

As I mentioned earlier, I hope we can establish a partnership and work together in the best interests of your child. Please feel free to contact me throughout the year with any questions, comments, or concerns. I believe that open lines of communication are important and necessary as we do what is best for your child. Here is my contact information.

Email - [fordng@unit5.org](mailto:fordng@unit5.org)

Class Website - [www.mrford.org](http://www.mrford.org)

School phone - 888-6838

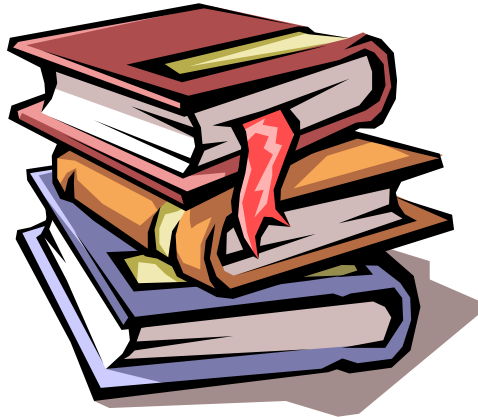
Home phone - (309) 282-6352

I will be maintaining a class website as a resource throughout the school year. Feel free to visit it when you have an opportunity. It will be updated for the new school year soon.

Once again, welcome to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade! Don't forget, Parent Orientation/Curriculum Night is Tuesday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. I look forward to meeting each of you and working together to make this an outstanding year.

Sincerely,

Mr. Ford



August 21, 2007



Dear Parents,

Greetings! Welcome to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. My name is Nathan Ford and I will be your child's teacher this year at Prairieland. We have a wonderful opportunity to make the next 9 months a positive and successful experience for him/her. I look forward to working in cooperation with you to educate and challenge your child.

I would like to tell you a little about my background. I graduated from Dwight Township High School in 1994. After high school I attended Illinois Wesleyan University. During my time at IWU I worked as a playground supervisor at Oakdale Elementary and that is when I decided to pursue a teaching career. I student taught at Tri-Valley elementary in a fourth grade classroom and received my bachelor's degree from IWU in 1998.

My professional teaching experience began at Mansfield Elementary in Mansfield, IL as a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. I then took a position at Prairieland for the school's inaugural year. In my 8 years at Prairieland I have taught 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Each grade has brought new challenges, but I have enjoyed every class and every student. I'm sure this year will be wonderful as well. This summer I completed a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction at Illinois State University. I love teaching and am passionate about making a positive impact on the children I'm lucky enough to work with.

This summer was a busy but relaxing time for my family. My wife Karen, my son Noah, and I live in Danvers, IL, just west of Normal. During the summer I tried to spend as much time as possible with Noah. He is two years old and loves to run, play, climb, and practice his ever expanding vocabulary. During the summer I also took a class, tutored, played softball, and worked at the Bloomington Public Library.