**Welcome to Third Grade!**

**School Hours and Attendance**

If you need to drop off or pick up your child during the school day, you must sign him/her in or out in the office.  Students must maintain regular and prompt attendance to ensure success.  If students arrive late, they miss out on learning activities that begin immediately at the bell. Class begins promptly at 7:45 A.M.

**My Philosophy**

ALL children CAN and WILL learn when given the appropriate environment, approach, time, etc. ALL students (and their experiences) are different; therefore, the approach to their learning will be different. Our classroom is a “safe haven”, where it is OK to take risks, be wrong, attempt new things, etc. They will become problem solvers and learn through hands-on, fun activities.

**Classroom Expectations and Policies**

Establishing good classroom discipline is essential to each child’s success, confidence, and well-being. Every child should feel that the classroom environment is safe and secure; free from all threats of physical or emotional harm. In addition, it is important that each child learn to develop self-discipline and good work habits, to resolve conflicts peacefully, and to think independently. Just as in any family environment, participants will not always get along; however, members of our classroom family will be expected to work together and respect each other.

First, the children will learn the purpose of classroom expectations and develop the idea that our classroom is a community with the common purpose of learning, growing, leading and becoming friends.

The second facet of the discipline plan includes the logical consequences that may occur when class rules are broken.  Examples of logical consequences include reflection time away from a classroom activity for class disruptions or bothering other children, repairing damaged property, or written and/or verbal apologies for aggressive behavior, name-calling or ridicule towards other children. When a student earns reflection time away, he/she will fill out a reflection sheet that will go home for a parent/guardian to sign and return the following day. This list is not inclusive since it is impossible to predict all incidents of misbehavior that may occur during the year. The idea is for the consequence to be related to the misbehavior and act as a solution or restitution for the problem. If classroom rules are severely or persistently broken, parents will be contacted by phone or email. A visit to the principal’s office is used as a last resort option, although at times it is the only option.

Finally, discipline includes praise.  Our 3rd grade classroom will focus on positive behaviors with lots of positive reinforcement. Praising students when they have contributed positively to the classroom environment is also a disciplinary 'tactic'. Students need recognition not only for positive reinforcement but also for building self-esteem and self-worth. All students will receive praise when it is appropriate; good behavior is always worth encouraging and taking notice.

**Conduct and Parent Communication with Conduct**

There will be a quarterly conduct sheet (Behavior Log) following the weekly newsletter in your child’s Take-Home Binder. In class, they each have a magnet with their number on it beside a Behavior Chart. All students’ magnets start in the middle at “Ready to Learn,” and they can move up as much as 3 levels for positive behavior, as well as move down 3 levels for behavior that is not positive. They all start with 10 points for the day and the goal is to get 10 points or more each day. I will take a weekly conduct grade out of 50. The most points students can earn a day are 13 and the least amount of points they can earn is 4. I will record the number of points your child has earned for the day in the appropriate box. At the end of the week, I will total up the points and record it in PowerSchool. **The Behavior Log must be initialed DAILY.**

**Chromebooks**

Each student will be assigned and responsible for a Chromebook, which will stay in our classroom for the school year. Students will access links through our **class website (**[**spugh3.weebly.com**](http://www.noble3rd.weebly.com)**), Student Portal, and Google Classroom**. They will also use our class website to access safe search engines to do research for class projects. If a grade was taken from a computer assignment, it will not be in the Tuesday packet sent home but will be in PowerSchool Home Portal.

**Communication Folder/Homework**

Your child will be bringing home a white binder every day. There is a labeled “Keep at Home” and “Sign & Return/Homework” pocket for communication in your child’s binder. It will contain things like homework, notices and forms.  It is also an easy way for you to send back items such as money, notes and signed forms/papers.

The newsletter and the Quarterly Behavior Log/Reading Log will be located in the front of your child’s binder. The newsletter will have important dates and information, as well as spelling words for the week and what we are learning in class.

Graded papers will be sent home **every Wednesday night.** Every other week a progress report will be attached to your child’s graded papers. The top report must be **signed,** and the **entire** **packet** needs to be returned to school.

