

**Hello Families,**

**June 11, 2018**

Welcome to the 3/4 Blends! We are so excited to have you as part of our 3rd and 4th grade community. We look forward to collaborating with you throughout this upcoming year. Together, we can facilitate growth, learning, and friendships!

My name is Tina Montoya, and I will be your kids' teacher. A little about me, I graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Elementary Education from the University of Utah. I have a super, awesome and supportive husband whom you will see periodically in the classroom. I also have two talented children, Zach and Brianna who started Kindergarten and graduated from the Open Classroom, consequently, my husband and I have spent over 15 years as co-ops at the OC. I am in my 10<sup>th</sup> year of teaching here. During my time as teacher at the OC I have taught 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades.

My classroom philosophy is based on the notion that everyone is a learner, and that the goal of education is not merely to teach memorization but to provide students with skills that allow them to be the masters of their own education. To this end, you will find the classroom structure will be filled with expectations of accountability, acceptance and respect for each other including our unique learning styles and talents. Your child will become a part of a caring classroom community where everyone feels safe and valued. In our classroom we will learn to work cooperatively and collaboratively with one another through community circles, team building activities, small group projects and conversations. This year we will work toward teaching the whole child; socially, emotionally, academically, and helping to develop your child's self-esteem. We will work together at life skills such as; time management, learning how we learn, individual problem solving, social problem solving, responsibility, knowing how and where to find information or answers to questions and most importantly becoming self-directed, lifelong learners.

I am excited to start this next year as I have many fun and exciting learning projects planned that I hope will inspire your children to explore, create, think outside the box and gain a love of learning.

**\* \* SAVE THE DATE \* \***

**Our First Parent Meeting!**

**Thursday August 16th the Meeting will begin at 6:30**

**It will be held at school in our classroom.**

**Let's have a little party**

**while we get to know one another!**

**Come at 6:00 and bring a little treat to share!**

**Our parent meetings are for adults only and no child care is available at this time.**

**There are many things to accomplish at this first meeting so prepare for being with us for at least two hours.**

## Co-Oping – Regular & Alternative

Regular Co-oping means you are in the classroom one day every week for three hours. Flexible co-oping means you are in the classroom for 3 hours a week but not all in the same day. For example, co-oping 3 days from 10:30-11:35 or 12:25-1:30, or 2 days from 8:45-10:15) is a possibility. This type of co-oping works great to provide a consistent learning environment for kids and co-ops. For example, if you really like math and math is scheduled to be from 10:30-11:35 each day, you could sign up for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10:30-11:35. Or, if you enjoy book groups, sign up for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 12:25-1:30.

A new co-oping possibility is mid-day, 10:30-1:30, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. You will be helping with math, meal stewards, and book groups. Math is before lunch. During lunch you will be supporting kids with recess then lunch; managing behavior and cleaning duties. Book groups are after lunch. You will have to eat your lunch before or after your co-oping time.

As you read the following curriculum descriptions, think about when you would like to co-op and what areas you will be supporting as a co-oper. After these descriptions, at the end of this letter, you will find a tentative weekly schedule that will show curriculum blocks and number of co-ops needed. Morning co-oping times will run from 8:40 to 11:40. Afternoon co-oping time will run from 11:55 to 2:55. We could also arrange an alternative co-oping day/time. When we have a short day, school will end at 1:15.

If you have any questions you can contact our  
Classroom Co-oping Representative.  
Alisa Ries ~ 801-201-8839 ~ [alisaries@comcast.net](mailto:alisaries@comcast.net)

As you are looking at your co-oping options, please consider choosing a co-oping block that not only works best for you and your schedule, but that you can fully commit to as a learner and facilitator of learning. If your schedule is limited and you can only co-op during a certain day/time, you are expected to support the curriculum areas scheduled during that time slot. However, if you have experience or expertise you wish to bring to our classroom learning but your schedule doesn't align with that curriculum block, I will try to find ways to incorporate your experience into your co-oping time. Please be understanding, if we do not fill in co-oper positions on one day and are overloaded on another, we may have to rearrange people, we look forward to your cooperation in creating our classroom co-oping schedule.

