

Family and School Time Capsule Project

Parent letter to their child 8-30-24

Each parent and grandparent, and involved relative, will be asked to write every year to their student at the start of the school year from Pre-k through 12th grade. There are two goals for each letter. **First** the writer should describe their dreams for the child and how those dreams are evolving from year to year. **Second**, the writer should include a story from their own history that they want to share. Such stories help the student become more familiar with their family history and their own roots. This is why each parent and grandparent are asked to write a letter. Every child is a combination of many families with different histories. The better they know their family histories the easier it will be for them to form their own life goals.

When parents and/or relatives finish their letter, they will meet with the child to read the letter to them in an event that hopefully will become a valuable annual meeting. After the third grade the child can read the letter themselves to each parent during this time. The child should be invited to ask any questions they have from the letter. The goal is for the child to understand each letter very well.

Prior to 3rd grade a parent will prepare an annual self-addressed and dated envelope for their child and place copies of all letters received in that envelope. Families are encouraged to keep the original letters in a safe place at home. The self-addressed envelope is brought to school and given to the grade's Postmaster Volunteer. They will place all these self-addressed envelopes in the school's Time Capsule Vault.

From 3rd grade on each student themselves writes a letter to each parent and person that they want to receive a letter from. Then, in about a month they will bring all the letters received to their Language Arts Class on a day planned for them to write an annual letter to themselves. On that day the teacher will hand out envelopes to hold all the letters each child has received. Students will place their name, grade and address on the envelope along with any cell phone number and email address they have, along with the current date. Students then write a letter to themselves about their thoughts on each letter received and their own plans for themselves.

This letter each student writes to themselves also goes into the self-addressed envelope before it is sealed and placed into the School's Time-Capsule Vault.

Every year students receive back their 11-month-old envelope just before next year's writing. This annual process continues until the 12th grade when the letters written change to focus on dreams 10 years into the future. The 12th grade envelope remains in the School Time Capsule until the class 10-year reunion.

Imagine the priceless records made during this process, and at that 10-year reunion!