

Third Grade Handbook

Welcome to Terrific Third Grade Year with:

Mrs. Ricks

Miss Brown

Curriculum Overview

READING:

The district has adopted the Into Reading Curriculum. Our reading program is literacy based and is designed to build a love of reading, foundational skills, topic knowledge and vocabulary as well as reading comprehension. This curriculum promotes student choice and independent practice, effective writing and communication and supports all learners with assessment data and differentiated support.

Daily 5 is a structure we use during our reading workshop time. During rotations children will be participating in these various stations: read to self, work on writing, read to someone, word work and listen to reading. During Daily 5, the teacher is working with an individual student or small group.

WRITING/GRAMMAR:

Our writing block is based on the Into Reading Curriculum's Writing Workshop. Through daily review and mini lessons, the children will have explicit modeling and instruction for each stage of the writing process. They will build routines and strong writing habits by writing daily and exercising their choice of topics. Students will also set and own their writing goals as well as confer regularly with their teacher and peers. Grammar lessons are included in the new curriculum and will be focused on throughout the writing time.

PHONICS:

Phonics instruction will be taught using Into Reading, a multisensory approach to phonics. Children will learn rules for language and will have many opportunities to practice these rules daily through oral and written work. We ask your support in helping your child become a lifelong speller-not just for a test, but for everyday life!

MATH:

Our district has adopted Eureka Math². This is a rigorous program that helps children learn to think critically. You may find that the math your child is doing is very different from what you are used to! The modules are:

- Multiplication and Division with units of 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10
- Place Value Concepts Through Metric Measurement
- Multiplication and Division with units of 0, 1, 6, 7, 8 and 9
- Multiplication and Area
- Fractions as Numbers
- Geometry, Measurement and Data

Basic math facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) are essential to progressing successfully in math. Practice these at home with flash cards or math fact apps as often as possible!

SCIENCE/SOCIAL STUDIES:

Our district uses the Carolina Building Blocks of Science kits to teach the different units including Weather and Climate Patterns, Forces and Interactions, and Life in Ecosystems. We have also adapted Social Studies Weekly as our new social studies curriculum and will cover topics like Geography and Landforms, Government and Economics, and the People of the United States.

ASPEN VALLEY RANCH:

This fall, we have a unique opportunity to visit Aspen Valley Ranch on Fridays for an outdoor, environmental science experience. Please make sure your child is dressed properly as he/she will be outdoors the whole time.

COMMUNICATION:

Communication between home and school is vital to your child's success. Every Friday will email our weekly newsletter link to you using the website SMORE. That newsletter will fill you in on what we've learned that week and any important dates, information reminders. All other communication between school and home will be through e-mail or paper fliers. If you are not able to receive email and would like all communication to be paper copies, please let your child's teacher know. Our connection with you as parents is a critical one and we welcome questions and concerns. Please feel free to contact us at any time through email or before/after school on our phone.

Mrs. Ricks: jricks@wpsdk12.org school phone: 719-686-2321

Miss Brown: cbrown@wpsdk12.org school phone: 719-686-2320

SNACKS:

We will have ONE daily snack. Please send your child something nutritious.

No juice, please! Water bottles can be kept in class weekly if you prefer. They will be sent home on Friday. We have filtered water stations at both bathrooms and in the cafeteria. Please make sure your child's water bottle has a cap that closes.

BIRTHDAYS:

You are welcome to send in a treat, but we also offer "treat alternatives" to birthdays. This includes non-food choices for a child's special day. Some examples are: stuffed animal day, free choice play, extra recess, GoNoodle activity, and pajama day. Please speak with your child's teacher to find out more. We will also celebrate summer birthdays on that student's half birthday.

HOMEWORK:

Philosophy: Every family desires successful school and life experiences for their children. During the school day, children learn and grow in a rigorous, academic environment. After school, children need time with family and friends, to play, relax, and exercise.

Much research indicates that traditional homework completion does not greatly impact academic achievement at the elementary level in literacy, science and social studies. Research does indicate that home and school environments provide the following indicators of academic and life success:

- expansive vocabulary—conversation and reading is a strong predictor of reading/writing success
- wide variety of experiences—background knowledge is a strong predictor of academic success
- creativity and problem solving
- habits of mind and body—physical activity, work habits, character
- curiosity

.We will rarely require traditional paper/pencil homework. Instead we passionately encourage families to:

READ: aloud as a family, independently, books, magazines, etc.

WRITE: thank you notes, cards, letters, stories, poems, plays

PROBLEM SOLVE: play games, cook, build, measure, count forward and backward by 2's, 3's, 4's, 5's, 6's, 7's, 8's, 9's and 10's, work on math facts

CREATE: play, draw, paint, dance, put on plays, sing, cook, build, dig

EXPLORE: play in your house, yard, town, state; visit museums, libraries, performances; research your interests

GET ACTIVE: play a team sport, go on a walk/run, ride your bike

Occasionally, we will ask your child to complete the following: math skill practice, work not finished in class, corrections to an assignment or assessment, extra practice in an area of need or enrichment

COLUMBINE PROMISE

We promise to look for the good in each other, to care for those who need caring, and to be kind to all. We celebrate all victories: yours, mine, and ours. We have the courage to do the right thing, because that is who we are, even when no one is watching.