

August 24, 2009



Dear Tippit Parents and Students,

Welcome to a brand new school year! This will be my second year at Tippit Middle School, and I am happy to work with an amazing group of people who share the same philosophy as me- to ensure our kids are successful through team work and collaboration.

I was fortunate to have amazing parents who instilled the importance of a solid education. I have taught in different parts of Texas for 19 years collectively. I am a graduate of Texas A&M International University and hold a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education. I have taught grades 7-12. My certifications are in English, Spanish and English as a Second Language. I am currently a graduate student at Texas State University pursuing a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership.

When I am not teaching, I enjoy doing various things. I am married to an awesome guy for 14 years, and we enjoy our lives with my cats, dogs and one turtle. We love to attend cultural events and visit museums. Vincent Van Gogh, Pablo Picasso, Frida Kahlo, Gustav Klimt and Georges Seurat are my favorite artists. My cd collection contains music from all over the world. My favorite type of music is Flamenco, Andean, and Rock. Spain is my favorite place in the whole wide world, but my favorite city is Barcelona. I hope to return there one day! My parents were migrant workers so César Chávez is my favorite social activist. I enjoy Spanish literature and my beloved writers are Pablo Neruda, Alfonsina Storni, Hernando Tellez, Gabriel García Márquez, Rigoberta Menchú, Sonia Cásarez, Ana María Matute, Dr. Norma E. Cantú, Sandra Cisneros and many more. I treasure the poems of Robert Frost. On weekends, I love to garden! My preferred flowers are angel trumpets, roses and gardenias, but I really like them all!

Please do not hesitate if I can help you and your child in any way. I am excited about starting a new year with all my students. Please let me know if you can serve as a guest speaker or assist me in fun activities during the year. Email me and see what we can plan. Just remember that all visits to the school must clear the front office first.

Go Tippit Eagles!

Sincerely,  
Verónica Ruiz-Smalley

## Mrs. Smalley's Class Information

Please read it and sign it to verify that you understand its content. Included is an informational sheet for me that will be kept confidential. Have your child return the sheets to me on or before August 28, 2009 for a daily grade. This page is also posted on my webpage.

### A. Grade distribution (Grados):

Daily Work/Homework 33%

Tests/Projects 67%

### B. Homework assignment/late assignments (Tarea):

One day late-90

Two days late-80

Three or more days-0

\*Due to situations out of our control, teacher may accept work for entire or partial grade.

### C. Classroom Rules (Reglas):

1. Be on time and have all school materials ready.
2. Wait your turn to speak.
3. Respect everyone and everyone's belongings.
4. Be an active and productive learner.
5. Work quietly.
6. Stay in your seat.

### D. Consequences for breaking rules (Consecuencias):

1<sup>st</sup> violation-Warning

2<sup>nd</sup> violation-Parent call and detention

3<sup>rd</sup> team/parent meeting

4<sup>th</sup> referral

### E. Rewards (Conocimiento):

1. Praise
2. Reward Stickers
3. Recognition class awards/ribbons
4. Ceremonial awards
5. Email to parents

### F. Binder/school materials (Cuaderno/útiles escolares)

ALL students must keep a NEAT binder. Binders will be used for a test grade on organization each 9 weeks. Students will be asked to replace binders due to tear and wear. Parents may be notified of this as well.

Tab 1-Test and Quizzes

Tab 2-Grammar

Tab 3-Literature

### G. Contact (Contacto):

Verónica Ruiz-Smalley

Room 252

512-943-5040

Ex. 6478

¡Hablo Español!

<http://www.georgetownisd.org/tippit/SmalleyV/>



Parent signature (Firma): \_\_\_\_\_

Please have your child return this page on or before August 28, 2009 for a daily grade.

### **NO PENCILS!!**

Our classroom is not equipped with sharpeners, so pencils are not used. Blue or black ink pens should be purchased. Red pens will be used to check papers. I will provide those. Thanks!

### **Wish Item! Wipes needed!**

To minimize unnecessary or multiple classroom exits to the bathroom, please bring a box of baby wipes to maintain clean hands in the classroom and clean ourselves up after projects involving glue.



# About My Child/Sobre Mi Hijo/Hija

Dear Parents,

So that I may get to know you and your child better, I would like for you to tell me about your child's life at home. Please answer the following questions. Your input is invaluable and greatly appreciated! All information will be kept confidential.

**Para conocerlo a usted y a su hijo/hija, por favor conteste las siguientes preguntas. Agradezco su información. Toda la información se mantiene confidencial.**

Thank you.

Verónica Ruiz-Smalley

Child's name; \_\_\_\_\_

*Describe your child as a person.*  
**Describa a su hijo/hija como persona.**

*What are your expectations of your child's school year?*  
**¿Cuáles son las metas para su hijo/hija este año?**

*What are your child's interests and strengths?*  
**¿Qué cosas le interesa a su hijo/hija? ¿Cuáles son sus poderes académicos o personales?**

*In what area do you think your child need to improve?*  
**¿Qué áreas necesita mejorar académicamente?**

*What are the best way my child learns?*  
**¿Cuál es el mejor modo que aprende su hijo/hija?**

*Anything else you would like to share?*  
**¿Algo más que quiera usted compartir?**

**Please return with student on or before August 28, 2009.**

**Por favor, regrese con el estudiante antes o para el 28 de agosto, 2009.**

