

SYLLABUS

Welcome to third grade!

We are excited to welcome you to the 2016/2017 school year! This syllabus is meant to give you a brief overview of the expectations, procedures, and curriculum in third grade this year!

ATTENDANCE

- All children should be lined up outside by 8:15AM. Children will be allowed into the school building when the bell rings at 8:15AM. If a child arrives after 8:22AM they will be marked as tardy on attendance rosters.
- If a child is absent, please send a note to school either before or the day after the absence(s) so that the absence(s) is marked as excused.



RECESS

We have twenty minutes of recess everyday. Recess is a time for children to relax and interact with one another outside the classroom. We strive to have recess outside, however when weather does not permit this, children enjoy twenty minutes of indoor recess in the gym. Please make sure that students are bundled up appropriately in cold weather as we do go outside in the winter.

HOMEWORK

Each week, the third grade team will send home a newsletter/homework packet on Monday that will be due on Friday (unless otherwise noted). This packet will contain language arts/math homework for the week. Occasionally, the packet will contain science, writing, or social studies homework, as well. Occasionally, there will be an outside project due that will not be in the packet (for example, the Science Fair project). Separate sheets will be sent home for any longer-term projects that students might be expected to do.

SAFETY

It is the goal of all the teachers and staff at Waters School that students are provided a safe environment to learn and grow in. As a consequence, we ask the following of parents, caregivers, and students alike:

Children will only be released to people authorized on their emergency forms. We must receive written permission from parents beforehand in order to release any child to persons not indicated on those forms.

We ask parents to not wait in the hallways or inside the building because this is a fire hazard as well as a

safety hazard for students in the building.

- If parents are found in the hallways they will be asked by staff to wait outside or be directed to the school office. Safety is our number one concern.
- Children will not be allowed back inside the school building once school ends, unless they are enrolled in an after-school program. If re-entry is necessary, children and parents must go through the front office first.
- In cold weather, students will be allowed to wait in the annex. Students are not allowed in the hallways or on staircases before school begins.

Grading

The following are the equivalents used for the entire school.

- 100-90 A
- 89-80 B
- 79-70 C
- 69-60 D
- 59 or below F

The following weights will be used to determine your child's final grade. Since we will be using different weights and criteria for different subjects, we have listed all the grade weights below.

LANGUAGE ARTS	MATHEMATICS	WRITING	SCIENCE	SOCIAL STUDIES
50% Classwork	50% Classwork	50% Classwork	50% Classwork	50% Classwork
25% Tests/ Projects	25% Tests/ Projects	25% Tests/ Projects	25% Tests/ Projects	25% Tests/ Projects
15% Quizzes	15% Quizzes	15% Quizzes	15% Quizzes	15% Quizzes
10% Homework	10% Homework	10% Homework	10% Homework	10% Homework

Subject area skills covered this year.

READING

Our base curriculum is Storytown, which covers a variety of comprehension, spelling, grammar, fluency, and vocabulary strategies. However, in an effort to better meet the variety of literacy needs in our classroom, we will also be using the Daily 5/Literacy Cafe model, in which students engage in choices to be reading and writing every day, while teachers conference with very small groups or individuals. The philosophy behind this is an understanding that every classroom has very different levels of literacy within it, and different students need different strategies in order to take their literacy to the next level, whether they are at grade level, below grade level, or even soaring above grade level. We hope that by continuing with the Daily 5/Literacy Cafe model in third grade (a model which many of the students are already familiar with, as some of the first and second grade teachers have been doing it last year), we will be able to meet all of our students at their level and help them grow as readers and writers.

Science

The third grade will cover the Sun, Moon, and stars, the physics of sound, the water cycle, Earth Materials, and structures of life, as well as the scientific method and ecology.

I try to keep the science as hands on as possible, while trying to strike a balance between investigations and reading and understanding informational texts related to the subjects we are covering. We also have Health lessons which focus on nutrition, staying healthy physically, and maintaining respectful healthy relationships in our lives at school and outside of school. In addition, we will be doing computer science every other Friday, as we progress through introductory coding courses on Code.org.

Subject area skills covered this year.

Social Studies

The third grade social studies program at Waters is Macmillan/McGraw-Hill, supplemented with activities that explore our society, history, and traditions within it. The following concepts listed under each unit are the focus of instruction.

How to be a responsible citizen Communities – Rural, Suburban, and Urban Map skills

Using the map legend, scale, grid, and lines of latitude/longitude.

Identify and locate the seven continents and four major oceans.

Illinois history: The branches of local, state and national government.

States and regions of the United States, focusing on climate, landforms, resources, and economy.

Writing

In Writing Workshop in 3rd Grade we will work on the five major units of study which are organized around the three types of writing mandated by Common Core--narrative, information and opinion writing.

The 3rd grade units are:

- Crafting True Stories
- The Art of Informational Writing
- Persuasive Writing
- Writing Fairy Tales
- Poetry Writing

Mathematics

In third grade math this year, we will be using the Trailblazers curriculum, which has a heavy emphasis on problem solving and a strong intersection with literacy and science skills. The units we will be covering this year are sampling and classifying, exploring multiplication (including multiplication facts up to 10), place value concepts, area, volume, perimeter, exploring division, parts and wholes (fractions), decimal investigations, collecting and using data, as well as continual review of addition and subtraction. Our goal this year is to give children a variety of strategies to use to solve problems, oftentimes with other students, and build their confidence in their math abilities. Much of the work we will be doing will involve not only finding the “answer”, but exploring and explaining how we got to the answer.

Classroom Websites

We have a third grade website, on which you can find the weekly packet in .PDF form, our contact information, important upcoming dates and events, and links to interesting or useful websites. The address is <http://waterschoolthirdgrade.weebly.com>.

We are looking forward to a great year!



Third Grade Teachers and Emails

Ms. Katsoulos (202)

epkatsoulos@cps.edu

Mrs. Paparodopoulos (201)

rmpaparodopoulos@cps.edu

Mr. King (204)

jtking3@cps.edu

Ms. Aguilar (201)

jaguilar122@cps.edu

Mrs. Lambe-Herman

cslambeherma@cps.edu

Ms. Garrison

dgarrison1@cps.edu

Please feel free to email us with any questions. Thanks!