

Mrs. Kunkel's
3rd Grade
Parent Handbook

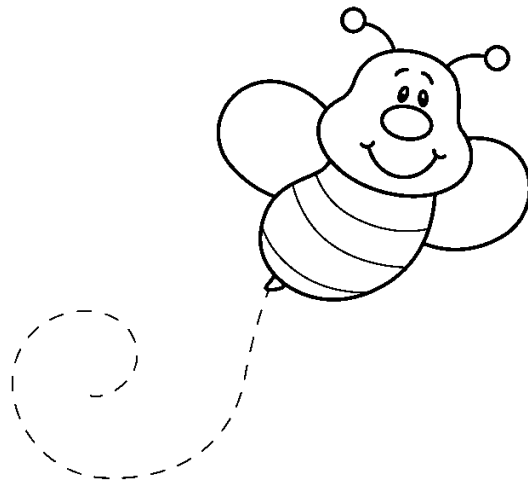


Mrs. Kunkel
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847-540-2813

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Third Grade! We have many fun and exciting events planned for the upcoming year. Third Grade is a very important year for students as they make the transition from primary to intermediate years. Students will begin to work more independently, read more challenging texts, and will take the ISAT tests for the first time. This handbook will give you a quick insight of what to expect throughout the year. I look forward to working with you and your child. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. I cannot stress enough how valuable parent-teacher communication is in assuring your child has a successful year.

Thank You,
Nikki Kunkel



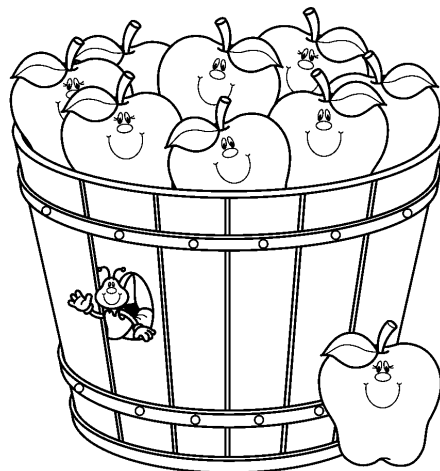
Classroom Expectations

BEHAVIOR

- ❖ Students are expected to be respectful at all times to everyone in our school community.
- ❖ Students are expected to respect school property and the property of those around them.
- ❖ Students will be held accountable for their actions.
- ❖ Students will be responsible for these six pillars of good character: trustworthiness, respect, responsible, fairness, caring and citizenship.

ACADEMIC

- ❖ Students will hand in homework on time, neat and with genuine effort.
- ❖ Students will complete work in an honest manner.
- ❖ Students are expected to complete all tasks to the best of their ability.
- ❖ Students are encouraged to ask for help when they do not understand something.
- ❖ Students are encouraged to share their ideas and opinions in classroom discussions.
- ❖ Students are expected to work with others in a cooperative environment.



Mrs. Kunkel's Discipline Policy

Students in my classroom will participate in Friday Fun and Focus. If a student has handed in ALL homework for the week and has displayed acceptable behavior at all times, they will be rewarded with Friday Fun. This is 15 – 20 minutes of game time, outdoor/indoor recess, movies, etc. If any student should miss an assignment or displayed any unacceptable behavior during the week, they will attend Friday Focus. This is 15 – 20 minutes of quiet time where they will finish incomplete assignments and/or reflect on which character pillars they need to work on.

Students are well aware of what is expected of them and their rewards and consequences. On the first day of school, they signed a classroom Bill of Rights that outlines the basic principles our classroom will work on.



HOMework POLICY

The benefits of homework are:

- ❖ Reinforcement of skills and strategies learned in class.
- ❖ Independent practice leads to mastery of material.
- ❖ Teaches students responsibility for their work.
- ❖ Teaches organizational and time management skills.

A Parent's Role in Homework

- ❖ Be involved, but don't complete the homework for your child.
- ❖ Set a designated time and place at home for your students to work. Supply paper, pencils and other needed material.
- ❖ Encourage your child to do their best.
- ❖ Don't let your child skip sleep for homework. If they have been trying their hardest and still don't understand something, do not let them get so frustrated that they break down. Simply shoot me an email or write a quick note to let me know they need help with a concept.
- ❖ Please check your child's assignment notebook each night. We will fill it out together in class. If a student is absent, please check my website.

