

# Chicken Soup

for

## *Friendswood ISD*

What teacher hasn't gotten a coffee cup as a gift from a student? I have coffee cups galore. If you open my kitchen cabinets, there are so many cups to choose from. There are some with my name, clever sayings, special themes and ones relating to teaching. Throughout my years of teaching, I have used many different coffee cups and even accidentally broken one or two.

When I think of those coffee cups in my kitchen, I am reminded of my daily ritual of pouring hot coffee into a cup before I head out to school every day. I liken this to how we fill each day with energy and preparedness to teach our students. I've been teaching in FUSD for 28 years. Each August, I pray for a wonderful year and pour my heart and soul into my teaching. I have learned so much from my students, and I'm sure they learned so much about me as well. Maybe you have heard the cliché that "Teaching is a work of heart." That phrase sticks out to me because it is true for me. My heart truly has been in teaching. Savoring the memory of a job well done is satisfying, and I find comfort in knowing that my students have grown.

I have more cups than I need, but they are a reminder of those precious children that gifted them to me. Each and every day that I have taught at Cline Elementary, I have loved every moment. My heart is filled with the satisfaction of knowing that I did my best and that makes me happy. The smiles on my students' faces from the past and present tell me all is well. It's been a blessing to work for this wonderful district for so many years. Cheers to you, teachers, with your coffee cups and to many more years of teaching. I have made my mark in Friendswood ISD, and you will too. Enjoy your coffee! God bless you all.

-Tess James, Cline Third-Grade Teacher