

Take Home Folders

Each night of the week, your child will bring their “take home folder” home. Inside the folder you will find graded papers, nightly reading log, and notes or communications from the school or from the teacher. It is important that you check this folder nightly, because at times there may be papers that will need to be corrected and turned back in, or study guides for upcoming test. Spelling words will always be in the folder on Mondays. We will also keep our nightly reading log and reading response notebooks inside this folder. It is requested that a parent sign the folder nightly confirming they have seen its contents. On Fridays, you will receive the weekly behavior report. These are NOT required to be signed and returned UNLESS I have so requested. If you have any notes or forms for me, please place it in this folder as they are checked every morning.

Homework Policy

Third graders work very hard during the school day. Each day, time is spent with Math, Reading, Social Studies or Science, Spelling, and Language Arts/Writing. As they arrive home at the end of the school day, they need a little time to relax! After a little down time, I do request that each third grader spend at least 15 minutes reading an appropriate book of their choice. A good time for reading is just before bedtime. Why not make it a nighttime routine?

On Monday, I will send home a reading response page that your child will be required to complete by the end of the week. They will glue this page into their reading response notebooks so everyone knows exactly what is required of them for the assignment. These responses will be due each Friday and late responses will be accepted at a reduced grade. The homework will require your child to respond to their reading one night of the week. You may choose which night of the week works for your family.

In class, your child will learn how to make a “just right” book choice for their home reading log. A “just right” book is one that is comfortable to read but is a little challenging.

If your child can answer "yes" to most of these questions, the book is probably JUST RIGHT for them.

JUST RIGHT Books
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is this book new to you? 2. Do you understand a lot of the book? 3. Are there just a few words on a page that you don't know? 4. When you read, are some places smooth and some choppy?
TOO EASY
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have you read it lots of times before? 2. Do you understand the story really well? 3. Do you know almost every word? 4. Can you read it smoothly? 5. Does it have a picture on every page?
TOO HARD
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are there more than 5 words on a page that you don't know? 2. Are you confused about what is happening in most of this book? 3. When you read, does it sounds pretty choppy? 4. Is everyone else busy and unable to help you?

THE FIVE FINGER RULE

While reading the first page of a book, count the unknown words (using fingers to keep track is fine). If there are five or more, the book is too hard for now. Read that book together!

COMPREHENSION

Ask your child a lot of questions about the story in general and about specific pages to see if he really understands what was read. If your child cannot tell you accurate and detailed information about the story she has read, chances are, it is too hard for now.

Important Reading Log Note: Any reading done during the school day can not be counted toward reading log. This reading is above and beyond classroom instruction.

THE LUNCH BUNCH

Students who complete their reading logs each month (15 minutes of reading per night, with parent a parent signature, all reading responses completed) will become a member of the lunch bunch. Lunch Bunch is a group of students who meet for lunch in the classroom on the last Thursday of each month. During this time, the students will watch a short 30-minute video or play games and on occasion, eat treats! To remain a member of the lunch bunch, the student must continue to successfully complete their reading logs each week. If a student does not fully complete their home reading assignment one week of the month, they will not be invited to

attend the Lunch Bunch meeting that month, but are encouraged to keep reading so that they may attend the next Lunch Bunch meeting.

Absences

Students who are absent will have a packet of the previous day(s) work on their desk the morning of their return if the work is not picked up the day of the absence. Students will have the number of days they are absent to complete the work. For example, if a student is out sick 2 days, they will have 2 days to complete and turn in the work. Worked not turned in on time will result in reduced grades and possibly a zero for the missing work.

Books

We have many resources for finding books to read, so there should be no problems finding books to read for home reading. Our school has a wonderful library that we will visit two times each week, and our classroom, as well, has a great selection of books. Most of our classroom books belong to me, so I will be using a checkout system within the room in order to monitor the books. Parents must sign a permission slip before students may begin bringing home classroom books. Another book resource that can be utilized is Scholastic/Troll book orders, which will be sent home in Friday folders once a month. Please remember that book orders are always optional, but often an inexpensive way to buy books.

Accelerated Reader

The Accelerated Reader program is a reading incentive program. Students read novels from a selected list and then take short computer quizzes to test comprehension. Students earn points based on the difficulty of the book and their performance on the quiz. Although students may participate in the AR program at any time, but this will not be used for a grade, but certificates are awarded to the top three point earners for our class.

Discipline Policy

Behavior Expectations

1. Be Respectful and Responsible
2. Be Organized
3. Follow Directions

As in every classroom, there are behavior expectations that must be followed by each student so that valuable learning time is not wasted. In our classroom, we use a card system to monitor behavior, which is shown below:

Green Card- No Misbehavior

Blue Card- Verbal Warning of Inappropriate Behavior

Yellow Card- Loss of a Privilege (ex. 10 minutes off recess)

Orange Card- Removal from Group and Note/ Phone Call to Parent

Pink Card- Sent to Principal

Note: A serious offense (physically or verbally assaulting another) calls for immediate removal from the classroom and referral to the office.

All students start each day with their green card displayed. If a student is not following classroom expectations, I will ask them to "turn a card." If at the end of the day, a student has turned no cards, a sticker is placed on an incentive chart. When an incentive chart is filled, the student receives a good behavior reward. There will also be periodic rewards for days/weeks when the entire class turns no cards! Some examples of rewards for our class are:

*Sit by a friend for the day

*Choosing your place in line for the day

*Choosing a classroom job

*Skipping a homework assignment

*Eat breakfast or lunch with the teacher

*Sweet Treats

Please note that a weekly behavior note will be sent home on Friday in your students take home folder.

Classroom Website

Feel free to frequently check out our classroom website, www.mrssnodgrass.com. There you will find printable spelling lists (incase yours didn't make it home in your take home folder), extra fact practice pages, pictures from our classroom, and tons of information about our class.

Birthday Celebrations

Celebrating birthdays in our classroom can be a lot of fun and we would love to celebrate with your child, but we must plan ahead to set aside time for this during our day. If your child would like to bring treats on their birthday, please call ahead or send a note so that I can plan time for this. Also, make sure to send the necessary items to serve the treat, such as plates or napkins. If your child's birthday falls during a time when school is not in session, please feel free to pick an alternate date to celebrate!

Water Bottles

Students are allowed to bring water bottles to keep at their desk. This is encouraged especially through August and September. Please be sure that your child only brings a water bottle that has a lid. Cleaning up spills wastes valuable class time. Only water is permitted in class. Anything else will be returned to the book bag to enjoy during lunchtime.

Toys

In general, all toys should be left at home. If for some reason they are brought to school, they should remain in the book bag all day. Students are allowed to bring sports items, such as a basketball or jump rope to use at recess time. Electronic devices such as game boys or MP3 players cannot be used at recess time, nor should they be brought to school per policy written in the Gifford Grade School Handbook. A teacher may confiscate any items brought to school that are used at an inappropriate time or in an inappropriate way.

Questions

Please feel free to contact me at the school with any questions or concerns you may have regarding your student. I can speak with you before school from 8:00-8:20, during school from 8:45-9:15 (MWF only) and 2:30-3:00 or after school from 3:10-3:30. Outside of these times, please use my email, xxx@xxx.com, which I check regularly throughout the day, or leave a message with the office and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Third Grade Classroom Manual

