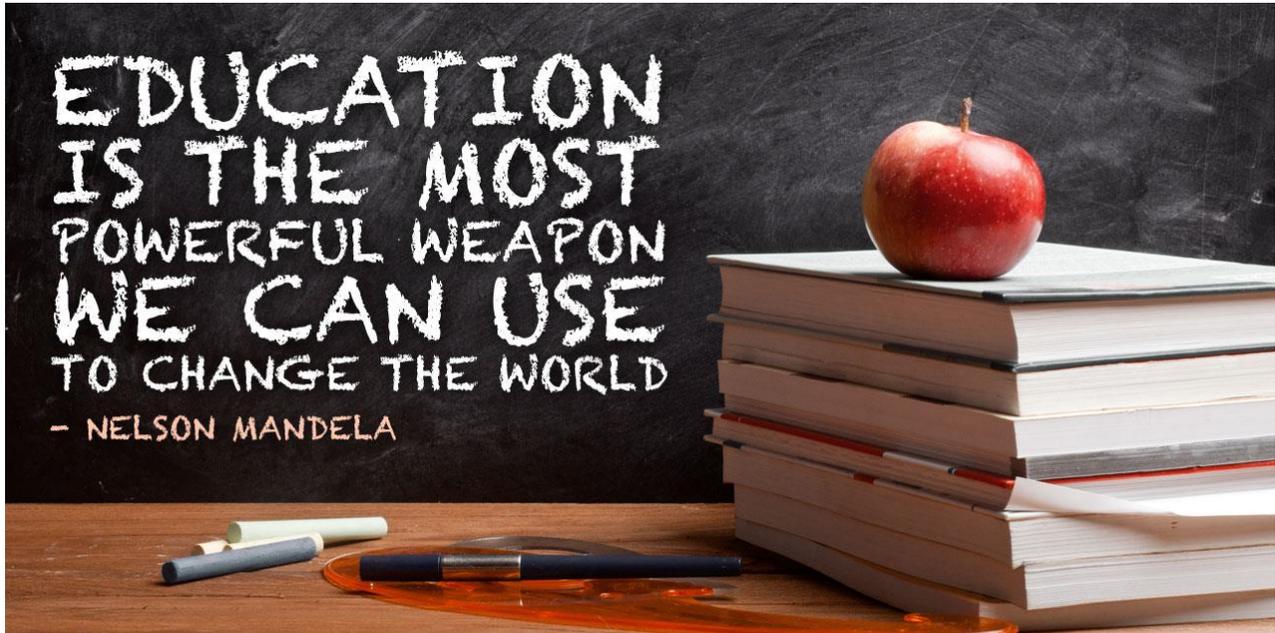


**2018-2019 Handbook  
For  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade**



**Mrs. Bonnie Gottke**

**Foothill Adventist Elementary School**



Welcome back to school! Hope that each of you had a relaxing summer, and time well-spent traveling, relaxing, or with your families.

### **About Me:**

Since I'm new to Foothill, please allow me to tell you a little bit about myself. I am originally from the Sunshine State (Ft. Lauderdale, FL), but have been living in the Bay Area for the last 12 years.

You might say that I am a product of Adventist Christian Education, because I have attended Adventist schools from 2<sup>nd</sup> grade through my Master's degree. I graduated from Southern Adventist University in 1999 with a B.A. in English Education, and again in 2007 with a M.S. in Education. Feel free to ask me questions about my experience at Southern, as I would love to share my journey with you.

I have 17 years of teaching experience in Pohnpei, Micronesia, Florida & California. The last 10 of these have been at Mountain View Academy as their English teacher. (Some of you

may have family members that have been through my classes.)

In 2012, God blessed with me with a wonderful man in my life, and I married my husband Steve in 2013. We have 2 beautiful children: Josie (age 2 ½) and Drew (9 months). You may see them on campus from time to time. In fact, Josie will be enrolled in Discoveryland. For the last 2 years I have been home with my children.

I am excited to return to the classroom this year as your 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. I am blessed to be working at such a great school, and it is my honor to be a part of your child's academic journey this year!

### **My Philosophy & Vision Statement:**

To create lifelong learners, inspiring young people to grow academically and spiritually. I live by Colossians 3:23-24, which says, "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ." My philosophy is to teach my students to value learning, to experience Jesus for themselves, and to use their God-given gifts to serve the Lord and their fellow communities.

### **Theme:**

This year I want to focus on a theme entitled "What's your story?" Each of us has been given a blank page with which we can write our story. Students will be challenged to find their voice, sharing past experiences that have shaped who they are today, and learning to make

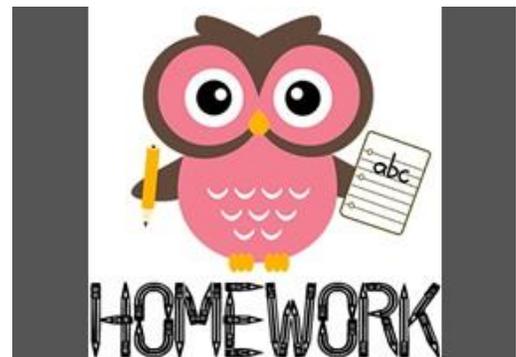
choices that will impact the next chapter of their story. There will be ample opportunity to share experiences through daily worships, journaling, and writing personal narratives.

