



Dear Parents,

2023-24

A warm greeting to all the new students and parents entering upper elementary as well as the returning 5th and 6th graders and parents! I will be your child's teacher for this coming school year, Christina Garay Lohry. I transferred over to Park Road last year, after teaching for seven years at Chantilly Montessori, as an Upper Elementary Teacher, so this is my second year at Park Road. I am an experienced educator, with a diverse background of training and experiences. I began my professional career in the field of dance therapy, working as a creative arts therapist in Brooklyn NY in the 80's. I then moved to Nova Scotia and in the process of starting a Waldorf school for my children, became a teacher (Waldorf <https://www.waldorfeducation.org/waldorf-education>). After taking a class from first to fifth in that Waldorf school, I moved back to the states and began teaching in the NC public schools, mainly grades 3-5. An opportunity arose that gave me the chance to teach dance full time in public school at an A+ school <https://www.ncarts.org/aplus-schools> as their dance teacher. I am also a teaching fellow for the NC Arts Council, training teachers across the state on how to integrate the arts when teaching math, reading, science and social studies.

I trust summer has been filled with fun activities and celebrations for you and your children. I wanted to request that over the next weeks you work with your children to make sure they have mastery (automatic) over a few skills: add ends to ten (3+7, 2+8), multiplication tables up to 5, and the parts of speech (a mad lib book perhaps). Check out the game included at the end of this letter. I look forward to hearing about the books and novels the students have read over the summer. I myself have read and studied a great book

I am writing to you from the 'big sky' state of Colorado where I just finished a week of training teachers in arts integration and will spend a few days with old friends up in the southern Rockies.



I hope to have many opportunities for parents to participate in the classroom this year. It is so important to have that home/school connection, so please make sure you are registered as a volunteer for this coming school year. <https://www.cms.k12.nc.us/cmsdepartments/cpfe/volunteers/Pages/default.aspx>

I look forward to getting to know your child and learning how I can best compliment their intelligence and talents.

Ms. Christina

Please see the list of required supplies below:

Upper elementary supply list for Mrs. Christina's Class:

- 2 12-packs Ticonderoga pencils
- 1 box of Kleenex
- 1 hand-held pencil eraser
- 6 composition books (wide ruled)
- 1 quad ruled (4 squares per inch) composition books
- 12-pack colored pencils
- 1 plastic 2-pocket
- 2 3-pronged folders metal
- 1 hand-held pencil sharpener
- sticky notes- 2 pack of 3"x3"

Additional items for all students: headphones or earbuds, pencil case (soft), ***drawing or sketchbook (**non-perforated pages**), 6 inch big kid scissors, 1.5 inch binder for class

For Art : Students will need a 1.5 inch binder and 10 dividers for art. 6th graders, if you still have yours from two years ago, please bring that in, if not you will need a new one.

** Please make sure your student brings a water bottle and snack to school, each day.