

Welcome to St. James Elementary School! My name is Tosha Martin. I am your child's third grade teacher at St. James Elementary School. I am very excited about this year and the opportunities we will have together. Our third grade team has already been at work planning of exciting field trips, activities, and lessons.

I have taught at St. James for sixteen years. I previously taught at Catawba Springs Elementary School in Lincoln County for eight years. I am originally from Kingsport, Tennessee. I graduated from East Tennessee State University in the spring of 1995 with an undergraduate degree in Elementary Education and Early Childhood Education. This certifies me to teach from birth to sixth grade in North Carolina schools. I have also acquired National Board Certification in elementary education. Hopefully, this fall, I will find out if I passed my renewal for National Boards. I have been married to my husband, Derek, for twenty years. I am also a very proud mother of a seventeen year old son, Little Derek, and my thirteen year old daughter, Tatum! We acquired our latest family member last year. Willow is our spoiled, energetic Rhodesian Ridgeback. :)

Learning can be both educational and fun! I will help the students adjust to their new responsibilities by teaching strategies that will help them improve their reading comprehension and fluency, as well as their math abilities.

I believe that children who take ownership of their classroom and learning typically behave and learn more. For this reason, we will establish our mission statement during the first day of school. I will send it home to you after they are completed.

I always use positive reinforcement to encourage appropriate behavior at school. If the need arises, I will contact you. This year, we will supervise classroom management by using the Class Dojo. With Class Dojo, every student has an opportunity to earn points for positive behavior or choices (completed work, giving 110%, participating in class, using quiet times appropriately, receiving compliments from other teachers, helping classmates, solving disputes among classmates, using kind words, picking up trash, finding lost materials, taking initiatives, being ready, etc.) . Those points are converted into rewards! :)

Your child is more responsible now, and will be expected to follow all classroom and school wide rules and procedures. I appreciate your support in the steps in making your child become an independent student!

I am honored to have your child in our classroom. I can promise that I will do my best to help your child love school, feel good about him or herself, and learn to his or her fullest ability.

DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT US FOR ANY REASON.

Thank you for your time and support!

