

Third Grade



2011-2012

Attendance

Our classroom will be a busy and enriching place. **Instruction will begin promptly at 8:30 a.m.** I cannot impress enough the importance of excellent attendance and punctuality. If it is necessary for your child to be absent, please call the office (891-6075) to notify the school. If your child will be out for only a day, there is no need to request missed classroom work. Missed assignments of this duration are easily made up on his/her return. However, if your child is out two or more days, please email me to request his/her work.

Birthdays

Your child may celebrate his/her birthday with the class by bringing a treat for everyone. Remember that treats must be individually wrapped and/or **pre-sliced** according to Rockwood policy. **Third grade asks that you avoid treats that contain peanut or other nut products.** Please notify me a day before this special treat will be coming in. We will celebrate summer birthdays in the classroom on your child's half birthday. (Example: A June 20th birthday would be celebrated on December 20th.)

Star of the Week

Each week we will highlight a special person in our class. This child may bring in pictures, special awards, a favorite vacation souvenir, or anything that is important to the student. A note will be sent home to remind you of your child's week.

Snack

We have a daily snack time. Please send your child with a healthy, nut-free snack each day. See my classroom website for healthy snack ideas.



Breakfast/Lunch

Breakfast and lunch are available Monday - Friday. Students who order school meals should complete and return a yellow meal envelope with payment sealed inside or pay for meals online through your child's lunch account. Please note "super price" meals cost more. Contact me if additional envelopes are needed.

Volunteers

Throughout the year, we will need volunteers to help with class projects and activities, go on field trips, and assist one or more students who may need some extra help. As volunteers are needed, a sign-up sheet will come home.

Guest Speakers

Third grade works closely with the Partners in Education (PIE) program. We try to enrich units we study with guest speakers. All classes will enjoy any speaker that visits third grade.

Take Home Folder

Please check your child's take home folder on a daily basis. Look for graded papers and other important information. This folder needs to be returned daily.

Calendar

A weekly classroom calendar will be sent home on Fridays in your child's take home folder. This calendar will highlight important dates for the upcoming week including tests, due dates, spirit days, and special activities.



Assignment Notebook

Each day, your child will write the assignment for each subject in his/her assignment notebook. If an assignment has been completed during class time, a line will be drawn through it. If an assignment has NOT been completed, it will be circled. All circled assignments must be completed at home and are due back the next school day. It is your child's responsibility to show you his/her assignment notebook each night and obtain a parent/guardian signature. By using this assignment notebook, your child will become a responsible, independent learner.

Homework

Your child will be expected to bring home his/her assignment book each night and return it to school each day. There will typically be a nightly math assignment in addition to any unfinished daily work. Homework is due back the following school day unless otherwise noted. Missing/late assignments will be noted in your child's assignment notebook.

Weekly Reflection

At the end of the week, each student will be filling out a "Working Towards Success" reflection sheet to think about learning that has taken place over the last week. In addition, they will set a personal goal for themselves for the upcoming week. Please look for this sheet in the envelope in the back of your child's assignment notebook.

Correction Policy

Corrections on any graded assignment, excluding quizzes and tests, are encouraged. Your child will receive the average of the two grades on any corrected assignment returned to me within one week with your signature. My objective is that each child learns in my class.



Reading

In third grade, students transition from “learning to read” to “reading to learn”. Using the Daily 5 framework, students are taught a variety of strategies to become better readers. The students will read a variety of texts and genres, including a weekly story from our reading textbook. Vocabulary words, a spelling pattern, and a focus skill will be emphasized each week. Please refer to my weekly classroom calendar for scheduled comprehension test dates.

Writing

During writing, your child will be taught how to write a constructed response (RAP), a friendly letter, an expository paragraph, and a personal narrative. Emphasis will be placed on the writing process, grammar skills, and conventions.

Spelling

Spelling will be assessed through your child’s daily writing. Although there will not be a weekly spelling test, spelling will be discussed and practiced in class throughout the week.

Cursive Writing

Your child will continue to use the *Zaner-Bloser* method of cursive handwriting that was learned in second grade. I will begin the year with a review of all letters. When all letter formations have been reviewed and practiced, your child will be encouraged to do daily work in cursive.

Science/Social Studies

Students will switch classes for science and social studies each day.



Math

Third Grade will use the *Everyday Mathematics* program. To maximize individual learning, Rockwood's acceleration and differentiation policy will be followed. Based on a variety of data, students will be placed in a class that best meets their needs.

PE/Health





Students will have PE four days a week. It is essential that your child has gym shoes on or with him/her every day. The PE department also teaches health.



Classroom Management

General Expectations:

RESPECT

-  Respect Yourself
-  Respect Others
-  Respect Learning
-  Respect Property

Students will be given the opportunity to manage their own behavior. Because self-discipline and a positive learning environment are important for success in school, I will be using the following card discipline plan at all times.

Card System:

Green Card.....Super Stallion	At the end of each day, every student who remained a "Super Stallion" will receive a punch on his/her "Super Stallion Punch Card." Once the card is filled, the student will be able to trade in the card for a prize. The prizes will be determined by each class and will be non-tangible in nature.
Yellow Card.....Check Yourself	If a student receives a yellow card for the day, he/she will not receive a punch on their "Super Stallion Card". This is a time for your child to check their behavior and make sure he/she is following expectations.
Red Card.....Time to Reflect	Students who have received a red card will be completing a "Time to Reflect" sheet and will not receive a punch on his/her "Super Stallion Punch Card." This is for more serious behaviors and/or repetitive inappropriate actions. Parents will be asked to sign and return the sheet the next day.

*Severe.....Phone call home/Principal's Office

"Time to Reflect" Sheets:

These sheets will be given to students that receive a red card, as well as students that continue to cause a problem for themselves/others (even if they don't receive a red card).

Home-School Connection:

Parent-teacher communication is very important. I look forward to creating a teacher/parent/student team that will foster a positive learning atmosphere in our classroom. Therefore, your student's punch card will be kept in the back of his/her assignment notebook for you to monitor his/her progress. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's behavior in the classroom.



Please sign and return this portion of the page by **Friday, August 19, 2011** to indicate that you understand the classroom management plan for your child's class.

I understand the classroom management plan that will be used in my child's classroom.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Child's Name _____ Date _____