

August 31, 2020

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year, a year like no other! My name is Edward Fromm and I will be your child's fourth grade teacher. I would like to welcome you to an experience that I hope to make fun, meaningful, and enjoyable for the students and manageable for parents. As a society, none of us asked to be in this situation, but as Virtual Academy participants, we've all asked to be in this program.

I am entering my 28th year of teaching: first grade at Monfort for two years, third grade at Ewell for two years, a technology trainer for one year, a media center teacher at Flickinger for six years, a Flickinger kindergarten teacher for eight years, third grade at Wiley for seven years and now fourth grade for my third year. My wife teaches second grade at Morgan Elementary and we have four children: Ethan (22), Charlie (20), Ryan (18), and Sarah (14). I grew up on a small farm in Corunna, between Flint and Lansing. I earned my bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University and Master's Degree from Wayne State University. I love my job and have always loved working with the families of my students to do what is best for the children in my class. I don't expect that to change, even if we are not all in the same room doing the same thing at the same time.

There are certain promises that I make to you as we start this journey...

- I promise to do my best to help your child have a successful fourth grade school year.
- I promise I will keep the needs of each family at the forefront of every decision I make.

- I promise to keep in mind that this is not homeschooling, it's crisis learning and although we all signed up for this, it's not going to be a normal year.
- I promise I will make mistakes along the way, but I will acknowledge them, correct them, laugh about it and make a new plan when needed.

There are a few promises I would like from you...

- I hope you promise to support your child as we embark on this adventure together.
- I hope you promise to allow your child to make mistakes, but encourage them to keep trying.
- I hope you promise to be flexible as we try new strategies, share in different ways, and learn in ways we've never done before.
- I hope you promise to stop what you're doing and reach out to me for help when you are frustrated or overwhelmed with what we are doing.

As we begin, I have two main concerns/goals: how I am going to get to know my new class and the delicate balancing act of utilizing too much technology and not overwhelming everyone right off the bat. We will spend a considerable amount of time these first few weeks getting to know one another. I will be talking and sharing with your child through Teams and Flipgrid and asking parents to provide additional information about what you want and expect from me.

You would think that after teaching for 28 years, my job would get easier. That has never been the case and this year raises more challenges than ever, challenges that I volunteered to take on with you within this Virtual Academy. One example would be that I have never used anything other than an Apple computer. This year I'm being provided a Dell computer, just like your child. This list of challenges could go on and on, but teaching your child is my main

goal and I will do that to the best of my ability. Everything we do will begin from two spots: Schoology and my website - MrFromm.com. From here we will utilize many different resources to engage your child in their schoolwork. I know things won't always go smoothly and it will take some effort to get familiar with our new computers, routines and expectations.

Communication has always been very important to me. My website will be the number one source of information for all of us. The home page is set up as a blog where I can post updates at a moment's notice. For the first time ever, I don't plan on sending home a newsletter every Thursday morning. We will be in constant contact through MrFromm.com, Schoology, and email so I know the last thing you are going to want is a weekly newsletter!

For this first week of school (9/1 - 9/3) there are several things I hope you get a chance to complete and try....

1. Pick up your new computer at your home school.
2. Make your way to our class website - MrFromm.com and look around.
3. Complete the student and parent surveys posted on the site.
4. Send me an email so I can enter you into my contacts -
Edward.Fromm@uticak12.org
5. Sign up for Remind texts by texting "@frommva" to 81010
6. Spend time exploring with your computer.