### **Classroom Goals:**

- Students will be presented with opportunities to learn about Jesus through worship, Bible class, service opportunities, Outdoor Education, etc. My hope is to show students that God is not a once-a-week god, but rather, knowing Jesus means that He is integrated into every part of my life. Knowing Jesus means becoming like Him and choosing to pattern my life after His. This means that His character is reflected in me, whether I'm learning how to write an essay or shoot a 3-pointer in a game. Being a Christian is a lifestyle, NOT just a Bible class.
- Students will give their BEST effort in everything they do. This means bringing materials to class, turning homework in on time, preparing for tests, and learning to plan ahead for upcoming projects.
- Students will use a daily planner, which means writing down assignments every day, highlighting assignments not completed in class (designated as homework), and looking

ahead for upcoming projects, quizzes, tests, etc.

- Students will be good citizens and recognize that we are all a part of the same learning community. This means encouraging others instead of being critical, helping a classmate learn a difficult concept, being quiet so others have the ability to focus and learn, taking ownership of our classroom by sharing new ideas, keeping our classroom clean, respecting others' beliefs and opinions (even when you don't agree), and being pleasant to be around.



### **Homework:**

Unless we're working on a project, I do not assign homework. I assign classwork. Any assignment not completed in class automatically becomes homework. (The only exception to this is when we are working on extended projects.) Any classwork assigned is due the following day, first thing in the morning. Students are to place any work not completed in class in their folders. Once the work is

completed, they can turn it into the appropriate bin.

### Grading:

You will notice a percent grade on any graded homework your child brings home. This is the grade your child has earned on that particular assignment. Expect your child to bring home graded work on Mondays in their class folder.

Grades will be earned by work graded in the following categories:

- Homework/Classwork 50%
- Quizzes/Tests 20%
- Projects 30%

I use the following grading scale:

|    |         |
|----|---------|
| A+ | 100%    |
| A  | 94%-99% |
| A- | 90%-93% |
| B+ | 87%-89% |
| B  | 84%-86% |
| B- | 80%-83% |
| C+ | 77%-79% |
| C  | 74%-76% |
| C- | 70%-73% |
| D+ | 67%-69% |
| D  | 64%-66% |
| D- | 60%-63% |

Anything below 60% is an “F” grade.

### Late Work:

I hate *Hate* **HATE** late work. Therefore, I enforce a hefty penalty for assignments turned in late. If a student turns in his or her work late, 20 percentage points will be deducted from the overall score. (Did I mention that I HATE late work?) By the way, if a student’s name is missing from his or her assignment, I automatically deduct 5 percentage point from their overall score. Please encourage your children to turn their work in “on time” and always write their name on their papers. Forgetting these things can hurt students’ grades dramatically.



### Planners:

My students will have planners this year. ***Planners are the key to success in my classroom.*** It keeps the students organized and lets parents know what has been assigned on a daily basis. Every day, students are to write their assignments in their planners and check off any completed assignments. Anything not completed during the day will not be checked off. This will become homework. You can, at a

glance, see what your child was assigned, then check to make sure anything taken for homework gets done. Parents should check their child's planner on a weekly basis and sign it. This make sure that the student takes the responsibility to write things down, and parents can know what is being assigned in the classroom.

The planner is a vital part of being successful in my room. If you have any questions about using the planner, please let me know as soon as possible. We both want your child to be the best that he or she can be, and if we work together, we can help your child achieve success!



### **Things to Plan for:**

This school year is jam-packed full of activities. Field trips and school programs are most successful when we have parents who are ready and willing to help us with the details: transportation, setup, fundraising, etc. This year the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades will be going on a week-long Outdoor Education Trip to Catalina Island from October 14-19 with Mountain & Sea Adventures. I am still working out all the details, but as soon as I know what we

are doing and when, I will let you know. If you have experience organizing or fundraising, or have ideas for innovative ways to make money, please let me know. Most of the money we earn will go towards our field trips this year, but will also cover the class gift at graduation, special projects, and supplies for the classroom.

### **Fundraisers:**

During the first two weeks of school, the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be working on poetry. Each student will choose 2 poems for our class book with a company called Bookemon. Parents will have the opportunity to purchase our class book as a fundraiser for the Catalina Trip. More information will follow at Back to School Night.

Secondly, the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes will be collecting plastic and canned goods throughout the school. Mrs. Cano will take all of the recycling to a local center. The proceeds will help to defray the cost of our Catalina Trip in October.

### **Staying Connected:**

Please know that the only way that we will be successful is if we work together as teachers, parents, and students. Feel free to contact me about questions regarding homework, your student's behavior, or upcoming events. My cell phone number is (904) 233-7503, but please do not call after 9 pm. You can also e-mail me at [bgottke@foothilladventistschool.org](mailto:bgottke@foothilladventistschool.org). I will invite parents to see the Class Dojo account that I have created, so you can see how your student is behaving & performing in class. Finally, if there is a

problem, I will contact you through e-mail or Renweb, and will ask to set up a meeting. Thank you for allowing me to teach your child this year! It is my privilege to work with him or her, and I will do my absolute best to prepare your student academically and spiritually for their high school experience. I look forward to staying connected throughout this year. With your help, we can empower your student to achieve great things!