

Dear room 13 families,

Welcome to the GATE Program and a new school year at Acacia! I am excited and honored to be your child's 3rd grade teacher. This year is going to be a busy one- full of learning, growing, and making wonderful memories. I look forward to working together as partners in your child's education. Before I give you some general information about our classroom, let me tell you a bit about myself.



I'm a southern California native and grew up in Walnut. I am a Cal State Fullerton alumni. This year marks my 31st year teaching in the Fullerton School District, and my 10th year teaching the 3rd grade GATE class at Acacia. My heart belongs to 3rd grade, but I've also taught 4th grade, 5th grade, and kindergarten. I'm grateful to have been a Cotsen fellow here at Acacia. We belong to a wonderful school community!

My husband Dave and I live in Yorba Linda and have three great kids- Justin, 36, Carlee, 33, and Matthew, aged 24. We also have a fur baby named Mac. He is a yellow lab, and he has more energy than we know what to do with sometimes! I love to travel, read, and I sneak in a yoga class or two when I find the time. I love my job and will always have a special place in my heart for all the children I've taught throughout the years. Many of them are adults now- yikes! The link below leads to a short "Meet Mrs. Lewis" movie. I will show it to the kids on Monday, but you might like to watch it before then!

[Meet Mrs. Lewis](#)

My goal as an educator is to instill a love of learning in my students and to provide an educational environment for them that is motivating, challenging, safe, and fun. All students will have iPads checked out to them this year. iPads will be distributed in class on Thursday, August 17, and will begin coming home on **Wednesday, August 23**. Please fill out and return the Fullerton School District Student Software/Internet Acceptable Use Policy Form that will be included in the first day packet coming home on Monday.

Back to School Night is this Thursday, August 17. You may attend a session from 6:00-6:40 PM or from 6:45-7:30 PM. Both sessions will take place in the classroom. I'll share our learning program with you and some of the unique ways we'll create, communicate, collaborate, and think critically in our GATE classroom.

In order to provide the best education possible for your children, we need to be partners. Please encourage your child at home by helping to ensure that they have completed their assignments, studied for tests/quizzes, and are keeping up with projects, if necessary. Above all, the children need to read, read, read at home!

Communication is vital between teachers and you, the parents. I will keep you informed of what's happening in class through frequent email updates and through my classroom website. I post homework daily and announcements weekly on the website. You can find the website on our Acacia School webpage, or it is linked [here](#). I also use the **REMIND** app for communication. Please register for our REMIND class [HERE](#).

Please take some time to fill out and return the **Student Information Form** that will be sent home on Monday in the First Day Packet. There will be two sides to fill out. Please send it back with your child at your earliest convenience. Thank you!

There will be many opportunities for you to be involved in our school and classroom. I'll discuss volunteer needs and requirements once the school year is underway. Classroom volunteer opportunities will begin later in September. For now, **I am in need of help with making and maintaining our pencil pouches, stuffing Panda Folders, cutting classroom raffle tickets, and covering the kids' language and word study notebooks.** Please email me if you are available to help with any of the above. Thank you!

Materials: In order to prepare your child for their 3rd grade year, please refer to the [3rd grade Voluntary Supply List](#). A hard copy of the list will go home Monday in the First Day Packet. Students will keep a **small** pencil pouch at their desk for supplies. Extra supplies will be stored in the classroom and shared as students need replenishments. Dry erase markers will need to be replenished frequently throughout the year, as our supplies at school are limited. Please have your child bring a water bottle every day to keep at their desk. Water only inside the classroom, and no frozen bottles please. Kids may also want to bring small bottles of hand sanitizer to keep at their seats.

Classroom Behavior Standards: We will discuss our behavior standards together as a class the first week of school. Our focus the first weeks of school will be on building trust and relationships, getting used to

routines and procedures, and creating a classroom family culture that is safe, happy, and respectful. I'll talk a bit more about this at Back to School Night.

Homework: The kids will have some homework responsibilities Monday - Friday. Homework will mainly consist of reading, mastering math facts as needed, and completing word study for spelling and vocabulary. Math homework may come home periodically, but not daily. There will be opportunities for math enrichment at home once the school year is underway. At times the children may need to finish assignments at home that are not completed in class. We will have some assigned projects this year, but class time will always be given for them. I keep the homework and reminders updated daily on my website. Please bookmark [THIS LINK](#) to view the daily homework and reminders. The kids work hard all day, and I know they are busy with after-school activities. I will strive to keep the amount of homework to a minimum and to be consistent with the district homework policy.

I look forward to working with you to make this an exceptional school year for your child, and I welcome you to contact me with questions and concerns via email, phone, or in person. Mark your calendars for **Back to School Night on Thursday, August 17th, at either 6:00 PM or 6:45 PM**, where I will explain in more detail the components of our upcoming school year. I can't wait to meet you!

Kindest regards,

Lara Lewis

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