The following is a Google form link. This is where you will be asked to list your co-oping preferences. <http://goo.gl/forms/37mwhGuPkp> . Or you can go to [www.tinasclass.com](http://www.tinasclass.com) and click on the Co-oping Sign Up link on the homepage. You will be asked to list your first choice, and two other choices of co-oping day and time. I would also like you to please state any area(s) of expertise or interest you and your spouse or significant other would like to bring into the classroom. This can include non-academic areas as well. There are also 2 other quick questions for you to answer. Just click on the link, or copy and paste it into your browser and it will take you to our class co-oping form. Please fill it as soon as possible so we can confirm our co-oping time slots.

## Curriculum Descriptions:

### THE ARTS

Monday afternoons will be devoted to art curriculum. This art block will be co-oper led and can include any aspect of the arts. Each classroom needs one of the art co-ops to participate on the Art Committee. (Please add to the Co-oping Sign Up Form if you are interested in being on the Art Committee) Art co-ops will meet with me to develop a plan for the year. Then you will be charged with planning, organizing, cleaning up and facilitating the art activities each week. The art afternoon will look like mini-courses, that is to say each art co-op will choose an art project that utilizes different material/mediums/concepts and can be completed in a two week time frame(for example). Each art co-op will begin with a group of 8 students, to instruct and guide through the showing of technique and how to use the tools and mediums for the project. When the projects are finished the students will rotate to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the three projects until each student has completed each of the 3 projects and then art co-ops will begin the process again.

The second trimester of the year we are fortunate to be able to have Dawn Livingston teach us movement/dance. We will be dancing on Wednesday mornings, but our school budget only allows for us to do this for one trimester 9 weeks with a performance during the 10th week.

If you have experience and/or interest in arts with kids, these are perfect blocks for you!

### LITERACY

Third and fourth graders bring a full spectrum of literacy development and needs. We will have developing readers and fluent readers within one classroom. Kids will sometimes rotate through small groups during the literacy skills or have whole group lessons and break into tables to work on projects. Groups will remain fluid throughout the year, with kids moving in and out of groups as their developmental needs shift. Spelling, reading comprehension, vocabulary development, fluency, reader's theater, grammar, typing, current events, research projects and much more will be happening during this time. Blocks of writing workshop times will also happen with specific writing strategy instructions, journaling, and writing using technology, with possibilities of a class blog, newspaper, webcast, or podcast. Other literary elements will also be incorporated into planner, science, library and social studies.

### MATH

For math, kids will be separated into grade levels for instruction. Another 3/4 blend teacher, Mia, will be teaching our 4<sup>th</sup> graders and I will be teaching her 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. Math instruction will occur after morning recess every day. If you co-op during math, you will be placed where you are most needed for this hour. Every effort will be made to place you with your child, but it cannot be guaranteed. Math co-ops will support small groups with practice games, skill packets, math journaling, problem solving, computer/technology activities, and review. Your commitment to being on time and present for the kids and groups is essential to the success of our small groups.

### SCIENCE

We will be working on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum. Topics include; Earth, Moon, Sun, paleontology & fossils, Utah habitats, simple machines, force & motion, gravity, heat energy, rocks & soils, water cycle, and weather. We will also introduce the scientific method and other scientific investigations.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

We will be focusing on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade social studies core curriculum, which covers our great state of UTAH including the physical geography of Utah and how our state operates. We will also learn about culture and environment, indigenous cultures of the Americas, civic responsibility in classroom, community, state and country.

## **PHYSICAL ACTIVITY Super Hero Training ~ PE ~Movement ~ Sports**

Some days we may begin the day with a lap (walk around the playground), yoga, or dancing which I call Super Hero Training. This looks like some sort of activity to awaken our brains and get our blood pumping when we need it. Please make sure kids wear or have appropriate shoes each day to participate in this routine. All year, the kids will participate in PE with Penny where once a week they will learn specific skills and engaging games. We are lucky to have Dawn Livingston teach us movement and dance during the 2nd Trimester of the year, we will end with a performance for our parents. Sports will occur during the 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester. Penny will communicate and organize some different options for our middles classes. Sports is intended to show students physical fitness activities that is more than a PE activity. Activities that are physical activity that we as adults may do. For example; swimming, going to a Recreation Center, bowling, ice-skating etc. Sports will be on Friday mornings, the last trimester of the year. During these physical activity days/times please make sure your kids are dressed appropriate including shoes to participate fully. Or at least have a pair of shoes in their locker they could change into.