Homework Description

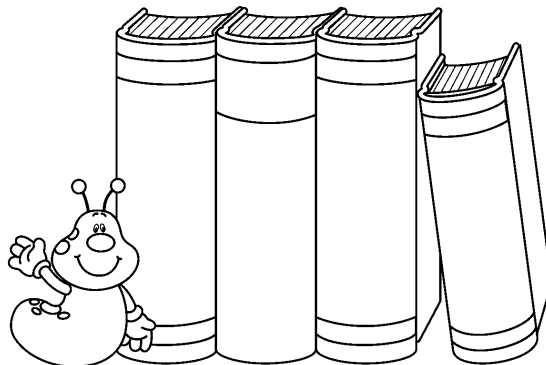
- ❖ Students will have an average of 30 minutes of homework daily.
- ❖ Students are expected to keep up with their reading log on a daily basis. Students should also be practicing Otter Creek facts.
- ❖ Completed work should be neat and in pencil.



GENERAL INFORMATION

The following is a list of information to help make the year run smoothly:

- ❖ Please enclose all notes and money in a clearly labeled envelope.
- ❖ If there needs to be an early dismissal or a change in pick-up procedures, please let the office know as soon as possible via note or phone call.
- ❖ Please notify me of any changes at home that could possible effect your child's learning, i.e., allergies, medical, family, etc.
- ❖ Please address any concerns or questions with me immediately.
- ❖ Book orders will be sent home often. Scholastic offers great deals on books for your children.
- ❖ Birthday invitations may be handed out only if the entire class (or all of the boys or all of the girls) are receiving one.
- ❖ The children will be going outside everyday. Please make sure that your child has the appropriate outerwear.
- ❖ Please do not allow your child to bring toys to school, unless it is for a special occasion that I have communicated with you.
- ❖ In an effort to start instilling a sense of responsibility, if your child should forget his/her homework, gym shoes, etc., please do not rush it up to school. If a student has to face a consequence, they are more likely to not forget next time. If they know you will bring the item to school, they are more likely to rely on you and not take responsibility on their own.
- ❖ Healthy, nutritional snacks will be eaten daily before lunch.
- ❖ Birthday treats are welcomed. Please follow the district guidelines on the Wellness Policy.



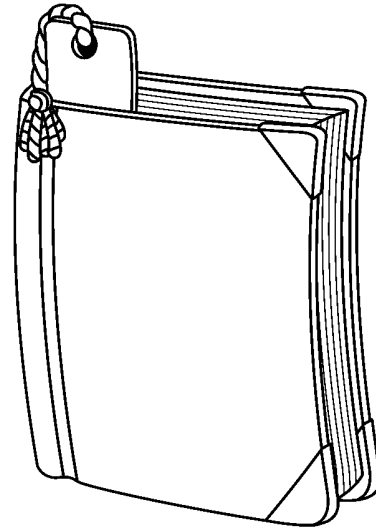
THIRD GRADE CURRICULUM

More specific learner objectives are available on the District 95 webpage.

READING

Comprehension will be a priority in third grade. We will be learning several strategies to help improve reading as well as build on strategies learned in second grade. Strategies that we will be focusing on include:

- ❖ Making connections
- ❖ Questioning
- ❖ Visualizing
- ❖ Making predictions
- ❖ Summarizing
- ❖ Making inferences



ENGLISH

- ❖ Nouns
- ❖ Verbs
- ❖ Adjectives
- ❖ Types of sentences
- ❖ Sentence structure
- ❖ Mechanics (Capitalization, punctuation, etc.)

SPELLING

Third grade students will be given 20 new words on a weekly basis. Students will be given lists of spelling assignments and must choose **three** assignments to complete on their own in their spelling spirals. These spirals will be due on Thursday of every week.

WRITING

Students will be working with the Six Plus One Traits of Writing this year. We will be incorporating the qualities that great writers use in their writing, which include: ideas, organization, sentence fluency, word choice, voice, conventions and presentation. We will also be focusing on writing expository papers this year.

MATH

We will be continuing with the Otter Creek program this year. We will also be using the SRA textbooks to address these math concepts:

- ❖ Arithmetic, including counting, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.
- ❖ Patterns, functions and variables.
- ❖ Geometry
- ❖ Measurement
- ❖ Data collection and organization, including graphs and tables.
- ❖ Probability and statistics
- ❖ Fractions and decimals
- ❖ Number sense and place value

SCIENCE

Third graders will be learning about plants and animals, simple machines, and space this year. We will also be discovering concepts through the scientific method.

SOCIAL STUDIES

We will be focusing on government, geography and Illinois this year in social studies.

