

Welcome to Third Grade 2017-2018 School Year

Dear Parents,

This year will be an exciting year in a new school, and I am thrilled to have your child in my classroom. Before teaching 3rd grade, I was the K-5th grade technology teacher for seven years in Auburn. This is my 6th year in 3rd grade, and I'm enjoying being back in the regular classroom. When I am not at school, I'm enjoying my own children who are 7, 6, and 3 years old. My family enjoys playing sports, board games, video games, and many other outdoor activities. Your child will hear many stories about my children throughout the year. 😊

You will find that third grade offers exciting and rewarding opportunities for your child to grow independently. As your child's teacher, my main goal is to help every child achieve success in their education by making it fair for each individual student. We all know that each child is special in their own way. I plan accordingly, and I vary my strategies in order to best challenge and meet the needs of all the students. Also, an open line of communication between home and school is very important to help with your child's success. So please don't hesitate to email me should you have any questions or concerns.

Finally, my classroom theme this year is sports. I have learned lots about life through playing and coaching sports. First, the classroom will be a safe and comfortable place for students to take learning risks. Next, I want to develop your child's cooperation and problem-solving skills. Also, the classroom environment will help students become more independent and responsible for their own actions. Last, I want to help all my students learn more about themselves this year by having a TEAM of 3rd graders. Therefore, our class theme is TEAMWORK WORKS! Don't forget that you are a part of that team as well.

Thank you for your Support,
Mrs. Matthews
cmatthews@auburn.k12.il.us

HOMWORK

- Reading Nightly for 15-20 minutes.
Use the bottom space of your agenda to record the book your child read, and parents must initial next to it.

- Practicing Nightly Math Facts for 15 minutes.
Use the bottom space of your agenda to record how your child practiced, and parents must initial next to it.
1st Semester- Addition/Subtraction Facts
2nd Semester- Multiplication/Division Facts

- Students who do not complete class work, must complete the activity at home and return it finished the following day. Students will miss recess to complete the unfinished class work.

HOMWORK FOLDERS and AGENDAS

Your child will be bringing home a folder and agenda with any homework, graded work, or notes from school. Each student will be responsible for writing down his/her assignments in the agenda. **If your child needs to finish the assignment at home, I will circle it with a highlighter.**

In order to help keep students better organized, try to clean out the folder each day. This makes finding assignments and notes much easier. When something needs to be returned to school, place it in the folder and I will get it to the proper place. **It is helpful to place small items and money in a sealed envelope that is labeled with the student's name, purpose, and classroom label (3B).**

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- Third Grade **Lunch** is 11:00-11:35 am.
- **Open House** is Monday, August 21st from 6:00-7:00 pm.
- **Picture Day** is Wednesday, September 6.
- **Birthday treats** may be brought into the classroom. They must be treats without nuts for those who may be allergic. Please just give me 1 days' notice before bringing them in.

GRADES

A	93-100
B	85-92
C	75-84
D	70-74
F	0-69

OUR CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

1. Be Respectful

2. Be Safe

3. Be Responsible

- Students will create specific classroom rules based on the above expectations during the first day of school.

CONSEQUENCES

Every day is a new day. We use a color change system in which each child starts each day on GREEN. Your child's color will change when he/she breaks a rule after 2 warnings. Inside your child's agenda you will find a daily checklist where students will mark with the appropriate color he/she was on during the day. Consequences for not following the rules may include: loss of recess time or other privileges, emails or phone calls home, and office referrals.

Green-Good

Yellow -Warning

Orange-Lose one recess / parent contact in Agenda

Red-Referral to the principal/parent contact

Parent contact will be made through email or phone.

In the event of severe misbehaviors (fighting, vandalism, or defying the teacher) the student will be removed from the classroom immediately and automatically moved to red. Each case will be dealt with individually by the teacher and/or principal.

