

The Promise Jar

Building a Classroom Community for the Future

A community is defined as a body of people with something in common; neighborhood, joint ownership, similarity, agreement. I feel that a Classroom atmosphere along with Classroom management is one of the most important things that can be developed for the school year. It can promote good self esteem, ownership of behaviors, problem solving skills, and a comfortable/safe learning environment where children can grow in academics and everyday life on their individual level.

I am implementing The Promise Jar as my classroom management and discipline policy. During the first week of school, I will be guiding the students to develop a promise for the classroom. This will include expectations that we have of one another in our classroom community. Once we have established our promise, I along with the students will sign our names and decorate a rock which will be placed in the Promise Jar. This is going to be our Promise Rock.

1. When expectations are not met the child will first be given a warning (information below). After the warning the child will be required to find their Promise Rock out of the Promise Jar as a reminder of the Promises they made to the community.
2. The community members (students) will conduct a community meeting where the broken expectation will be discussed, followed by a consequence from the community members. This process will be teacher guided to find a consequence that matches the behavior after students have shared with partners/group members different ideas. The community members will vote on the best student given consequence for the behavior and decide the timeframe of the consequence.

-or-

1. The community members that were affected by the broken expectation will be encouraged to go to the Conflict Carpet (T-Time) to work out their problem with the "I Message" (I feel...when you... Would you please...) process and choose a Conflict Stoppers to solve their problem. Conflict Stoppers: Share, Take Turns, Apologize, Ignore, Make Amends, Compromise, Laugh it Out, Flip a Coin, Wait till Later, Get Help, or Talk it Out.

The Goal of The Promise Jar

To promote a community where the following is expected:

Compassion for others, self control, trustworthiness, honesty, responsibility, selflessness, forgiveness, healthy speech, respect for oneself, respect for others,

respect for property, respect for authority, working well with others all for the main purpose of learning. I truly believe that if the atmosphere for growth is not available, then growth will be hindered.

The first month of school we will be diligently promoting and establishing The Promise Jar procedures, through discussion of our expectations, modeling and role playing a variety of situations, as well as using real classroom conflicts as teaching tools. Due to this, your child's Behavior Chart (in the **Daily Folder**) will not reflect your child's behavior until about two or three weeks after school has started. It is important to me to give your child time with The Promise Jar before they become accountable for their behavior to you as their parent. However, when I begin filling out the Behavior Chart (in the **Daily Folder**) it will be to inform you of the child's behavior. This will also be a reflection of your child's report card as well. Discipline will have been implemented in the classroom through the Promise Jar procedures listed above. Home discipline connected to school behavior should be evaluated and parent choice to promote home/school relationships.

If the Promise Jar is not working for your child, then alternate methods will be discussed with you in a Parent Teacher Conference requested by me.

Class Expectations:

Take care of yourself

Take care of others

Take care of your things

Treat others the way that you want to be treated.

I will place the appropriate letter (see code at bottom of Behavior Chart) in the box for that day if your child has gone to the Promise Jar. The number of letters (not my initials) will inform you to how many times your child has been to the Promise Jar each day. If your child has three letters in one box, you will also have an additional note from your child. Please sign the note and return the next day.

Warnings:

If your child has had a verbal warning by an adult (teacher/EA), I will place the letter "w" on the Behavior Chart for that day w/the code letter. Now it will be **your child's responsibility** to give you the details about the warning. Please understand that the "w" also means that your child did NOT have to come before the community as well. It was a warning that every child will get before going to his/her Promise Rock.

Rewards!!!!

At the end of each week or two weeks, your child will be rewarded for keeping the Class Promise. Every day that your child has not received a letter, that day is worth \$0.05 to spend at our Class Store! "Ws" are not included. ☺ However, if your initials are not inside of the box, your child will not get paid for that/those days. I will highlight the area in the box if your initials are not in the box for my documentation. Each nine week period the amount of money to be earned will increase as well.

Other ways to earn money for the Class Store!

- Not having any letters for the whole nine week grading period, which increases every nine wk period (\$5, \$10, \$15, & \$20)
- Students that are on Best Group for the day
- Students that are awarded for Best Partner Group
- Returning "special" signed papers (teacher choice)
- RC check (Random Desk Check)

Our Class Promise for The Coble Community

We promise to follow directions everywhere we go. We will be nice to each other and take care of others and ourselves so we can learn. We will not hurt each other's bodies or feelings because we will help others that get hurt. We will take care of our things and remember not to throw things.

We will treat others the way that we want to be treated!

We will be honest so that we will trust each other!
We will grow, have fun, and feel safe while learning everything that we can!

We Promise!

If your child has gotten his/her Promise Rock three times in one day, there will be added consequences. Please take note. Third Rock Consequences: 1. The student's bank will be emptied. 2. The

student will not be allowed to have a Class job for two weeks. 3. The student will fill out a form telling you which three promises were broken that day. This note must be signed by you (parent) and returned the next day. 4. Whatever work was missed because the student was filling out the form, will be sent home as extra hmk, and must be complete for the next day.