

Cheri Cosnowski
a.k.a. Mrs. Coz
Me, Myself and I

- I have been teaching at Crissman for 24 years now with this being my 20th year teaching 5th grade. I strive to make learning fun and exciting while at the same time teaching them good study habits, skills and developing their sense of responsibility.
- I have an undergraduate degree from Eastern Michigan University and a master's degree from Saginaw Valley State University.
- I have been married for 19 years and have two children. My son, Trey, is a Junior at Orchard Lake Saint Mary's but went to school at both Crissman and Malow. My daughter, Ariel, is in 6th grade at Holy Family in Rochester.

Open House FAQ

Q - Where and how will my child organize their work?

A – They will keep a binder with all their current assignments organized by subject. This binder will go home each night and return to school each morning, even if they don't have homework. **Please do not clean this out at home.** We will clean it out after units are completed, and all the papers will be send home in their Friday Folder.

Q - When does my child's graded work come home?

A – Most graded work is returned to you on Friday in their Friday Folder. Tests are returned in class and answers gone over with the students. If you wish to see a specific assignment, and don't want to wait until Friday, just ask your child to get the assignment out of their mailbox and bring it home. Please sign and return the folder on Monday.

Q - Will my child have homework?

A – Homework will depend on your child. I don't assign homework, but any work they don't complete in class will need to be finished at home and returned the next day to be collected. I assume the average child will have about 30-45 minutes of homework each night. Some students have a bit more and some students have a bit less.

Q - Do you mind if help my child with their homework?

A – NO!!! Please feel free to go over any or all assignments with your child before they are turned in the next day.

Q - Do you use books, and is my child allowed to bring the books home?

A – Yes and yes

Q - How do you grade on PowerSchool?

A – I use straight percentages for most assignments. 60% of their final grade is classwork/homework and 40% of their grade comes from tests.

Q - How will I know if my child has homework?

A – We fill out our agenda each day. They will indicate with an **HW** if they have homework or **STUDY** if they have a test in the near future. If they wrote **DONE** they had an assignment but finished it (it's in their binder, not at school) and if they wrote **NO HW** it means I didn't give an assignment for the lesson. They will also highlight what they have for homework. This is an honesty task for them. I don't review their agenda to see that they are being honest. You are welcome, however, to look through their binder to make sure everything is complete.

Q – Where does my child turn in their assignments and how do they know when something is due?

A – Most assignments are due the next day and are collected as a class. If something is not due the next day, they will write the due date in their agenda. They are not allowed to turn assignments in early. Everything will be in their binder until we collect them in order as a class the next day.

Q – What happens if my child turns in an assignment late?

A – They start each marking period with 4 late work passes. This allows them to turn in an assignment late for full credit when attached to an assignment. If they use up those passes, then any further late assignments will be reduced by **20%**. Be sure to check PowerSchool often. I update it almost daily.

Q – Can my child redo assignments?

A – It depends. They would need to ask and give me the reason why they need to redo it. Sometimes, especially for math, I'll require them to redo the problems they get wrong and resubmit it for a grade **(See Attached)**. They must fill out the reflection part of the Second Chance slip or it's minus ten points. Work must also be redone on a new sheet of lined-paper or it's minus ten points. Their original answers need to stay on the worksheet.

Q – What if my child is absent?

A – They will have a Welcome Back Folder on their desk with all their work organized and a copy of the daily agenda off my website **(See Attached)** explaining what they missed and what was turned in while they were gone. Please try to have the work completed within a day or two. They are responsible for turning in assignments that were collect the day they were absent. It's at the bottom of the daily schedule. Please read the paper with your child and help with the assignments/lessons they don't understand. I spend a lot of time teaching before they get the assignment.

Q – How will my child prepare for tests?

A – I hand out study guides for Science and Social Studies at the beginning of each unit and we fill them out together a bit at a time. I also have Quizlet sets made up for all tests for more practice **(See PowerPoint)**. I'll tell the children about upcoming tests about 5-7 days early. For a math test the children will receive a practice test a couple days before the test that is set up exactly like the test but with different problems. We check it in class (not graded) and review any additional questions they might have.

