August, 2017

Dear Parents, Guardians, Caretakers, and Students,

I write to introduce myself and to welcome you to second grade!

I grew up in New Mexico, and moved to Pennsylvania in 2002. I have an undergraduate background in Spanish and Music, and a master's degree in curriculum, instruction, and assessment from Rosemont College. During 14 years of teaching, 10 of those in 2nd grade, I have learned the importance of teaching children, as opposed to simply teaching subject matter. My hope is to impress upon your child a love of learning and to offer a warm and nurturing environment in which natural curiosity has room to grow.

I have two children, Gabriel and Noah, ages 8 and 5. Through their coming school years, I hope they will be known and appreciated by their teachers. The love and support we offer our children is infinite, and I hope to be an important member of your child's network at Merion School. To that end, some former students gave me some important advice last June:

"Give more time at the end of the day for a read-aloud and stop leaving us in suspense at the very best part of the book."

"Continue juggling and playing guitar."

"Keep doing fun games like heads-up seven up and statues in the garden."

"Continue to be flexible."

"Continue the fun field trips like: The Narberth Walk, The Elmwood Park Zoo, and the Lower Merion Conservancy."

"Keep doing fun days like pajama day, or class parties."

"Continue telling jokes and riddles."

Each year, my enjoyment of teaching is renewed by my journey with a new class. I look forward to working with you and your child this year!

I'm looking forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

Matthew Tinker, M.Ed.
tinkerm@lmsd.org

Mr. Tinker (2T) - Recommended Supplies (Please label all items)

- *40 #2 pencils (hardwood pencils such as Ticonderoga)*
- *1 pair of scissors*
- *4 glue sticks*
- *1 box of crayons (please not a huge box)*
- *1 box of markers*
- *1 thumb drive 2 gig or larger*
- *1 pack 3x5 index cards, lined*
- *1 pack post-it notes*
- *1 hinged pencil box large enough to hold all items listed above.*
- *1 extra pencil box of same size for a math game we will create during the first week of school.*
- *2 rolls and dispenser of scotch tape*
- *6 bi-fold pocket folders: red, yellow, orange, blue, green, purple*
  The colors are important because we color-code by class subject.
- *1 box of tissues*
- *One 4"x 6" picture to decorate cubbies*
- *Backpack*

We have snack every morning so please send your child with something nutritious.

Introducing... YOUR Child

I'd like to know more about your child, through your eyes. The more I know, the better I can design an educational and motivational program to fit his or her particular needs.

Please answer the questions and complete the information below. Remember, this is from *your* point of view. Please send it in with your child as soon as it's completed. **PLEASE RETURN BY 9/17/15.**

Thank you!

Child's Name_____ Homeroom: _____

- List five (5) words that best describe your child's *character* (competitive, cheerful, perfectionist):

- What *motivates* your child?

- What *upsets* your child?

– What are your child's out-of-school *interests* and *activities?*

– What activities do you *share?* What problems/successes do you have working/playing together?

- What ***study skills*** does your child need to develop? (neatness, timeliness, organization, etc.)

- Which academic subjects are your child's best? Weakest?

- What particular academic areas would you like to see emphasized?

- What ***social skills*** would you like to see developed?

- Are there any ***personal*** or ***physical problems*** I should know (or conference privately) about?

- Other comments or concerns?

Parent Signature_____