Welcome To Third Grade 2015

“The Year of Struggle and Growth”

In kindergarten through second grade, the students are learning to read. *In third through fifth grade, the students are reading to learn.* It is critical for them to be good readers and to continue to improve their active reading skills. This skill is essential for them to synthesize the information that is presented to them as they begin to learn to study for the first time. Lower elementary curriculum is designed to be primarily learned through experiences and repetition, however all curriculum seams to make a large jump in third grade. Learning, reviewing, manipulating and often times studying is necessary to adequately learn and then use this new information. I will try to break down the information into bite size pieces through reading, experiencing, practicing, discussing and doing. Many subjects will take review and/or studying at home. We are stretching their minds and their learning to include active participation, organization, independence, research, and studying. Each child will love certain subjects, topics or assignments and will find other subjects very challenging, perhaps for the first time in their education. We will grow and stretch together as we prepare for fourth grade. They will not always like it, but we know that new ideas and new skills are essential for their growth as upper elementary students. Together we will help them develop these skills and hopefully develop a lifelong love of learning. We are not teaching math or reading, but third graders…a child, not a subject.

Speaking of “together”, we (parent, child, and teacher) are one team. Together you and I will communicate, celebrate and pray for your child and their academic, spiritual, and social development. Together the three of us will navigate the third grade year and curriculum, all of us doing our part to make this year successful. We will do this, remembering that each student develops at a different speed of maturity, while needing to prepare them for fourth grade. As a teacher and a parent of 2 boys (12th grade & sophmore in college), I know what you are going through and will attempt to be as helpful as possible. Some days we will see the same things and other days, we may have different opinions. My hope is that at the end of the year you will see the transformation of your child from a young child, to a big kid full of confidence and enthusiasm for life and school.

Please feel free to write me a note about your child highlighting his/her strengths and weaknesses. What you hope for this year and what you think I need to know to better aide your student in third grade.

*Reading*

Book-It

We are participating in the Pizza Hut Book-It program. This is voluntary, but is an excellent reading program in which the students receive free pizza for reading. Third grade will read 600 minutes a month (20 minutes a day for 30 days) to achieve their pizza certificate. Book-It All Star students who read all six months will receive special recognition and a special party. Book report books, magazine articles and reading just for fun books can be counted. The only reading that will not be counted is specific school book reading (i.e. reading, social studies or science book) and time spent studying for a test. Your student can fill out the minute log and tabulate it, but *a parent must confirm the accuracy with their signature.*

Please turn in as soon as the goal is met or at the beginning of the next month. We will keep a running total of minutes read for the entire year, with a party for the all who reach their Book-It goal for all 6 months!!!

***Tests***

Spelling-We will have weekly spelling tests. A list will always be published at the beginning of the week. The spelling words will be tested in sentence form. Many sentences will include 2 to 3 words in each sentence. The extra-credit words will not affect their grade; however they should not be too difficult.

Bible - We will have a weekly Bible verse & may have a lesson quiz. We will be memorizing the books of the Bible second semester. The Bible verse will be published along with the spelling words. Individual lesson quizzes are based on our weekly lesson and will not have a study guide. The longer Bible verses will be tested in a fill in the blank nature.

Reading - We take a weekly timed reading comprehension quiz to monitor each student’s growth in the area of reading comprehension. We also take an oral reading grade as well as an oral reading comprehension grade as we read our weekly 3rd grade stories.

Social Studies/Science-These subjects will alternate each quarter or unit depending on duration of an individual unit. I will put together a review sheet for the large unit tests. It will list the vocabulary, map skills, geography or key concepts. There will always be advance notice to include time to study.

Math-There will be weekly math tests reviewing the concepts we have been learning and reviewing for the year. Generally, there is no need to study, unless your student has a particularly difficult time with a concept.

***Useful websites-***

1. eduplace.com

Click onto the state - California

Choose the subject – History-Social Science, Science or Language

1. Math
   1. www.mathsisfun.com/numbers/math-**trainer**-multiply.html‎
   2. [www.ixl.com/signin/wvc](http://www.ixl.com/signin/wvc)
2. Recommended by the Santa Monica Planetarium -
   1. Daily Space Exploration News-
      1. [spaceflightnow.com](http://www.spaceflightnow.com/)
   2. Observe Satellites easily from your backyard-
      1. [heavenesabove.com](http://www.heavenesabove.com/)
   3. New astronomical picture each day-
      1. [antwrp.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html](http://www.antwrp.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html)

***Homework***

Third grade will have on ***average*** 30 minutes of homework a night

(MTTH, W will be lighter because of church activities) for the ***average student***. Some students may take more or less time. Generally the 30 minutes will include some study time for an upcoming quiz or test. The students will fill out their “My Homework Sheet” each afternoon. We will list upcoming tests and projects. Some students may bring home class work if they did not finish it in the allotted class time. Either they need more time for that subject or they chose not to work diligently in the time given.

