

Welcome

to

Third Grade

Communication

Each night, your child will bring home his or her green, take-home folder. In the front will be your student's homework sheet. This will list your child's homework and any other messages or reminders for the week. I will ask that you sign this sheet each night to show your child's homework has been checked. I also promise to check this sheet each day. If you have any notes for me, please feel free to write on the homework sheet so I can respond quickly. Or, if you prefer, please feel free to email me. My email address is Kelli.Erdman@saintanncs.com. I promise to provide a speedy response!

OptionC

OptionC is used to record your student's grades. It is in place of Ascend, the system we used last year. It is important to keep track of your parent and student log in information and to check it periodically. There is will be no daily email like we used for Ascend. You may simple log in at your convenience to check your child's grades.

Behavior Expectations

The first, second, and third grade classrooms use the same discipline policy in order to provide consistency for your student. We strive to make very clear guidelines, procedures and rules at the beginning of the year. In the event your child needs a reminder to behave correctly in the classroom they will receive a warning. The proceeding steps will then be taken as needed according to the behavior exhibited by the student.

1. Name on the board= 5 minutes of lost recess
2. Check mark beside your name= 10 minutes of lost recess
3. Two check marks= discussion with parents/principal

Uniform Policy

The student handbook clearly spells out the uniform policy which students are expected to follow. Of course we understand that children at this age require some assistance from their parents, so please be sure to make yourself familiar with our uniform policy. If a student arrives at school with an incorrect uniform, they will be asked to change clothes. In this event, please work with your child to correct this situation in the future. If you ever have questions regarding the uniform policy don't hesitate to ask your child's classroom teacher or the office. We are happy to offer clarification!

Homework

We will typically follow a regular homework schedule in order to provide consistency. Each week your child will have a spelling tic-tac-toe worksheet. This assignment will come home on Monday and will be due on Friday. The assignment will ask your child to pick 3 out of 9 ways to practice their spelling words. If a worksheet or paper is used, please attach it to the tic-tac-toe sheet as it is turned in on Friday. Some of the activities do not require a worksheet. If this is the case, I ask that you initial the box listing each assignment your child selects to demonstrate that the activity was completed.

Your student will also have reading homework each night. Twenty minutes of nightly reading allows your child to practice reading fluency and become exposed to many different genres. Studies have shown that the more often students read the more confident and fluent readers they become. Please be sure to remain vigilant in this nightly task.

The final assignment will be one math worksheet. Typically, this will be a Math Simple Solutions lesson. Math Simple Solutions does spiral through the entire third grade curriculum rather than focusing on one specific skill. This provides your student with repeated practice with numerous math skills and reduces the incidence of skill loss. I am aware that this may sometimes mean a math question may be presented regarding a topic we have not yet discussed in class. In this situation, please work with your student to make his or her best guess at solving the question and we will review important material the following day in class. Periodically I will also send a math worksheet to replace the simple solutions lesson. This will allow your student to have further practice with a skill we have already learned in class.

Friday Folders

I use Friday Folders to send home graded and completed work. Each Friday, your student will receive their Friday Folder full of graded work. Please review this work with your student and go over any answers they may have missed. On Monday, please return an empty and signed Friday Folder with your student. I will then work on preparing it for you on the following Friday. Thanks for your assistance!

Specials Schedule

Monday- Technology and Spanish

Tuesday- Music and Physical Education

Wednesday- Technology

Thursday- Music and Physical Education

Friday- Art and Spanish

Please make sure your child is wearing appropriate gym shoes for Physical Education on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Cursive and Handwriting Grades

Cursive is an important skill we focus on in third grade. We will begin learning cursive skills half way through the first quarter and continue progressing through the rest of the year. My main focus in cursive handwriting is to teach your child to have an accurate and legible signature.

Handwriting grades are used to demonstrate your child's progress with cursive handwriting skills. Most handwriting grades will be taken on your child's weekly spelling test and will be clarified using a rubric at the bottom of the test. Although spelling tests will be completed using manuscript writing, it is important that your child is able to accurately and neatly place the letters in the lines in manuscript writing in order to prepare for cursive handwriting. If your child struggles to place manuscript letters neatly in the lines, we need to work on this skill before they can be expected to form cursive letters accurately. As more cursive letters are presented during third and fourth quarter I will also add cursive worksheets to your child's handwriting grades.

Helping at Home

I appreciate the many ways you are able to assist your child with his or her learning at home. Requiring your child to read twenty minutes each night is an excellent way to boost reading skills. If this becomes a chore, try going to the library to explore new books. We are constantly discussing new genres and book series in class. Allowing your child some time to explore this on his or her own at the library may be what they need to add a spark to their reading time again!

It is also important that your child receives help with his or her multiplication facts when this is presented at the end of the second quarter. I will send a letter home when this begins. It is important for your child to memorize all of the multiplication facts through the 10's facts. This will help prepare them for fourth grade math. The only way for math facts to be learned fluently is through repeated practice. This is best done in small chunks each night. You can use flash cards, computer games, or even iPad apps. I will provide more information regarding multiplication facts around conference time.

Periodically, I may send home extra work for your child to complete. I select this work based on skills with which your child requires extra help. I will always write you a note to clarify my intention if extra work is sent home. Please feel free to complete this work at your convenience and use it to help your child with any questions and misunderstanding they may have regarding the topic.

Birthdays

We would love to celebrate your child's birthday! Feel free to send in treats and napkins. We will have 23 students in class this year. If your child has a summer birthday, feel free to celebrate on your child's half birthday or another day of his or her choosing. Please only send party invitations if the entire class is invited. We are all friends in third grade!