

WELCOME TO THIRD GRADE!

We are so excited to start a new school year with your children. Third grade is such a fun and exciting time, and we feel blessed to share it with you and your child. Below, we have outlined some important information that we hope will help you and your child be better prepared for third grade. Please save this packet, so you can refer to it throughout the year.

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6

CURRICULUM

Reading: A balanced approach to literacy will be used, including short stories, novel studies, author studies, genre studies, AR, book reports, etc. We will integrate other content areas when possible. We will continue to reinforce phonics skills learned in the primary grades, but focus more on comprehension. The students will learn specific skills and strategies to better comprehend what they are reading. The focus will move from 'learning to read' to 'reading to learn.'

The students will also be required to read 20 minutes five times a week at home and complete a weekly reading log for homework. The reading log is a weekly reading grade.

Each nine week period, the students will be given an Accelerated Reader goal that will be appropriate for their reading level. AR is a great opportunity for individualized reading practice and comprehension. However, we try not to make the goal too high so that they are not only reading for AR points, but also for enjoyment and learning. They will receive a grade at the end of the nine weeks for a percentage of how much of their goal they earned.

Grammar and Writing: We start doing a lot of writing in third grade! We use the MacMillan-McGraw textbook for grammar, but also use a practical, hands - on approach to grammar skills. The students will be introduced to the 6 Traits of

Writing, and will get to apply the skills they are learning to all their writing throughout the entire curriculum.

Math: Our math curriculum is 'Go Math'. We will also use a variety of timed math drills, hands-on activities, problem solving and games. The skills taught will include place value, money, addition, subtraction, time graphs, multiplication, division, geometry, and fractions. We teach the lesson whole group, but also provide small group help following the lesson with the teacher, as well as math challenge activities for enrichment.

Science: Science in third grade is filled with many hands-on experiments and demonstrations that show, rather than tell students how awesome our God created world is. Students will have the opportunity to explore matter, plants, the human body, magnets, electricity, and many other topics that pique their curiosity. As part of our learning and fun, students will be "Mad Scientists" for a day as they present brief science experiments for their classmates. Our goal is to foster a love for science and challenging students to look at their world through God's eyes.

History/Geography: We use the Pearson/Core Knowledge books as a resource in Social Studies. We will study map skills, Ancient Rome, Vikings, and the Earliest Explorers.

Spelling: Our spelling lists come from our 'Journeys Houghton Mifflin' reading textbook series. Spelling lists will be sent home on Monday and the test will be on Friday. It is the students responsibility to study the list at home. Students can also study at school during extra time, and we will provide games and practice at school to help learn the words as well. Additionally, we will be learning three new sight words or high frequency words each week. At the end of the week, these words will be added to our 'Word Wall' in our classrooms. Students are accountable to spell the words correctly in all curriculum areas once they have been learned.

We are so excited to be having an informal third grade spelling bee later in the school year. A 'sight word list' will be sent home soon for the students to study. These will also be the same words we are using on our Word Wall and spelling lists throughout the year. Our goal is for the students to leave third grade being able to independently spell grade level sight words correctly.

Work Stations: Each day the students will rotate in groups to one of five work stations. The activities at each station promote group work as well as reinforce skills we are learning in class with games, projects, etc. These stations also include iPad work, and Teacher Time where small groups of students will work with their teacher on skill specific activities to meet their individual needs.

Bible: 'Growing With God' is our text. The primary goal of our Bible curriculum is to make the Word of God more meaningful to the lives of your children. They are encouraged to find knowledge, wisdom, and understanding for themselves from the Word of God. A strong emphasis is placed on character development enabling students to make life-changing decisions for themselves. We will study the lives of Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, and Daniel. A Bible verse or passage will be memorized weekly, and students will be asked to recite the verse from memory on Friday as part of their Bible grade. In addition to the weekly Bible verse, the students will be given a weekly Bible quiz.

Handwriting: For Handwriting, both print and cursive will be taught using the Zaner-Bloser method. We will review print, and then introduce cursive. We will gradually require the students to start writing in cursive for certain assignments, and by the end of the year they will be expected to write everything in cursive.

Specials: Our students are blessed to have excellent special classes to attend. These include art, P.E., music, library, computer, and Latin. We will be attending chapel every Wednesday.

This year we will be departmentalized in some of our teaching. Mrs. Ramer and Mrs. Haley will both be teaching science, and Mrs. Myers and Ms. Baldwin will be teaching History/Geography. We will rotate so that each class gets three lessons a week for each of these subjects.

We integrate technology throughout our entire curriculum, as well as vary our teaching methods and activities to reach all different learning styles and intelligences.

We have enrichment activities prepared for students who finish early or need an extra challenge.

HOMEWORK

Weekly Homework: Students will have math homework every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday night.

