

Erving Elementary School

Dear Erving Elementary School Families,

Welcome new and returning families to the new 2015-2016 school year! We are so fortunate to have a dedicated staff, wonderful students, actively involved parents and community members. Together, we will create a year of excellence for our children as we focus on nurturing student and family engagement and empowering responsible leaders, and creating and maintaining our commitment to a rich learning experience for all students.

At Erving, we pride ourselves on being *A Steven Covey, LEADER IN ME School*. *The Leader in Me* is an innovative, school-wide model that emphasizes a culture of student empowerment and leadership. We help kids develop personal and academic leadership skills to maximize their full potential. Through *The Leader in Me*, we teach the *7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. The *7 Habits* is a combination of universal, timeless principles of personal and interpersonal effectiveness, such as responsibility, integrity, teamwork, goal setting and collaboration. It focuses on the timeless skills needed for both academic and personal success. We are enthusiastic about creating a school where safety, respect, accountability, leadership, support and excellence are highly evident!

I welcome you and invite you to involve yourself in our school through the various opportunities. I am fortunate to be the Principal of Erving and part of a wonderful community. It is my belief that our parents and community are our partners in the educational process of each child. Please feel free to share your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions. I look forward to what I anticipate to be another great year at Erving.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Caterina Berry

Principal

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People

Habit 1: Be Proactive –

I am a responsible person. I take initiative. I choose my actions, attitudes, and moods. I do not blame others for my wrong actions. I do the right thing without being asked, even when no one is looking.

Habit 2: Begin with the End in Mind –

I plan ahead and set goals. I do things that have meaning and make a difference. I am an important part of my classroom and contribute to my school's mission and vision, and look for ways to be a good citizen.

Habit 3: Put First Things First –

I spend my time on things that are most important. This means I say no to things I know I should not do. I set priorities, make a schedule, and follow my plan. I am disciplined and organized.

Habit 4: Think Win-Win –

I balance courage for getting what I want with consideration for what others want. I make deposits in others' Emotion Bank Accounts. When conflicts arise, I look for third alternatives.

Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood –

I listen to other people's ideas and feelings. I try to see things from their viewpoints. I listen to others without interrupting. I listen with my ears, my eyes, and my heart. I am confident in voicing my ideas.

Habit 6: Synergize –

I value other people's strengths and learn from them. I get along well with others, even people who are different than me. I work well in groups. I seek out other people's ideas to solve problems because I know that by learning with others we can create better solutions than any one of us alone. I look for a third alternative.

Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw –

I take care of my body by eating right, exercising, and getting sleep. I learn in lots of ways and lots of places, not just at school. I spend time with family and friends. I take time to find meaningful ways to help others. I have balance in my life.

*You may also want to look on www.leaderinme.org