Some homework such as the IXL homework, math and spelling packet are assigned Monday and due Friday. Daily assigned homework is due the following day. Homework not completed and returned the next day will be done at recess time, and will affect their grade. (-10%) Please let me know if there are any extenuating circumstances with a note or a message before 10:00am. If your student forgets their lunch or backpack, a hot lunch will be provided from the cafeteria. It is their responsibility to make sure they remember their backpacks and lunch boxes. They will remember next time. ☺

*I do need for you to check their work each night for completion and neatness, and to sign their homework sheet.* Please listen to them read as often as possible, so as to monitor comprehension. They also need for you to monitor the neatness and organization of their folder. They should maintain one folder and sheet protectors:

Homework – nightly homework, homework sheet, spelling & Bible verse, review sheets & notes home or to school.

Sheet Protectors– Papers kept for an extended period of time such as an upcoming project information sheet, MDM info, Book It reading log, spelling sheet, sample cursive writing alphabet, etc…

Assignments:

\*Spelling – weekly work packet given on Friday or Monday and due on Friday

\*Math-correction packets given on Monday and due on Friday, the final packet grade will be raised 10% IF they have completed at least 85% of the corrections correctly.

\*Bible – write verse 2x on Wed.

\*Miscellaneous review sheets/study guides

Your child will need you to quiz/study with them as they are still developing this skill. Some students need to talk it out loud, others like to be quizzed several times, and others will draw a diagram or write it. Please review with them.

***Projects***

We will do 3 large projects relating to the curriculum.

\*Solar System – Jan.

\*Research Project - TBD

\*1 More TBD

***Book Report Information***

Each Month we will be doing a book report with a different theme. You may use the school library, but may find a wider variety of choices from your local library and book store. These are many publishers and series that children like. Once you find a series that your child likes, you can see if they have titles that will fit upcoming themes. Through these reports, I hope to broaden their exposure to a variety of genres and themes.

Each month the children will need to pick out a title to go along with each theme and have it approved by me. They will spend the month reading there selection, followed by a project or activity to share with the class. This reading can count towards their Book-It and their minutes read.

***Math***

*All Addition/Subtraction facts should be memorized by this point.* They should not be relying on their fingers any longer. We will be quickly moving into multiplication and division. We will institute Mad Dog Math in Oct./Nov. Success in division as well as confidence depends on the speed at which they can add and subtract. In addition to multiplication and division facts, we will also be learning fractions, geometry, and algebra!

We will have four interactive Common Core Math units that we will include in our interactive math notebook.

***Penmanship***

We are reviewing printing and will re-teach cursive writing. After the first semester we will transition into complete handwriting for all assignments. I will let you know. Please resist using notebook paper if possible. The lines are too narrow for them. I will try to give penmanship paper for all homework assignments. You can also purchase some penmanship paper for home. The Wednesday night Bible verse writing assignment provides them an opportunity to practice penmanship while they practice their Bible verse. For me it is a penmanship grade.

***Different children…Different levels…***

In order for your third grader to be successful they must…

* Diligently fill out their “Homework Sheet” with me, being sure to be neat and complete.
  + Have “Homework Sheet” signed every night and return it along with their homework the next day. Late work will have 10% deducted from its score.
  + Incomplete work will be finished at recess, and will have 10% deducted from its score.
  + Incomplete homework will be finished at recess and chronic missing signatures may earn timeout at recess and will miss out on signing up for “Homework Bingo”.
* Turn in projects completely and on time.
* Study for weekly and “end of the unit” tests
  + Weekly - Vocabulary, Bible verse and Spelling words
  + Unit – Science, Social Studies, Language & Bible
* Do weekly math corrections to receive an additional 10% on weekly class work grade.
* Points are deducted for the following…
  + No name - 5%
  + Sloppy penmanship - 5%
  + Late turn in – 10%
  + Sentences without correct capitalization and punctuation – 1 point each
  + Misspelled words that are provided on the sheet, such as a word bank or choices provided – ½ point each

For those desiring an *added challenge* in 3rd grade, I do not believe in handing out another paper for them to complete. Many “smart” children decide it is not worth it to be smart, if it means more “work”. However, I am a huge proponent for finding creative ways to challenge and extend many of the assignments and projects already assigned. This allows for each child’s creativity to show through and gives them the challenge that is needed for them to continue growing and stretching. I recommend considering some of these ideas…

1. Begin instrumental lessons
2. Learn to play chess
3. Increase the number of pages for book report books.
4. Extend any project assigned to include more details, pictures or facts then originally requested. (However it is expected that all guidelines be met.)