## **BEGINNING WEEKS OF SCHOOL**

The beginning weeks of the school year focus on building a sense of community and belonging. We will engage in activities that help us get to know each other within our individual classrooms, then expanding to both the 3/4 classrooms. As a team, we have shared expectations and signals. We try to use a shared language with co-ops and kids, so as kids and parents move between our classrooms, there is a sense of continuity and familiarity. You will work with kids and parents and teachers from across our two blends, which truly does become a community of learning. It is essential that we take this time in the beginning of the year to establish routines and relationships, so that kids feel emotionally and socially safe to learn. Within these initial weeks, we will also complete individual assessments with children to identify their literacy and math needs. This assessment time is a critical part of learning who your children are as learners and how to best support them academically, emotionally and socially. During these first few weeks as you come to co-op be prepared to get to know students and parents, learn procedures, engage in the various activities with the students, become familiar with the classroom environment and have fun with the kids.

## **THEMES FOR THE YEAR**

Start your brain engine! What could we try? What could you teach? What would you like to learn? What can we explore? We will tie curriculum together at least for part of the year in a Fantasy/Fairy Tale/Castle Theme. Wow! Engaging! Fun! What else can we do? Got Ideas? I can't wait! Let's talk about it.

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- If possible, I would like each kid to have a backpack or shoulder bag that they take back and forth from home to school each day. This will allow items to go to home and back again, such as a reading book or math homework. Or items for a field trip coming to school. This is a good time to begin this routine if they do not have it down already.
- Throughout the school year each child should have a favorite book they can be reading during independent reading time, once they have finished a book they should have another ready to bring to school and read. Please have a chapter book your child will love to read on the first day of school.
- As a reminder, our school's Steering Committee which was comprised of your classroom representatives cut the school and classroom budget for supplies due to a lack of PFOE donations and school budget money. **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?** All of our classrooms in the school will be asking for school supplies that will be needed the first day of school as well as times through out the year.

You will find that NEEDS LIST below.

**Each student throughout the year/some time or other should donate the following:**

A ream of wide ruled lined paper  
A ream of copy paper  
A ream of vibrant colored copy paper  
Pencils  
Tissues  
A box of band aids  
Hand sanitizer  
A tub of Clorox Type Wipes

**On the first day of school EACH STUDENT should have the following:**

2 Clipboards one for math and one for our homeroom class  
Pencils with their name labeled on them  
2 Wide Ruled Composition Notebooks  
1 wide ruled one subject spiral notebook

**Donation NEEDS for the classroom as shared supplies needed throughout the year**

Fine tipped Sharpies  
Washable Markers like Crayola  
Scotch tape – to be put in tape dispenser  
Masking Tape  
Duct Tape of all colors  
Colored pencils  
Sharpies  
Box of Black Sharpies Regular tip  
Box of Black Sharpies Fine tip  
Mini hot glue sticks  
Regular Glue Sticks  
Construction Paper

Throughout the year if we have a project needing supplies I will be sending home wish lists, and we will only be able to do those projects if we get the donations necessary.

## FIELD TRIPS

Lack of funding will also affect our Field Trips. The middles like to go on many field trips as our Social Studies Curriculum is about Utah. The Steering Committee, on behalf of our O.C. community and which was comprised of your classroom representatives, cut the budget for buses and field trips. Again this was due to a lack of PFOE donations and school budget money. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU? We will see how much money we will receive for busses and field trips this year. We will discuss what we want to see happen this year in way of field trips at our parent meeting.

