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Third Grade Handbook

For

Mr. Chisam

2012-2013

August 16, 2012

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the third grade! I am looking forward to a wonderfully exciting year with your child. Third grade is a busy year filled with the introduction of many new skills. It is amazing to watch the growth of students as they transition from the lower grades to the intermediate! I’d like to share some information with you concerning this school year.

Let me begin with a few suggestions, which will aid your child’s development during this year. It is important that your child have a quiet place to work at home. Your involvement, encouragement, and reinforcement are necessary to ensure success. Helping your child organize all school materials at night prior to retiring will help produce a positive beginning for each school day. Knowing that parents and teachers are working together will help your child feel secure with the school environment.

Our school day begins at 8:00 a.m. It is advantageous for your child to arrive by 7:45 or 7:50 to exchange library books, greet classmates, and get organized for the day.

Students can anticipate homework on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday nights. There will be no specific written homework assignments on Wednesday and Friday. However, it is possible that your child would need to complete class assignments on any given night, which may indicate that class time was not used wisely. All homework assignments should be written on the Homefun assignment sheet, even if homework assignments were completed in class. Please provide your signature on the appropriate line when then binder is brought home Monday through Thursday nights. Sign the notebook **after** your child has completed assignments. Please feel free to correspond with me through notes put in the page protector in the binder.

Your child with bring home a work folder on Wednesdays with an attached chart to keep you informed. Please go over the papers with your child and see that the papers are corrected. You may keep the graded papers at home, unless otherwise noted.

Students will keep a recorded list of books read each nine weeks on the “Accelerated Reader” computer site. (Their AR account should be accessed the same as last year.) Your child has opportunity to check out two AR books from the library each week. Books may also be checked out from my classroom. It is your child’s responsibility to return the books checked out in a timely fashion. Each nine weeks, an AR goal will be assigned to each student. Students may choose any AR book/s throughout the nine-weeks and will need to test over those books in the classroom. A completion of the assigned number of AR points will be recorded as a “100” to be averaged with other reading grades for each nine week period. If a student does not make their goal, a percentage grade of what he or she has completed will be averaged with other reading grades for each nine weeks. (Extra credit will be given to those students who have AR points above the assigned goal.)

The following information includes our grading scale, class schedule, and a brief explanation of what to expect in each subject area.

100 A+ 76-83 C

94-99 A 75 C-

93 A- 74 D+

92 B+ 71-73 D

86-91 B 70 D-

85 B- Below 70 F

84 C+

**Our Schedule**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** |
|  |  | Chapel in gym8:00 – 8:30 | Chapel in gym8:00 – 8:30 |  |
| Library9:20-9:55 | Spanish9:20-9:55 | Computer9:00 –9:55 |  |  |
| P.E.10:00 – 10:55 | Music10:00 – 10:55 |  | P.E.10:00 – 10:55 | Art10:00 – 10:55 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Lunch11:40 – 12:05 | Lunch11:40 – 12:05 | Lunch11:40 – 12:05 | Lunch11:40 – 12:05 | Lunch11:40 – 12:05 |
|  |  |  |   |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Dismissal2:55 | Dismissal2:55 | Dismissal2:55 | Dismissal2:55 | Dismissal2:55 |

**Bible**

 Bible grades will be based on memory work, work in a Bible folder, and participation in chapel and Bible class. We study the Judges, I & II Samuel, and the parables taught by Jesus.

**Math**

 The key to success in math this year is DRILL, DRILL, DRILL!! Begin **now** drilling basic addition and subtraction facts. Later, we will begin multiplication facts. The **Math in a Flash** computer program aids memorization of all math facts required of third graders and challenges the students who push beyond grade level mastering fraction/decimal conversions and square roots. Tests will be taken in the classroom. Flash cards and musical CD’s or cassettes can also be very helpful. Your child will be exposed to various teaching methods in math this year. We will use the Accelerated Math Program, Math in a Flash Program, a math textbook, manipulatives, and anything else that works!!!

**Science and Social Studies**

During the year we will do a few school based and home based projects. They are designed to make learning fun and relative. Grades on projects are based on time and effort, not artistic ability. An assigned project is your child’s but assistance is acceptable and sometimes necessary. Students will be taught basic study skills. We will spend time talking about bold-faced words, titles, pictures, graphs, etc., to locate information. We will have closed book tests based on information found and discussed in class. Students will always know what to study for the tests and will be required to keep up with study materials throughout each unit.

**Spelling**

A spelling word list will be sent home on Mondays. Please see that your child has made any necessary corrections. Your signature needs to be on the ***front*** of the paper before your child returns the list back to school Tuesday. A sentence dictation and spelling word test will be given on Thursdays. Please help your child study throughout the week. The corresponding workbook pages will usually be completed Tuesday nights.

