



August 2017

Dear Parent or Guardian,

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Mrs. Rita Dybas and I am your child's Science teacher for 6<sup>th</sup> grade. This is my 16<sup>th</sup> year in the district and my 26<sup>th</sup> year of teaching. I have had the pleasure of teaching grades 5<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> and even Pre-K! I love science and want to share it with your child so they too can learn about it and appreciate it every day. I have high expectations for your child and together we can create a successful learning experience. I believe students learn best by using a hands-on/minds-on approach. My goal is to inspire your child, and to spark creative and innovative thinking.

Good communication is a key element in the success of your child. Please make sure you have activated your school account. You will be able to view all assignments and your child's grade on the Brooks webpage. If you ever have any questions or concerns, the easiest way to contact me is via email. If you would like to contact me please email me at [dybasrm@vvsd.org](mailto:dybasrm@vvsd.org) or at (630)759-6340. I am available before school from 7:00- 8:00 am and during my plan.

The curriculum for 6<sup>th</sup> grade is new this year. IQWST - Investigating and Questioning our World through Science and Technology was adopted by the district in April. IQWST was developed over a decade by science education, literacy, and learning science specialists from the University of Michigan, Northwestern University, Michigan State University, and the Weizmann Institute of Science, supported by funding from the National Science Foundation. Students investigate questions relevant to their lives by conducting investigations; collecting and analyzing data; developing and using models to explain phenomena, and engaging in argument from evidence, all in a literacy and discourse-rich environment. An overview of the new curriculum can be found on my school webpage and a copy will be handed out at Curriculum Night.

Students will need the following supplies: a spiral notebook (this will be kept in the classroom), and a variety of pens and paper. A folder or binder is also great to help them keep their papers organized. It is important that they bring to class the tools they will need in order to be successful.

I look forward to sharing this exciting school year with you and your child and hope to meet you on curriculum night.

Sincerely,

*Mrs. Rita Dybas*