



Dear Third Grade Families,

Our school year is off to a great start, and I really enjoyed meeting those of you who attended Rhea Central's "meet the teacher" day on August 9th. I realize that the first day goes rather quickly, so I would like to take time to formally introduce myself.

My name is Valerie Young Ferrell. I was born and raised in Rhea County. My parents, John and Judy Young, run a small oil distribution company in town (J.C. Young Oil Co.). After college--for about 4 years--I lead a local girl scout troop, and I have always been an avid supporter of the scouts.

I have been married for four years now, and my husband, Jeff Ferrell, teaches English at Rhea County High School. We are expecting our first child (a little girl) around Christmas Break in December. (I will splitting maternity leave the second semester with my husband to allow for more teaching time. A fabulous certified teacher (and personal friend) will be filling in for me during my absences.)

I have wanted to teach for as long as I can remember and owe my education to a very talented group of instructors. After graduating from Rhea County High School, I attended UTC and graduated in December 2004 with a Bachelor's degree in PreK-4th grade. In 2009, I completed my Master's Degree in Elementary Education, and I am currently working towards an additional National Board Certification.

Rhea Central hired me in August of 2005, and this will be my 7th year teaching 3rd grade. Children are my joy, and I expect nothing but the **best** from all of the students in my class. This year already seems like it will be especially invigorating, with many planned projects and activities already set on the agenda!

I am always available if you need to get in touch with me. My contact information is located at the bottom of my newsletters. Don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to talk to me about your child or have any questions about grades or homework. It's never any trouble. Also, if you haven't already, please send the signed "policies and procedures" page back to school with your child.

Thanks again for all of the supplies and suggestions. I'm looking forward to a wonderful year with your children!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Ferrell