



August 2022

Dear Parents,

Welcome to first grade! I certainly am hoping that this will be a totally normal year for all of us as far as the ole pandemic is concerned! In order for the year to be successful, it is critical that we work as a team. We are already off to a great start with achieving this by having the opportunity to actually meet face to face and get to know each other.

This year will be the start of my 21st year of teaching and my 5th at JEMS. I taught the previous 12 years at Foster Park Elementary where I was a 1st grade teacher for 10 of those years. The other 2 years I taught kindergarten and looped back up to 1st grade with my class. I also taught kindergarten for the first 2 years of my career at Waterloo Elementary in Laurens before teaching 5th grade at Whitmire Community School the following 2 years. I am originally from Easley where I graduated from Easley High School, and therefore am a Clemson fan! I have my Master's Degree in Elementary Education from Converse College, and hold certifications in both early childhood and elementary education. I am married to Jeff Bates, a contractor, and we have 2 sons. Brandon is 21 and is enrolled at TriCounty Tech, with plans to possibly transfer to Clemson as his older brother Tyler did. Tyler, who is 27, graduated December 2017 from Clemson and recently finished his Masters in Athletic Leadership, where he interned with the football team in Strength and Conditioning and was able to run down the hill with the team, assist on the sidelines during home games, and was given an ACC Championship ring and National Championship ring! If only COVID hadn't hit right before he graduated, maybe he could've gotten a nice job at Clemson with all of his connections...LOL

We have a few supplies we use that are not required, but are welcomed as donations throughout the year. Examples of some items are Kleenex, Clorox/Lysol wipes, Ziploc bags, and **real** paper towels (not expensive ones, just real ones that absorb water since the standard "brown paper towels" only push the liquid around- even Dollar Tree paper towels absorb better than those 😊).

I have a class website where I will (try to) post information and helpful links. I have not been the best at keeping it updated the older I get, but I will give it my best shot...LOL You can check it out here:
www.mrsbates.com

I am super excited to get this year started! If you have any questions, you can email me at sbates@union.k12.sc.us or message me via Remind (instructions enclosed).

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sheila Bates

