

WELCOME, 3M FAMILIES AND FRIENDS!

Dear Families,

The start to our school year has been wonderful! I have had a great time working with each of your children and am excited to learn more about each child as the year goes on. I appreciate your trust in me as their teacher.

Please keep me updated on any family or school issues that come up during the year. I am willing to talk to both you and your child separately or together to resolve any issues that are a concern to you. Please send in a note, call or e-mail if you need to set up a time to meet. I will include my contact information at the end of this letter.

There is a packet uploaded online with information on the third grade curriculum. Hopefully between this evening's discussion and this packet, many of your questions and concerns will be answered.

Homework

This year's main homework focus will be for students to grow and build their "reading life" outside of the classroom. Reading at home has many benefits on a child's learning and progress as a student. Content area homework will also be assigned each week to reinforce concepts and strategies we are practicing in the classroom. The third grade homework expectations are:

- Complete a daily reading log, and read each night with a goal of building up reading stamina to at least 30 minutes in one sitting. **Students should bring their reading log and their independent reading book back and forth between home and school in their book bags each day.**
- Home practice (Math, Social Studies, Science etc.) will be assigned on Monday and should be returned by Friday each week.
- Word Study may be assigned for students to practice spelling words and spelling patterns.

Here are a few tips concerning homework:

- Set up a quiet space.
- Help your child establish routines for remembering to bring materials to school each day.
- Review the directions with your child if he or she is struggling, and please send a note to let me know.
- Provide the necessary supplies/tools needed for the assignment.
- When you ask your child a question, allow for some "wait time" or time to think.
- Ask your child to tell you how he/she knows the answer is correct.
- Check that your child is reading within reach books (not too hard, not too easy).

Snack

Please note that we have a nut-free classroom, so morning snacks must be nut-free, as will be lunches on field trip days. We strongly recommend a healthy morning snack to help your child stay focused and energized.

Birthdays

Third grade has a uniform birthday policy. Students who are celebrating a birthday for a particular month will work together to choose how they would like to celebrate. They can choose between having extra recess one day or one less math homework assignment for the week. Summer birthdays will be celebrated before the end of the school year. I ask that party invitations be distributed outside of school to avoid any hurt feelings and that food items not be sent in as part of our celebrations.

Absences

I would appreciate a note explaining the reason for any absences. It helps me to help your child. Please don't forget to notify Dallin as well, by calling 781-316-3725.

Assessments

The MCAS (Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System) state testing windows this year are as follows:

English Language Arts: March 30- May 1

Mathematics: April 27 - May 22

Thank you for your support and understanding with all of our policies. It's always a pleasure to get to know new families and I look forward to working with you this year.

Sincerely,

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