

Third Grade September Newsletter

Welcome to Third Grade



Reading - Mrs. Anderson

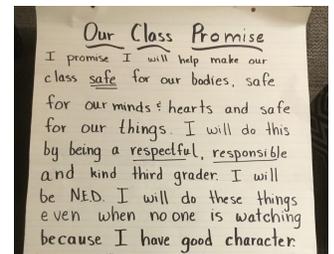
Everyday your child will learn literacy skills through Language Workshop, Readers' Workshop, Word Study and Writer's Workshop.

Classroom Expectations

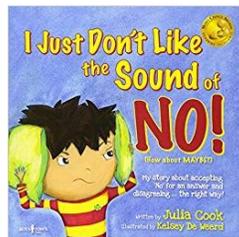
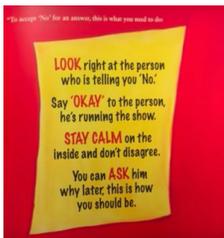
★ These first few weeks of school we are working on establishing the routines and expectations for these workshops. We are also working on getting to know one another and how to best work as a team and a class community. Last week the students shared their hopes and dreams for this year. We then brainstormed ways we want our class environment to run so everyone can make their dreams come true. Students worked in table teams to answer these questions: *What should kids in our class be doing to make sure our class runs as smooth as possible? What do you hope to learn this year in third grade? What will you need to do in order to be successful this year?*

What will Mrs. Anderson need to do to help you this year? Our classroom should be ____ everyday. School is important because__.

We used this information to create our class promise and class contract.



- ★ Accepting No Respectfully: We read a book to the class called, **I Don't Like the Sound of NO!** It teaches the children to accept "no" from an adult the respectful way. It also teaches the students how to later ask the person that said no, in a respectful way, why the answer was NO if they truly do not understand.



Community Building

The students also participated in a challenge that helped point out the importance of working as a team and listening to others' ideas. This activity was called, SAVE FRED. Fred, the Gummy Worm, was dangerously floating on a capsized boat! Our 3rd graders had to work with their teammates to get Fred into his life vest (a Gummy lifesaver) The catch? They couldn't touch Fred, his vest, or the boat with their hands! They could only use 4 paper clips. Did Fred survive? Take a look.

Avid

Throughout the month of September, Meadowbrook teachers in Grades 2-5 will be supporting students with organizing their school materials. Specifically, students in Grades 3-5 will be organizing their AVID binders according to a designated structure that is consistent across grade levels. Specifically, students in Grade 2 will organize materials in colored folders based on a color system that is consistent with Grades 3-5. In third grade the binders will be **staying at school** until further

discussion at the AVID site team meeting. I am advocating for the binders to come home once a week or as needed. "As needed" may mean it will come home when your child has work that wasn't completed at school or when there is a longer project that may need attention at home on a more frequent basis. Nightly homework does not require the binder as this will be reading and practicing math facts. (see below)

I have really enjoyed getting to know your children this week. I can hear a lot of great ideas coming from your third grader already. I can't wait to hear their thoughts about the books they will be reading this year. I also can not wait to read their writing. I have been excited to also get to meet a few of you during these first weeks back to school.

Math - Mrs. Horton

We have an exciting year ahead of us in math. We will be reviewing addition and subtraction strategies, then spending much of our year on mastering the art of multiplication and digging deeper into fractions. Addition and subtraction fact knowledge will be very important in the first part of the year, so this would be a great thing to practice during their nightly math homework time. If you have questions about the strategies we use to teach these concepts, please check out the [Parent Math Help Site](#). It contains useful information about strategies and how you can help your child practice them at home.

This month we are focusing on graphing and rounding, as well as learning about how a growth mindset can help us to grow and learn. We will be making scaled picture graphs and bar graphs from surveys taken by your student. We will also be rounding numbers to the nearest 10 and 100. Check out [this great website](#) that gives an in depth explanation of growth mindset and the research it is based on. If you are looking for more ways to incorporate growth mindset into your culture at home, visit the [With Math I Can](#) website. It contains lots of great videos for you and your child!

Word Study and Grammar

Our Grammar lessons were revised this summer in grades K-5. Grammar will be taught on opposite weeks of Word Study. This means there will not be a spelling test every week. Word Study is more about teaching word patterns that students can use to spell and read words in their daily work rather than memorizing a list every week and taking a test. I will send more about this routine when we begin.

Homework:

Reading: All third graders should read **100 minutes** (trimester 1 goal) between Monday and Sunday. Students should read books at their independent reading level. They can read chapter books, if appropriate, picture books, magazines, poetry book, graphic novels and/or digital books from OverDrive or Sora.

Math: Students will be responsible for at least 10 minutes of practicing math at home nightly. This can occur in many different ways: Dreambox, using flashcards to practice math facts, playing a math-based game, explaining a strategy we are using in class to a family member or friend, or even writing about a word problem and solving it themselves. Each week I will be giving a fact or two to focus, such as +1, so students can practice that fact up to 20 for addition. That means students could practice 1+1 all the way up to 19+1. Students should aim for quick recall and quick problem solving strategies so facts become fluid. After students have practiced these facts throughout the week and

feel they have them fluently, they can spend time on Dreambox, playing a math game practicing other math facts they need to master.

Library

All third graders will visit our new library. They may check out 1-2 books at a time. Our library day is Friday. Students may have books for 2 weeks, but may bring books back earlier than their scheduled day. They then can check out new books. After two weeks, students may also renew their book.

Science and Social Studies

We will be studying a variety of topics this year: structures of life, energy and motion, magnetism, types of weather, Native American Indian Cultures, the history of Waukesha, the 7 continents, and landforms. We will be rotating between science and social studies throughout the year, beginning with social studies. Our first social studies unit will focus on growth mindset, communities and map reading.

Specials Schedules

<u>Day</u>	<u>Mrs. Anderson</u>	<u>Mrs. Horton</u>
Monday	Art	Music
Tuesday	Music	Gym
Wednesday	Gym	Art
Thursday	Art Music	Music Gym
Friday	Gym	Art

Reminders:

September 16: Culver's Night (Hmmm? Who is the secret server?)

September 21 Apple Fest at Retzer Nature Center (You might see familiar faces there)

Please contact us if you have any questions. Also, please update your email in Infinite Campus when it changes so you receive information. Thanks so much for your support. We look forward to having a great year!

Mrs. Wendy Anderson 970-1776 wanderso@waukesha.k12.wi.us	Mrs. Kelly Horton 970-1390 khorton@waukesha.k12.wi.us	Kelly Zirbel 970-2067 kzirbel@waukesha.k12.wi.us	Mrs. Tracey DesMonie tdesmonie@waukesha.k12.wi.us Until November 8th
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