






Catherine Zezima Watson
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Hello Future **Watson's Winners**!

Please allow me to formally introduce myself, as you may have heard about me through the grapevine. I am Mrs. Watson, and I will be your fifth-grade teacher. This year I will surely teach you many subjects and lessons, but my *REAL* job will be to encourage you to discover new ways of thinking and solving for yourself. I can't wait to see you all in action!

A little bit about myself: I am a Stamford native, and my husband and I returned to the roost after many years spent in and around Boston, mostly on the North Shore. I lived in Marblehead and taught in Ipswich for over a decade. Before that I taught in Boston, and before *that* I worked in the Ad industry (where I met my husband)! Well, that's enough for now – more later… no doubt you will learn much about me throughout the year, as I love to share my personal history with my students. What I really look forward to, however, is hearing your stories, your thoughts, your hopes and dreams.

As we begin to know each other better, I am sure you'll find I'm the kind of teacher who cherishes the family relationship. Parents -- I strongly encourage you to play an active role in your child's school experience. This may include attendance at school when possible, but absolutely includes home support. And ironically, the support we give your child now leads to greater independence at a faster rate. Without hesitation, I will go to whatever lengths needed to ensure the success of your child. The best way to do this is to work as a unit of three: student, teacher and family.

This year, we will work hard. We will learn a lot. We will become a family of teachers and learners who care about each other. I'm sure there are some among you who may be wondering if I give a lot of home and class work. I will not tell a lie – I do have high expectations for academics and will definitely keep you busy. But please trust me when I say that the work will be balanced by **A LOT OF FUN!!** You will share reading enthusiasm and experiences with "Book Club" projects throughout the year, and you'll publish fiction and nonfiction Masterpieces across many different writing genres. You will also: learn the scientific method with some AWESOME experiments; develop the patented mathematical problem-solving techniques of the *infamous* Dr. Math; perform historical Improv skits; travel back in time to the Age of Exploration, Colonial America and Post-Revolution America to get a good feel for what those folks of the time felt; and participate in Mock Congress and Class Court, to learn the workings of our government.

I am planning a first week of school project that requires each student to buy a piece of 22"x28" SOFT poster board (any color, but avoid dark, and please NO HARD board). Also, PLEASE DO NOT BRING IT TO SCHOOL – this will be for a homework assignment. (I heard that groan!). If this request poses a problem for you, please email me at cwatson@darienps.org or call me at extension 4674. Finally, I hope you are READINGREADINGREADING – in my eyes, one of the most pleasurable summer pastimes there is!

Well, I don't want to give it ALL away, so you'll just have to wait until the end of summer to find out for yourself what it's like to be one of WATSON'S WINNERS, 2026-2027!

See you at the end of August!

Mrs. Watson








P.S. We mostly use Google Classroom these days, so an invite to each student in the class will be forthcoming soon. Feel free to explore this extensive site to get a glimpse of things to come!