Q - When are spelling tests?

A - All spelling is given out and is due on Thursday. Their tests are also on Thursday. We will have one group for the 1st marking period and then move into two groups for the rest of the year.

Q – What is GMW Review?

A – **GMW** stands for **Good Morning Work**, and it consists of 4 math problems and an editing paragraph. Each morning they complete the math problems and paragraph during

attendance and lunch count. These will be corrected in class, and they'll have the opportunity to write in the correct answers. This is **not** graded. On Thursday they receive **GMW Review** which will have the same skills covered from the week but with different numbers along with one of the same paragraphs they completed in class. It will be due on **Monday**. THE REVIEW IS GRADED. **(See Attached)**

Q – When can my child receive extra help if they are struggling or confused?

A- Your child may stay in for lunch recess where I'll give them extra help on a lesson or assignment. We also have study hall 3-5 days a week during the last 15 minutes of the day for children to work on assignments and receive extra help.

Q – How do you communicate with parents?

A – There are several ways I keep in touch with you and your family.

1) I send home a newsletter through e-mail each Friday. **(See Attached)**

2) My website is updated each day with the agenda and other pieces of helpful information. Please bookmark the page in your computer (PowerPoint).

3) I'll send home SHORT emails with quick reminders about upcoming tests, due dates or school events. I don't send these out very often and I keep them as short and to the point as possible.

4) Your child will bring their graded work home every Friday in a folder. Please sign and return it and let me know if you have any questions in the Parent/Teacher Comment Section

5) Daily Agenda – I star their agenda each day if it's filled out properly and signed by you. You may write me a note there. If it's not signed I'll write NS and if it's not filled out correctly I'll write No.

6) Send me an email. I check school email from home. The children are welcome to email me too with questions about assignments or activities.

Q – May my child bring in food birthday treats?

A – Yes, but we are a nut free room so please only send in items everyone can enjoy. Be sure to read the label to make sure comes from a nut free environment and make it something easy to pass out. Don't forget napkins. If your child's birthday is in the summer, feel free to send in a treat whenever it's convenient for your schedule. We celebrate birthdays whenever it fits into the day easily. Send in treats first thing in the morning, and we'll get to them before the day is over. There are 24 children in my room this year.

Q – Are we going on any field trips?

A – Yes, we will be going to the DIA in the fall. More information to follow.

Other talking Points

Parties – I need one or two parents for each party who are willing to plan and organize the parties. We'll use SlyReply to donate items. The number of parents who attend each party will be limited to about 5 or 6 and will need to help run stations.

Reading Helpers – I run a reading incentive program, and Mrs. Battani and Mrs. Swenson. have volunteered to help run it. The children must read an appropriate book and take a test from either Scholastic Reading Counts or from Book Adventure here at school. If the book they chose does not appear on either of those sites, one of the parents will give them a summary based verbal test in the hall. Their books are worth points which earns them money for my store and points for the military rank board. Each child is **required** to read 1 book a month but may read as many as they want. The books must be at least 4th grade or higher. Donations for the store are always appreciated, but please make sure there is no chocolate and that everything is from a peanut free facility.

Timed Math Tests – Yes, I know, everyone hates them, but the children must have their basic multiplication facts memorized well to be successful in 5th grade math. They will take about 2 tests a week. They are not graded, but I will put how many they got wrong in PowerSchool so you can watch their progress. They have 2 minutes to complete 50 questions accurately. Once they pass the test, they receive a Credit, which is equal to a 100% in PowerSchool and a Homework Pass. I use 3 different forms **(See Attached)**.

Parent Helpers – I already have the calendar created for parent helpers, but let me know if you'd like to come and help and I can add you to the schedule.

Spelling: Advanced Spelling Group will start around Thanksgiving. The words are based on Latin and Greek root words. More information will come closer to conference **(See Attached)**.