

# Welcome to 3rd Grade!



By Ana Tomblin, Merritt Sasser, Ben Lawson & Nancy Rentz

# Welcome!

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Thank you for attending our open house.

We would also like to welcome, Katie McCullen, our new 3rd grade teacher. She will be supporting 3rd grade by leading additional support and enrichment groups. She will also be rotating within all classrooms to provide additional support.

# About Me

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A little about me...

# 3rd Grade Expectations

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As I will outline, the expectations of 3rd grade are rigorous.

This is a transition year where students grow, become more independent and are expected to take responsibility for their own learning. Please work to support them as they learn to do this.

3rd grade builds the foundation for the rest of their education. No longer are students learning to read, they are reading to learn.

# Schedule

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It is very important that students arrive to school on time and stay the full day.

We start reading promptly at 7:55am. Math follows at 10am. Science or Social Studies is after lunch and recess.

We end the day with reading support, interventions and enrichment which end when the bell rings at 2:15.

Every minute matters.

# Planners

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Student planners are updated every Monday for the whole week. Please check planners on Mondays.

Spelling lists are glued into planners each week.

My website is updated weekly. Please check it for upcoming events, assignments, notices about schoolwork, and other important information. There are also links to other resources.

# ReadyGEN Reading Curriculum

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ReadyGEN is our new reading curriculum. It is scientifically research based and includes a variety of complex texts in each unit. It has a balance of fiction and nonfiction material.

It incorporates higher Depth of Knowledge questions to deepen students understanding.

It will be challenging for your child as the text and questions are more complex than previous materials. I am confident that your child will rise to meet these new expectations and be successful.

# Eureka Math

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The Eureka math curriculum focuses on developing the conceptual understanding of math concepts as opposed to memorizing algorithms and procedures.

Our changing and complex world requires students to be problem-solvers and critical thinkers. Students must really UNDERSTAND math.

We are equipping students with numerous strategies for solving difficult, challenging problems.

This math might be foreign to you and the way you were taught. Please trust the teachers and the curriculum; there is good reason for why the students are doing what they are.

# Multiplication facts

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We have just finished our unit on multiplication and division. We will continue to use these skills throughout the year but will be focused on other topics. Eureka math has taught them the strategies to solve multiplication problems.

It is also important for students to begin to memorize their multiplication facts. This is not a 3rd grade standard but is very important for students to be successful in 4th grade.

Students will receive flashcards. Timed tests will be on Thursdays. Students will be working to earn an ice cream sundae party at the end of the year. The more facts they learn the more toppings they receive. Information will come home in their binders next week.

# Grades

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Graded work comes home throughout the week, as it is graded. Please check your child's binder for the graded work and review it with your child.

If you would like to keep track of grades, you may setup a parent Focus account. On the Bay website and the district website are directions for creating an account. You will need to complete portion online. Once that is complete you will have to show your ID to the office staff, to verify your identity and then they will activate your account. You will then be able to see each assignment, grade, absences, and STAR test scores.

# Compass Learning

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Compass Learning's Pathblazer is a personalized web-based program used to enhance your child's educational experience in both reading and math.

In conjunction with STAR assessments, Pathblazer will design a personalized pathway of engaging lessons specific to your child's needs.

Students will access this program at school, but they can also login to Pathblazer at home. It is recommended that students spend 20 minutes on it at a time, in order to learn the lesson, practice the skill and pass the assessment to move on to the next topic.

# Homework - Reading & Spelling

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Your child should read for 20 minutes every night. They should be reading a book on their level. Please initial the reading log nightly and turn it in on Fridays. Students are expected to read Monday - Friday.

We use a differentiated spelling program. Your child will need to study 1 list per week and the 5 High Frequency Words (15 words total). There is an extra credit or bonus word. Spelling is worth 5% of the ELA grade.

The Spelling Fun grid is sent home monthly as a resource to help students practice their words nightly in a variety of ways.

# Homework - Math

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Math homework is review from the day's lesson. It is expected to be completed each night and returned the next day for review in class. This is very important.

If you need assistance helping your child with math, please review the parent tip letters that are sent home. Khan Academy has video lessons and practice for all Eureka Math lessons.

Practice multiplication fact families (flash cards will be sent home, one fact family at a time, as students progress).

# AR Books

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Students are expected to read books on their AR level. Almost all published children's books have an AR level. To find a level, go to [arbookfind.com](http://arbookfind.com) or use Point Scan Free app.

AR tests are 5 - 20 comprehension questions based on the book and can only be completed at school.

We encourage students to complete AR tests right after finishing a book, to ensure that they have truly understood the material.

Students will be checking out a fiction and nonfiction book from the library each week. We encourage students to always be reading a mixture of both.

# AR Goals

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Students set individual goals for their AR points each quarter. These are based on their level and ability to reach their goal in the time frame. Students who reach their goal receive a prize at the end of the quarter.

There are also school wide AR goals. The first quarter goal is 25 points, then 50, 75 and 100. Students who reach these goals by the end of each quarter attend a special party. If students reach these point clubs throughout the year, they do receive a prize from Mrs. O'Toole.

Students track their goals in the goals section of their binder.

# 30 Book Challenge

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This year 3rd grade has a 30 book challenge (each grade level has a different level for example 25 for 2nd, 35 for 4th), to read 30 books this school year.

We will focus on a different genre each month and expect students to read books from that genre. This allows students to experience a wide variety of reading material. It also helps support their AR goals.

# Class Dojo

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We use ClassDojo as a positive behavior system. Students earn points based on their good behavior in class.

Students can also receive negative dojo points. Students who receive a minus point have had a serious behavior issue or have been reminded multiple times and have not changed their behavior.

Students earn coupons for prizes and rewards with their points.

It also allows me to message all parents or individual ones. You are able to send me messages as well.

# FSA

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3rd grade students take the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA), a statewide standardized test in the spring (usually March and April).

3rd grade is a mandatory retention year. If a student does not pass the reading portion of the FSA, they could be retained. There are procedures in place for students who do not pass the FSA so they can be promoted (a different test is given and if necessary a student can attend a summer reading program).

Due to the FSA being in the spring, our pacing is accelerated. We must teach all standards prior to the test, so students are adequately prepared.

# What can you do to support your child?

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Check binders and homework nightly

Work with your child on reading and completing their reading log

Practice math facts

Remember to check your child's ClassDojo points to see how they are doing with their classroom work habits and behavior

Read, read, read! Read to your child and with your child.

# Don't forget to...

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Sign up for a parent conference

Next we will all visit the specials classes to hear presentations from those teachers.

# Thank you!

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*Thank you for all you do for your child, for our class and the school! We appreciate you!*