into the school year. Plus, the materials are fun!

About those School Supplies...

I do not require you to go out and buy any special school supplies. I'll provide all the supplies your child will need (crayons, pencils, rulers, folders, spiral notebooks, etc.) If you have already purchased supplies, please use them to set up a "study area" at home. Please do not send them to school. We have new "reach in" desks and there isn't enough room in them for binders, pencil sharpeners, pencil boxes, art sets, etc. These can sometimes be more of a distraction than a helpful tool. If there are special materials we need, I will let you know in advance. However, if you are shopping and see a sale on facial tissue, an extra box for school would be greatly appreciated! (The district tissue is pretty rough on the nose!) Thanks and please contact me if you have any concerns.