***Birthdays –***

We love to celebrate birthdays in 3rd grade. Please email me a week ahead of time to let me know if you plan to send in goodies or plan to come in and celebrate with us. Please send in ALL necessary paper goods to go along with celebration. Generally I prefer to celebrate birthdays at the end of the day at 2:45pm, but we can make adjustments as needed. ☺ We also are happy to celebrate the summer birthdays on their half birthdays (ie… July 4 = Jan. 4th) or the near the end of May. Please email me your requests.

***Recommended Parent Books-***

I love to read and am always on the lookout for resources to help improve whatever stage of life I am in. ☺ Here are a few titles that I have read and found useful.

1. Your Boy by *Vickie Courtney* – How to raise a godly son in an ungodly world. It focuses on the mom – son relationship. She also has written Your Girl, but I have not read that one! ☺
2. Dare To Discipline and Bringing Up Boys/Girls by *Dr. Dobson*
3. Shepherding A Child’s Heart by *Tedd Tripp*
4. The Five Love Languages of Children by *Gary Chapman*
5. Wild at Heart *by John Eldredge*
6. Have a New Kid by Friday by Dr. Kevin Leman
7. Have a New Teenager by Friday by Dr. Kevin Leman
8. Giving Your Child Wings So They Can Fly by
9. I Hate School by Cynthia Tobias
10. You Can’t Make Me, but You Could Persuade Me by Cynthia Tobias

Recommended Parent websites and radio broadcasts-

[**http://www.pluggedin.com**](http://www.pluggedin.com) - sponsored by Focus on the Family-reviews movies, music, tv and video games

[**http://www.focusonthefamily.com/**](http://www.focusonthefamily.com/)

[**http://www.familylife.com**](http://www.familylife.com)

*3rd Grade Wish List*

*Optional ☺*

* Wireless Document Camera
* Small prizes for prize box- everyone gets 1-3 prizes a month – the love Mr. Clean erasers, fun pens, misc. puzzles…anything ☺
* Small individually wrapped soft candies for math (Smarties, Starbursts, Jelly Beans, Red Vines…or mini marshmallows, mini goldfish, mini foods good for math games)
* EDUCATION STATION or Amazon gift certificate to purchase…
  + \*math review games
  + \*science manipulatives
  + \*learning games

**3rd Grade Schedule 2014**

8:15-8:45 Morning Business- Pledges, prayer, lunch count, homework collection, morning work, penmanship, 10 min. of SSR

Chapel (W)

8:45-10:05 Reading / Library (W)

**10:00-10:20 Recess**

10:30-11:30 Language Arts-grammar, creative writing, spelling,

11:30-12:30 Math / Art w/ Mrs. Moran (T)

**12:30-1:05 Lunch**

1:05 – 1:35 Social Studies or Science (TTHF)/ PE (MW)

1:35- 2:05 Spanish (TTH)/ Theater Arts (MW)

2:05-2:25 Social Studies or Science/Art w/ Mrs. S

\*2:25-2:40 Pack Up- fill out “My Homework” sheet together

Day in Review-“What did we learn today?” and “Find it and Fix it”

\*2:15-3:10 Art/Cooking (F)

\*2:40-3:10 Bible (M-TH)

\*may be switched around

***Volunteers Needed***

**Job: Description: Time Period:**

Room Parent (1-2) -Implement teacher’s class All Year

party plans, follow up with

field trip details/organization

Field Trip Coord. -Assist teacher with scheduling As needed

Field tips

Scholastic Book -Gather, order, and organize Monthly

Coordinator all classroom book orders

Elem Chapel Coord. -Assist me in organizing speakers, Weekly

Assistant worship and special events

Class Photographer -Take pictures of class and upload

To Shutterfly

Arts & Crafts/Cooking -Assist teacher with classroom

Assistant art projects, seasonal Fri. after-

activities. Help with noon 2:15-3pm cooking activities

Field Trip Chaperones -Drive or co-pilot students As needed

to and from field trip destination

Classroom Volunteers -Assist in classroom with small As needed

projects, centers, or preparation

work.

-Take home jobs – cutting, collating, ASAP

ripping apart consumable books

Other ideas you can think of (areas of interest/ability): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Please take a look at our classroom volunteer opportunities. I am sure there will be many other miscellaneous opportunities throughout the year…thank you so much!