Welcome to Third Grade!
This handout will present an overview of third grade. It will cover our expectations and hopefully answer questions you may have.

LITERACY BLOCK
It is our goal to have students become literate language users by integrating reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing. We are so excited to be introducing our brand new literacy curriculum, Wonders. The curriculum does a masterful job combing the 3 core components of the literacy block. These components are outlined below.

Word Study- Word Study is 20 minutes in length and contains a structure of whole group, small group, or independent learning opportunities. During Word Study, the focus is on skill building and spelling at differentiated levels to meet the needs of each student.

Reading- Our reading block is an hour in length and contains the structure of whole group, small groups, and independent learning opportunities. During independent reading, the students will be using a variety of reading materials, including technology. In addition, Reading and Writing are intertwined, using Wonders. Our district uses Illuminate Education and Wonders to assess student growth in reading.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quarterly Proficient Third Grade Reading Levels</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q1</td>
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<tr>
<td>M</td>
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Writing- Third graders will be exposed to narrative, opinion, and informational writing primarily writing about their reading. Children will be given the opportunity to focus on all stages of the writing process. Within the writing block, your child can expect a whole group mini lesson, small groups, and independent writing.

ELD/ALD Block
During English Language Development (ELD)/Academic Language Development (ALD), instruction, your child may be moving classrooms. Depending on your child’s specific strengths and next steps, the focus on instruction will be on language development from the curriculum.

MATH
The major reason for studying mathematics is to learn how to solve problems and accurately compute numbers. To become effective problem solvers, students need to understand concepts, know basic facts, and effectively use problem-solving strategies. Students need to be able to communicate their thinking through pictures, words, and the use of models. Our primary resource to help students become problem solvers is Bridges. The math block consists of 4 core components: Number Corner, Whole Group, Independent Practice, and Work Places. The teaching of mathematics will cover the following areas:

- Number Sense, Properties, and Operations
- Patterns, Functions, and Algebraic Structures
- Data Analysis
- Shape, Dimension, and Geometric Relationships

SPECIALS
We have a five-day rotating schedule for Music, Art, Media, and PE each week. You will need to refer to the Specials Schedule in your packet because the schedule rotates so there are not consistent days for each special.

SCIENCE
The units of study for third grade are:

- Structures of Life
- Water
- Soils, Rocks, and Landforms

SOCIAL STUDIES
Our district uses the Pearson My World Social Studies. We teach standards based on geography, civics, history, and economics. Social Studies is taught every quarter.
GRADING PROCEDURES
Evaluating and assessing a student’s progress is ongoing.
The grading symbols are as follows:

- Advanced
- Proficient
- PP- Partially Proficient
- U- Unsatisfactory
- Individual goals

BEHAVIOR
A behavior rubric is used to determine your student’s behavior each day. Your child’s behavior score is communicated daily on the Weekly Organizer. Listed below is the behavior rubric.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>What it Means</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>√</td>
<td>Good (This is the expected rubric each day!)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>√ -</td>
<td>Warning… Needed some reminders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Consequence With reminders, could not turn behavior around; will need to be in detention.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HOMEWORK
Reading should be done at home for 30 minutes, 5 days a week. A parent signature is required to confirm that your child has read. Homework will also be assigned. If there is additional homework, you will find it listed on the weekly organizer. If your child does not complete the homework assigned, they will have a consequence.

MAKE-UP WORK
Attendance is critical for your child’s academic success. Some make-up work, including assessments, can be completed when your child returns from an absence. However, much of the work cannot be made-up due to missing teacher instruction. Please notify the school office of all absences.

PARTIES OR TREATS
Each class is allowed to have 2 parties. We will be celebrating the winter holidays and a Valentine’s Day party. You will receive more information about these parties the closer we get to them. Store-bought treats for a birthday are permissible, but not mandatory. Please plan ahead if you wish to provide simple treats for your child’s birthday. Dropping off items at school during the academic part of the day
is discouraged as it interrupts the students’ learning. It is best to send the treats with your child. We can then decide the appropriate time to pass out the treats.

**VOLUNTEERS**

If you are interested in volunteering in the classroom please contact your child’s teacher directly. All volunteers must be registered through the volunteer management program administered by Aurora Public Schools, located at the Risk Management Building.

**PARENT COMMUNICATION**

Please check your child’s folder for communication from school and the community. Your child’s weekly organizer will have space that will be used for written communication between parent and teacher.

Please do not hesitate to contact your student’s teacher (by phone or email) with any questions. Thank you for attending the Back to School Night. We look forward to working with you and your child!

Sincerely,

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