Students will need to practice the weekly spelling pattern each night in preparation for their test on Friday. Spelling practice is at your discretion, however there are several activities listed on our class website that students have used in the past. I do not ask for spelling homework to be turned in, as it is understood that they are expected to study. They are also expected to **read 20 minutes each night**. Please be sure to initial your child’s Reading Log located with the Behavior Log in your child’s binder. For math, students will take home an EnVision homework sheet that coincides with the lesson taught that day. This will need to be returned to school the following day. If a student comes to school without completing their math homework, they will have the opportunity to work on it during snack and lunch that day. Also, students will need to practice/study their multiplication/division fact families nightly for homework when it is time to start memorizing basic math facts. Other homework may also be given at my discretion. Homework will also be posted on our class newsletter which can also be found on the classroom website.

# **Cooperative Learning**

# I wholeheartedly believe in cooperative learning in the classroom. Students are placed in mixed ability groups so that they may help each other during the learning process. Research has shown that students do better when they are allowed to discuss and defend their ideas as they learn. Working in small groups also helps students learn valuable social skills they will need throughout life. All grades come from individual assignments and tests. No student's grade will be raised or lowered based on the performance of others in the group.

**Curriculum/Learning**

In third grade we have fun, but it is a huge transition year. Many of their assignments will change from what was seen in second grade.

* In **reading**, we will be using Open Court as our main reading curriculum. We will cover the 3rd grade standards across curriculum using a variety of resources. There will be a weekly reading test. The test will be composed of reading passages and questions to answer using that passage. The questions will reflect the skills we have worked on that week and previous weeks.
* In **science**, we will be using STEMscopes. This curriculum can also be accessed online through your child’s Student Portal.
* In **social studies**, we will be using the Studies Weekly newspaper. This curriculum can also be accessed online through your child’s Student Portal.
* In **math,** we are using envision Mathematics (Savvas on the Student Portal). Weekly multiplication/division fact tests will be given when we start learning & memorizing our facts.
* In **spelling**, students may choose how to study their spelling words for the week. I have activities listed on our class website. The weekly spelling pattern will be listed on my newsletter as well as on our class website each week. Weekly Grades in Spelling will be the Friday Spelling Tests.
* **Grammar/English** is seen in their writing. Grades will come from a weekly grammar test, their published work, and their process of writing.

**Other Information**

* PowerSchool Home Portal is our online, state-mandated record system.
* Myschoolbucks.com to pay for lunch.
* Water bottles: Students NEED their own labeled (name, grade level, teacher name) reusable water bottle each day. **Water bottles are to have water ONLY**, with a top that does not leak if it accidentally gets tipped over.
* Money: We encourage you to pay online. When sending in money for anything, please send in a LABELED envelope or Ziploc bag, including your child’s name, the amount of money being sent, and what the money is for.
* Allergies/Medicine: See nurse if your student has any allergies. All medicine must be sent to office, even cough drops.
* DPEE Snack bar: All snacks are between $0.50 - $1.00 this year. Charging snacks to an account is not available.
* PTO Special Snack will be scheduled on scheduled Fridays. (Special Snack prices can range from $.25-$2.00.)
* Due Dates: **No money will be accepted after the stated due date and time**. This includes money for field trips, PTO-sponsored events, PE events, classroom parties, etc.
* When sending in a check make sure it has the following: **phone number, correct date,** and **made out to school (DPEE)**.

**Remember**

Third grade is a HUGE transition year. Their independence and responsibility will grow greatly this year. They are responsible for listening, taking notes, asking questions, and turning things in on time. It is vital that they pay attention and ask questions. A small dip in grades in the beginning is normal. If you need a conference to understand the grades your student is making, please email me and I will be more than happy to discuss any concerns you may have. Please do not wait until later in the year to ask questions about grades. I believe it is very important to communicate between home and school, and I will do my best to keep you informed.

* Our class website is **spugh3.weebly.com**
* Our Google Classroom name is **Mrs. Pugh 2022-2023,** and our class code is **v2qrhm5**.
* Please make sure you join our class **Remind** to receive special announcements. **(Text the message @6kb93a to the number 81010).**
* Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at the school or email me at **spugh@bcbe.org**

Warm Regards,

Sherry Pugh

3rd Grade

Daphne East Elementary

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**Please cut along the dotted line and sign below if you have read, understood, and agreed to this letter.** Students will turn this in on the first day of school.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_