REINFORCEMENTS

- Some rewards that might be used are: Verbal praise, A call or email, Caught Being Kind Ticket, Extra time with I-pad/recess/reading, Candy, or Sticker

CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY

- **ACCELERATED READER** - Our class will be participating in A.R. this year. Students are expected to read during provided class times and at home to reach specific goals. Each goal receives a different reward. Any student who reaches 40 points by the end of the year will be invited to our 3rd grade picnic at East Park. Each Friday, I will announce the number of A.R. points each child has and students will record their number on our classroom chart. When looking up books for A.R., students may use www.arbookfind.com. Book quizzes can only be taken at school.
- **Moby Max** - Our class will be using mobymax.com on a daily basis. Students are able to practice all subject matter on Moby Max, and at their own level. Each subject starts with a placement test. When he/she finishes the placement test, the program places him where he needs to learn. It is great for students who are high achieving, and those who might be struggling with specific topics. I also use this information to create small groups and whole group instruction. You may work on it at home with any internet access. www.mobymax.com
- **GOOGLE CLASSROOM** - Our class will be using Google Classroom during reading, writing, and math. This is an online classroom which is controlled by the teacher. No one else can read or edit items besides the students and myself. Google Classroom is used in a variety of ways (daily math problems, reading responses, and free writing). This will only be used in the classroom.
- **STUDY ISLAND** - Our class will be using www.studyisland.com regularly during our class, and students may also use it to practice their math and reading skills at home. After teaching a lesson, students will be expected to practice the skill using the appropriate study island lesson (which I will assign). Students will have time to complete the lesson in class. When each student in the class completes 20 lessons successfully, the class will have a reward. Any student who completes 80 or more lessons successfully will be invited to a pizza party at the end of the year. Each Friday, I will announce the number of blue ribbons each child has and students will record their number on our classroom chart.

COMMUNICATION PLAN

If you have any questions or concerns throughout the school year, please email me at cmatthews@auburn.k12.il.us. That is the quickest way to contact me.

- **Newsletter:** A newsletter will go home on Fridays for the following week. The newsletter will contain classroom news, upcoming events, spelling lists, and goals for the week. After I compile a new distribution list for group email, they will be emailed only. If you prefer a paper copy, please communicate that with me.
- **Agenda:** Students may receive notes concerning study habits and citizenship at various times during the school year. Please refer to the agenda for those notes.
- **Remind101:** Reminders will be sent through text messages about upcoming events. Make sure to sign up for REMIND101 at open house.
- **E-mails or Phone Calls:** Students may receive parent phone calls or e-mails as necessary to compliment or to discuss problems that have occurred during the day or week.
- **Website:** My website will be updated weekly to keep you up to date on classroom news.
- **Skyward:** I will update students' grades weekly, and place comments on report cards.

SUBJECTS

Reading:

Students in third grade should be reading for enjoyment by now. Our reading program at school will consist of two main components. The first is “Guided Reading” in which the teacher meets with small groups of students daily for short periods of time in order to give them more individualized instruction. Groups will change throughout the year depending on each individual student’s needs and abilities. We will also have a whole group reading instruction in which the class will read and discuss our basal stories as a class.

Math:

Addition and subtraction facts will be reviewed but should have been mastered in 2nd grade. We will go deeper with addition and subtraction by borrowing and regrouping bigger numbers. **Multiplication** and **Division** are a major component in third grade. We will expand on telling time using problem solving and elapsed time. We will go deeper with fractions and geometry as well. Finally, we will be working on solving and creating 2-step story problems throughout the year.

Spelling:

Spelling lists will be sent home each Friday on the goal sheet. They can also be found on my website. Monday will be an introduction to the words in the form of self-graded pre-test. No grade will be given, and all students must take the test on Friday. Students who earn 100% on the Friday test will receive a treat and a sticker on their chart. When their chart is filled, they will receive a prize from the prize box. Spellingcity.com is available online for students to practice their spelling words. **Search Auburn Matthews**

Writing/Language:

Our language skills will be incorporated into our Writing Workshop. Every day students will be taught a mini-lesson on language or writing skills. Then students will simply write for 20-30 minutes each day. Then we will share some of our written works. Our writing problem will focus on paragraph form and writing multiple paragraphs for narrative, persuasive, and informational essays.

Social Studies:

Our Social studies program is connected to our basal reader units and will be incorporated into our day three times a week. The main focus this year is communities. Students will have project assessments throughout the year in social studies.

Science:

Our Science program includes earth science, life science, and physical science. Students will have project assessments and test assessments throughout the year.