## SUMMER LEARNING

- I hope every child will continue to read 20 minutes a day even during the summer. Twenty minutes of reading a day guarantees that a student's vocabulary will continue to expand, which in turn leads to greater comprehension.
- Please have your child continue to review their math facts. (I will be testing these proficiency levels at the beginning of the year).
  - The expectation is for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders to have automatic recall of addition and subtraction facts through at least 10.
  - The expectation for entering 4<sup>th</sup> graders is to have automatic recall of multiplication facts through 12.
- Students will continue to have access to a few online programs during the summer and can continue to use them, they include; Reflex Math, Lexia (literacy), If your child is a 4<sup>th</sup> grader they may continue to use Prodigy( Math), and Moby Max (math, literacy, math facts, science)

**I am looking forward to an exciting & collaborative year!**

♥ Tina

# COMMUNICATION IS IMPORTANT!!

If you have questions you can start with our classroom representatives:

Our class Co-oping Representative: Alisa Ries

801-201-8839 ~ [alisaries@comcast.net](mailto:alisaries@comcast.net) ~ (Mom of Jude ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> grade)

Our class Community Support Representative: Whitney Swinyard

801-663-4276 ~ [whitneyswinyard@gmail.com](mailto:whitneyswinyard@gmail.com) ~ (Mom of Mark ~ 4<sup>th</sup> grade)

Then of course you can email either of us:

Tina's email is [tina.montoya@slcschools.org](mailto:tina.montoya@slcschools.org)

Mia's email is [Mia.hayes@slcschools.org](mailto:Mia.hayes@slcschools.org) for 4th grade math questions

## CLASS EMAIL LIST:

Our classroom email is: [class.tina@ocslc.org](mailto:class.tina@ocslc.org)

(You will all be subscribed to our class email list by our web committee when it is up and running)

**FYI: THERE ARE 2 TEACHERS NAMED TINA AT THE OC I AM TINA MONTOYA.**

## REMIND:

Our classroom has a Remind account. This "Remind" service enables me to send you a text message to remind you about events in our classroom. Subscribing to this texting service is an easy way for you to receive texts from me about important reminders such as parent meetings or field trips where you need to send your kid with a lunch or pajama day or a read-a-thon day. I encourage you to subscribe to this service it helps with reminders. [You will find a flier attached that will give you instructions on how to subscribe.](#)

**Attached is a tentative weekly schedule.**

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!  
I CAN'T WAIT  
TO EXPLORE, LEARN & DISCOVER  
WITH YOU IN OUR CLASSROOM COMMUNITY  
THIS YEAR!

♥ Tina Montoya

## Tina's Class Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM Co-op Needs	2 Co-opers Needed	2 Co-opers Needed	2 Co-opers Needed	2 Co-opers Needed	2 Co-opers Needed
8:45	Superhero Training / Circle	Superhero Training / Circle	Superhero Training / Circle	Superhero Training / Circle	Superhero Training / Circle
9:00 - 10:00	Planner* Computer Lab	Planner*	Planner* Movement/ Dance **	Planner*	Planner* Sports ***
10:00 - 10:15	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess
10:15 - 10:25	Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack
10:25 - 11:35	Math	Math	Math	Math	Math
AM Co-op Needs	3 Co-opers Needed	3 Co-opers Needed	3 Co-opers Needed	3 Co-opers Needed	2 Co-opers Needed
11:40 - 12:25	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:25 - 1:30	Art	Book Groups & Literacy Activities	Book Groups & Literacy Activities	Book Groups & Literacy Activities	
1:30 - 1:45	Art	Writing	Writing		Planner* Science
1:45 - 2:00	Recess	Recess	Recess	PE (1:15 - 2:00) Library (2:00 - 2:45)	
1:45 - 2:55	Art	Planner* Science	Planner*		*** 3rd Trimester Sports Friday AM

\* Planner Includes:  
Literacy, Book Groups, Science, Social Studies, Mini Courses,  
Small Group Learning, Kid Co-oping, Themed Areas of Learning...

Other Activities may be added when schedules are solidified such as another PE time, computer lab, a possible move of days for Dance with Dawn, and or reading buddies. Thanks for your flexibility.