Reading logs are due every Monday, and their logs count as a weekly Reading grade. Students are required to read 100 minutes a week independently at home and complete a reading log. Each reading log helps the students enrich their comprehension skills. They can do the entire log over one book, one chapter, or do each section over a different book. We will use many different reading logs during the year to practice many different skills. A new log will be sent home every Monday.

Bible verse recitation is every Friday morning.

Any classwork that is not completed in class needs to be taken home that night for homework and returned the next morning.

Special Projects and Tests: There will occasionally be special projects and book reports. Some of these will be done in class, but the students may need to bring some extra supplies to complete them. Students will also have tests in Math, Science, and History/Geography. Study Guides for these tests will be sent home at least a week in advance for the students to begin practicing good studying skills. We also thoroughly go over the information on the tests in class.

Please feel free to help your children with their homework and projects, but don't do it for them.

GRADES

Your child will be given numerical/letter grades in all subjects, except for Latin, Science, and History/Geography. In these subjects they will receive a pass/fail grade. It is important to emphasize to your child that they earn their grades.

Point Deductions:

10 points – one day late

Additional points will be deducted for each subsequent day an assignment is late.

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

We use Love and Logic for behavior management or discipline. Love and Logic basically means using natural or logical consequences when possible. Children work best with love, consistency, and routine. We create a classroom of mutual respect and set clear boundaries and procedures. This approach eliminates most problems. If we have a discipline problem, what we do will depend on the special person and situation.

We are so fortunate to be a part of a school where our Mission Statement reflects the value of parents partnering with teachers for the success of your child's education. We strongly believe that the parent and teacher relationship is an integral component of your child's success at school, and feel blessed that we are both able to use Biblical principles as the foundation of our communication.

Study Hall: Each Friday, students will be given a 'study hall' time to catch up on any work, read, work on AR goals, etc. If they do not need a study hall time, they will be given some enrichment activities.

MISCELLANEOUS

Communication: Our website is www.ccsthird.weebly.com. Please visit our website often to check for class and grade level news, as well as weekly content objectives. We do most all our parent/teacher communication via e-mail. Please be sure and give us any e-mail address that you would like this information sent to.

If you have a question or concern for us, it is best to contact us by e-mail and we will get back to you by the end of that day. However, if you need to speak with us personally by phone or in person, please don't hesitate to e-mail us and we can set up a time to meet. Your child's success depends on all of us working together, so please know we are always here to visit with you.

Absences/Tardies: If your child is going to be absent, please e-mail their teacher. You do not need to call the office.

It is school policy that students will receive their make up work when they return back to school after being gone.

Students are responsible to make up their work when they are gone, and they will have as many days as they were absent to complete the work from when they were gone.

Snacks: We will have a daily snack time in the middle of the morning. Third grade does not use snack buckets for the whole class. Please send things that are easily opened and eaten. Do not send items that need to be refrigerated or warmed up. Help your child learn to be responsible for their own snack. We will not share snacks with others. Also, please remember we are a nut free school.

Lunch: Third Grade has lunch from 12:00 – 12:25. We do have a microwave to quickly heat items. Please be mindful of what is sent in your child's lunch to heat and the time it takes to heat it. It's not practical for several students to be heating items that take several minutes each. Only send clear liquid drinks in lunches.

Please feel welcome to come eat lunch with your child on special occasions. If you are dropping a lunch off for your child, please leave it at the front office, and he or she will come get it in between lessons or classes.

Water Bottles: Please send a water bottle to school with your child each day with ice and water only. We would like the kind with a screw on lid and straw. The students will bring it home each day to be cleaned and refilled. The students may get drinks from their bottle during the day. This saves time not having to leave the room and miss out on teaching.

Take Home Folders: A plastic take home folder will be brought home daily with any homework, notes or other school communication. Please use these folders to send communication, lunch money, notes, or forms back to school. The left side of the folder will be for things LEFT at home, and the right side of the folder will be for things returned RIGHT back to school the next day. We will also keep a sheet protector in the middle of their folder to keep important items we use regularly such as Bible verse, spelling words, etc. Please don't throw away items in your child's folder without checking with them first.

Birthdays: We love to bless your child on their birthday! You may send or bring a small treat for the class on your child's birthday. (Remember we are a nut free school when choosing treats.) We will take turns blessing each child with

encouraging words, and pray for them on their birthdays. Please contact your child's teacher in advance to schedule a time. If your child's birthday is in the summer, please set up a time to celebrate them at their 'half birthday'.

Star of the Week: Each child will have a turn to be our 'Star of the Week'. They will be given a poster to fill out the week before, and it is to be returned Monday of their week. They may also bring pictures of their family, pets, vacations, and a baby picture of themselves.

We are looking forward to making your child's third grade year a successful, fun learning experience at Crossings Christian School. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns that may arise throughout the year. We are here for you and your children!

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