**Hello Third Grade Parents!**

 First things first…..BIG apologies for taking so long to reach out. After day 2, my son had to quarantine for exposure! What a way to start the year, right? We are back and ready to have a great year!

 **A Little About Me**

This is my 27th year as an educator, and I have been a classroom teacher for grades 2, 4, and 5. I loved that time of my career, but I knew I wanted to do more to reach students with unique needs. I have been in special education for the last 16 years, and I have to say this is where my heart is. I love building relationships, finding different strategies to help those with academics deficits, and seeing students with behavior struggles to find appropriate ways to express themselves. I graduated from Mississippi State University in 1995, and I am a die hard Bulldog fan! I am married to my husband Mark who works at FedEx, and we have our son Matthew who has multiples disabilities and is in his last year at Pleasant Hill. In my opinion, this is the best elementary school in our district. We live in Olive Branch and attend church at Calvary Baptist in Horn Lake. In my spare time (what is that?) I mainly enjoy spending time with my family. I will admit though I love to shop! TJ Maxx and Marshall’s are my favorite since I LOVE a good deal!

 **My Education Philosophy**

I truly believe that building a relationship with my students, teachers, and parents is the key to success. We all need to know that we are on the same page and have a common goal-student success. Success is not one size fits all. I know that all students can reach their goals, and it is our job to find the right path to get them there. With a solid relationship built on respect and trust, they can achieve their own level of greatness! Being a mom of a child with a variety of special needs has given me a whole new level of compassion when I write IEPs and sit at the table with you in meetings. My first year of teaching in Horn Lake, our school motto was All Children Can Learn. That still rings true!

 **Daily Routine**

Every day I am up and down the third grade hallway going into classes to work with children. My role is to make sure they are paying attention, stay on task, but mostly to make sure they understand the assignment. I will stop at individual students to redirect them, to explain what something means, to rephrase if they don’t understand, and to answer their questions. I help enforce the teachers’ class rules and procedures, and that often varies from room to room. I am their for support, but on occasion I find opportunities to give input to a lesson as well. Pull out services occur in the morning for tutoring during our Jag Time. As teachers are remediating skills, we are working on those specific IEP goals. This is how we track and monitor progress to determine if the goals are appropriate and to help us plan for ESY in the summer and plan for the next school year. I do teach resource math, which means if I have a student receiving those services, they receive instruction and grades from me for that subject area. I could go on for hours about why I love being an educator, but hopefully you’ve gotten a sense of my heart. There are a couple of ways you can contact me:

School email: amy.hayes@dcsms.org School voicemail: 662-890-9654

School Status Personal cell: 901-489-1511

\*\*\*I can check emails and texts during the day on my cell. I don’t mind answering cell phone calls until 4:30, and I will answer texts until 8:00. I try to protect my family time especially since my son has needs requiring medical attention. However, if something comes up I don’t ever want you to feel like you can’t reach out! Your child’s general ed teachers will be your first point of contact. If it directly relates to their IEP goals, services, or accommodations obviously that would be directed to me.

Looking forward to talking with each of you one on one and getting to know the family behind the student.

Sincerely,

Amy Hayes