



Dear Parents,

Welcome back for the 2011- 2012 school year! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and is looking forward to an exciting new school year ahead. I am excited to be working with The Carrie Brazer School for Autism, as my passion for teaching students with special needs is very dear to my heart. Currently, I hold certifications in the state of Florida in Exceptional Student Education, Elementary Education, and as an Educational Media Specialist. I graduated from Trinity International University in South Florida, and have been teaching for over 20 years in Elementary Education, music, as a provider of Music Therapy for children with speech and developmental delays, and have been a Special Education Teacher for the last nine years. In addition, I was a Licensed Childcare Administrator in Dallas, Texas where I ran a foster group home sponsored by the Rotary Club of Downtown Dallas where I was a foster parent troubled teenage boys who were in the juvenile justice system.

I am a native of Miami, Florida and personally enjoy the beautiful environment we have here in South Florida and the diverse activities we can experience right here in our own backyard! I am blessed to have four children, two of which are attending college, one in graduate school, who is also in her first year of teaching high school and my youngest daughter, who just started high school this year.

I am looking forward to getting to know all of you and your children and working together with you in the education and progress of your child that I am privileged to teach this new school year.

This school year, we will be involved with many new and hands on learning activities. We are entering our second year of focusing mainly on prevocational and daily living skills. The skills taught are geared towards preparing your child for adulthood. These daily living and self-help skills taught this year will greatly assist your child in becoming more independent.

The subjects for the school year will include the areas of: Communication and Socialization, Daily Living Skills, Computer and Office skills, Social Science, Physical Education and Music and Movement.

The Daily Living Skills curriculum will include sorting laundry, using a washer and dryer, folding and hanging clothes, preparing meals and snacks, putting things away after use, becoming familiar with grocery shopping, and personal hygiene. For a list of the personal hygiene items, please see the school supply list.

This first quarter, the students will be involved in a thematic titled "Keeping House" which focuses on cleaning and maintaining a home, and applies to school as well.

Our Physical Education curriculum will involve learning basic skills through a variety of sports (football, soccer, basketball, etc.) and will teach personal fitness in order to improve overall health. Last year the students improved their gross and fine motor skills and socialization by participating in the Physical Education curriculum. Swimming, twice a week will also be a part of the P.E. curriculum this semester. We are planning to incorporate horseback riding as well after swimming.

Our Social Science curriculum will focus on reading and understanding directions, signs in the community, and taking public transportation (bus, metro-rail, etc.) to specific community outings.

Homework is assigned throughout the week (with the exception of Fridays). Please assist and or review your child's homework, if necessary as this will involve you and your child as a team and you will be able to see what your child is working on.

We encourage parents to volunteer on any outings we go on in the community. Please make sure your child wears their orange t-shirt, and please provide a change of clothes, in case of an emergency. In addition to the supply list you received, the following items are not mandatory, but would be very helpful in our efforts to educate your child.

We ask for donations of items you may already have:

- 1) Blank white copy / printer paper
- 2) Three whole punch
- 3) Staples
- 4) Scotch tape
- 5) Any pens you can spare.
- 6) Dry erase markers/eraser/cleaner
- 7) Chalk and erasers

We realize this is asking a lot: however, we feel these items will assist your child in certain aspects of the curriculum and their personal growth. Our staff will be available for any questions you may have from 3:15-4:15 p.m. each school day at the number listed: **305.262.8999** (Middle/ High School Campus)

We will be scheduling an appointment with the parents to review last years IEP' and to prepare your child's learning goals for the upcoming 2011-2012 school year.

I am looking forward to a wonderful new school year teaching your child!

Sincerely,

Ms. Donna A. Wade