

Third Grade September Newsletter

Welcome to Third Grade



Reading - Mrs. MacCudden

Everyday your child will learn literacy skills through Language Experience, Readers' Workshop, Phonics and Writer's Workshop. These first few weeks of school we are working on establishing the routines and expectations for these workshops. Things look a little different than last year so we are really practicing our new routines. We are also working on getting to know one another and how to best work as a team and a class community. This week and last week the students created a slide to help us get to know them better. We've been sharing these slides this week and it's been great getting to know them! We have a lot of fans of the Sonic movie and Roblox players! We also brainstormed ways we want our class environment to run so everyone can be successful and achieve their goals this year! We used this information to create our class promise and class contract.

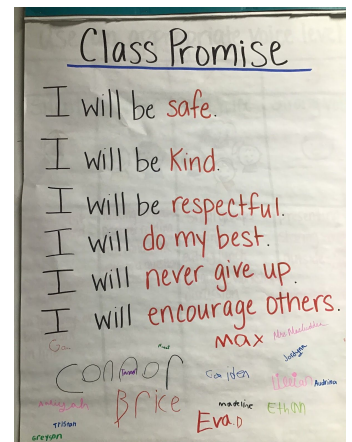
We are starting our first unit in Writing which is "Crafting a True Story." Students will be choosing a small moment and working on telling it bit by bit, crafting a lead to include characters and setting, using action, talk, and transition words to tell their story. We will be working on spelling patterns and checking punctuation before writing the final draft.

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. (More on that coming next week in my Monday email.) If you have questions about strategies we use to teach these concepts, please check out the [Parent Math Help Site](#). (This site was completely redesigned this Spring so take a look!) 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 a growth mindset into your culture at home, take a look at [this blog post](#). It has some wonderful printables and suggestions of ways to talk to your



kids to encourage a growth mindset. If you enjoy podcasts, [NPR Lifekit: Parenting](#) just released a great podcast about helping your child avoid math anxiety. If you have 25 minutes, it's a great listen and has thoughtful reminders about how to foster your budding mathematician.

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.

Library

All third graders will be able to check out two library books on Destiny and their books will be delivered to our room in a black bag. Today was our first delivery! Please make sure to send the books back in the black bag!

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- This year we will have the same special all week long! We are currently in week two.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Mrs. MacCudden</u>	<u>Mrs. Horton</u>
Week 1	Music	Art
Week 2	Gym	Music
Week 3	Art	Gym

Reminders:

September 22, 23, and 24 - MAP testing (we will provide more information about this in an upcoming email)

September 24 - Picture Retake Day

September 25 - Western Day

October 5 - National Stomp Out Bullying Day. Wear blue!

Thanks so much for your support. We look forward to having a great year!

Mrs. Elizabeth MacCudden

970-3981

ezmaccudde@waukesha.k12.wi.us

Mrs. Kelly Horton

970-1390

khorton@waukesha.k12.wi.us

Mrs. Elaine Fanser- Mazza

970-2067

efanslema@waukesha.k12.wi.us