**Reading**

Our goals in third grade continue to build and refine reading skills and encourage a love for reading. I encourage you to assist your child in finding an author or series of AR books they enjoy; this will help the Accelerated Reader point requirement to be a fun assignment. Students will also have an assigned reading story from our textbook each week. Reading tests will be given each Friday; students are encouraged to review the study guide each week in preparation for each test. In addition, we will read several chapter books together throughout our year! READ! READ! READ!

**English**

Our goal is to develop a solid recognition and use of English mechanics and 8 parts of speech using the Shurley method. English grades will be taken in isolation and in application as demonstrated in spelling and reading.

**Handwriting**

Our goals are to review, improve, and refine manuscript and introduce cursive handwriting.

***Odds and Ends***

**Birthdays**

You may send or bring cookies/cupcakes and drinks, if you choose, for your child’s birthday. Birthday treats can be served during morning snack time (around 9:30) or between 2:40 and 2:55. Please do not send party invitations to school for your child to deliver unless all classmates are to receive an invitation. Please do not send presents to school. If your child is having a Friday night sleepover, involving more than one person, please arrange for the sleepover gear to be transferred before or after school to avoid hurt feelings of the children not invited.

**Tardiness/Absences**

Any student arriving after 8:00 a.m. should bring a note explaining the reason for being tardy to the office before going to the classroom. The lunch count will be adjusted before the child is sent to the classroom. Remember that when your child is late to school, he/she will spend all day trying to catch up. When your child is absent due to illness, I will have your child’s make-up work in the office by the end of the day, upon request. If you plan to take your child out of school for a pleasure trip, you may pick up your child’s make up work when your child arrives back to school.

**Early Dismissal**

When it is necessary for a child to leave early, the parents should send a note with the child. I will then prepare any materials that need to go home that day and have the child waiting in the office at the appointed time. If an unexpected situation necessitates an early pick-up, the parents should come to the office and have the child called from the office.

**Field Trips**

For the children’s safety, they must be buckled up while traveling on field trips. Please do not seat children in front of air bags. Also, please do not make a special stop with your carload to buy treats. Please help the children remember that we must be cooperative, considerate, and compassionate wherever we go. The number of parents chaperoning a particular field trip may be limited on some trips. I will do my best to make sure that every parent that wants to chaperone a field trip has a chance to do so. Each chaperone assigned to a group of children must stay with those children the whole trip to ensure safety and represent our school in a courteous and Christ-like manner. For your convenience, I have provided a tentative list of the special trips and events that we are looking forward to this year. (dates subject to change)

September 5th and 6th - Individual school picture days
September 20th - Hike Through History/chaperones needed
September 27th - Class Picture day
September 28th - Because of Winn Dixie field trip
October 8-12th - Multiplication week
October 12th - Nothin' But Fun Day/parent volunteers needed
November 1st - Gentry Farm field trip/chaperones needed
December 7th - Polar Express field trip
December 13th - Christmas Concert
January 29th and 30th - Father's breakfast
February 1st - Space Day/parent volunteers needed
February 14th - Valentine's Day breakfast/Adventure Science Center field trip/chaperones needed
April 4th - Invention Convention
May 2nd - Field trip to the Capitol/chaperones needed
May 20th - Book Day
May 21st - End of the year Skating party/chaperones needed

**Snacks**

Your child may bring a snack to eat when we take a snack break in the morning. Please send a nutritious snack such as popcorn, crackers, fruit, veggies, yogurt, etc. I ask that you not send the following: candy, cookies, pastries, and chips. Your child may bring a water bottle to use at snack time; as well as, keep on their desk during the day. Please only send bottles with a “pop-top”.

**E-mail and Phone Calls**

I can be reached by e-mail at chuck.chisam@lipscomb.edu. Please feel free to send information via e-mail. My room number is **966-6347**. (If I do not answer my room phone after 1:00, always leave a message with the office.) My cell phone number is **972-2822**. Feel free to give me a call at home if questions or concerns arise. I respectfully ask for no calls after 6:00 p.m. This time each night is set aside for my family. If needed, I will be happy to schedule conferences before and after school hours.

**Toys**

Please do not allow your child to bring toys or extra “toy-like” school supplies to school. They distract the students and could be lost or damaged.

**Room Mothers**

Our Room Parents this year are Hollie Cummings, Dawn Moore, and Joy Mangrum. I appreciate them for taking on the anticipated responsibilities.

***STUDENTS + PARENTS + TEACHER = SUCCESS***

I ask for your prayerful support throughout this school year!

Sincerely,

*Chuck Chisam*