

# Your Teacher

My name is Sherry Williams. I am very excited to be your child's kindergarten teacher. This will be my thirty-fifth-year teaching. My first twenty-six years of teaching were in Virginia. In Virginia, I taught learning disabilities for fourteen years and kindergarten for twelve years. This will be my ninth year at Harbison West. I received my undergraduate degree from Glenville State College in West Virginia and my graduate degree from James Madison University. I live with my husband, JB. and our twenty-eight-year-old daughter, Kayla. She is an Occupational Therapist Assistant at Lexington Medical Extended Care. Our twenty-one -year-old daughter, Katarina, will be a senior at Clemson, GO TIGERS! We also have a Basset hound, Cookie and a golden retriever, Chip.

# Your Teacher Assistant

Hello, my name is Deana Jowers. I am really excited to welcome all of our new K5 heroes this year! This will be my fifth year as a kindergarten assistant with Mrs. Williams...we make a great team. I have been married for 29 years to my wonderful husband Greg who works at Hanners' State Farm Insurance. We have three incredible children, Anna (19) is a sophomore at USC in Accounting, Go Gamecocks! Bryce (16) is a junior at Chapin High and plays football and basketball, and Avery (15) is a sophomore at Chapin and plays basketball. The kids love to come and visit the classroom and hope to pop in often this year. Oh, we also have a seven year old black Labrador named Deuce, who loves to swim in the lake, and then snore contently ;)). We have lived in the Chapin area for twelve years. I can't wait for another great year here at Harbison West working with our new heroes! You will be amazed at how much your children learn, grow, and become readers this year! Kindergarten is an amazing time.

# Curriculum

At Harbison West we use the reading program Imagine It. This will be the ninth year utilizing this program. Your child will be learning routines and then we will start learning letter sounds. The children are introduced to words very quickly. At the beginning of each unit I will add words to their word bags. These words should be reviewed nightly and they should be **kept in their book bags**. This program allows the teacher to instruct students on their individual levels. One of the things that makes kindergarten interesting and challenging is that students come at all starting points. My job as a teacher is to take your child at their current level and give them the tools to progress as far as they can. The math program we use is My Math. This is the seventh year for this math program. This math program follows the state objectives very closely. We will be playing a lot of games that reinforce the skills that need to be mastered. A lot of Science and Social Studies objectives will be introduced by using literature.

**More on the back!**

# Behavioral Program

Your child will earn paper "cape cash" for appropriate behavior. Harbison West has created a rubric of what is appropriate behavior. This information is included in the Student/Parent Handbook. The goal is to earn at least 10 paper cape cash a day. A star book will also be coming home daily. It is a composition book with a star on the front. I will record the number of cape cash the student has earned for the day. If for some reason they have less than 10 cape cash I will include a short note explaining why. I try to include positive notes also, but please keep in mind I am monitoring twenty notebooks. We try to do cape cash count at the end of the day. The purpose of the star book is for communication between home and school. If you need to write an excuse, please write it in the star book. Please **sign** the notebook daily. This is the only way I know that you have seen the notebook.

## Volunteers

Please let me know if you have any special talents and/ or interests that you would like to share with the class. If you are interested in volunteering, please let me know the time and days that you are available. I am very flexible and would love to have you.

I am thrilled to be your child's kindergarten teacher. Your child is very special and unique. Please remember that every child learns in a different, special way. I strongly encourage you to be an active participant in your child's daily school life. My philosophy is "Every child can learn. Every child wants to learn." This is best accomplished when home and school, work closely together and maintain communication. Together we can make a difference. I am here if you need anything, so please do not hesitate to call or write me a note in the Star Book. Communication is so important. I look forward to having an exciting, wonderful year!

**Let the learning begin!**

Mrs. Sherry Williams

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