

## The ABCs of Third Grade 2013 Parent Orientation Night

Absences - Please call the school (989-8145) if you know your child will be absent. Pick up missed work as soon as it is convenient. Check your child's notebook for make-up work when he/she returns. Tests are made up as soon as possible after the absence.

Accelerated Reader - This is a big part of our third grade class. Students read on their individual levels and take tests. We concentrate on improving comprehension and vocabulary as well as enjoying books appropriate for our maturing levels. Students in third grade are expected to earn a minimum of 1.5 points per week. Parents are encouraged to read aloud as well as listen to their child read. We will use library books as well as our own AR classroom library.

Academics - Education is a huge priority. Please do not over schedule your third grader in extra events.

Allergies - We have students with severe allergies to nuts. Please do not send any nuts or peanut butter for snack.

Arrival - Students arriving before the 7:35 bell report to the cafeteria for breakfast or the gym if they are not eating. When students arrive in the classroom, they need to unpack backpacks (books, notebooks, snack, money, lunch) and then sharpen 2-4 pencils. Announcements begin at 7:55. Please be on time.

Bathroom - We go at least four times a day. We stress cleanliness to avoid unnecessary germs.

Behavior - We encourage appropriate behavior at all times. A behavior chart monitors students' behavior.

Book Orders - A book order will be sent home in the folder about once a month. This is a great way to add books to your child's home library. Books

in these orders are usually cheaper than those at a bookstore. Checks should be made to Scholastic Book Club. Orders can also be placed on-line.

Breakfast - Students are allowed to eat breakfast in the cafeteria before 8:00. The cost is \$.65 per day or \$.30 for reduced.

\*\*\*Bus Note - If your child goes home a different way, you **MUST** send a note or call the office before 2:00!

Cell Phones - We discourage students bringing cell phones to school. If they do, the phones must be turned off and left in their backpacks. Students who don't follow these rules will have their cell phone taken to the office.

Common Core Standards - Third graders will be mastering the new Common Core math and reading standards. All students are expected to master both multiplication and division facts to 10. There will be a lot more problem solving and demonstrating multiple ways to solve problems.

Constructed Response Tests - Students are required to take a form of TCAP that requires them to write explanations for their answer. Writing skills are very important!

Contacting Teacher - The school phone number is 989-8145. You may also reach me through e-mail (\_\_\_\_\_@tennk12.net).

Cursive Writing - Students practice during the first nine weeks of school and then have the option of cursive or manuscript. Work should be completed in cursive after the second nine weeks.

D.E.A.R. Time - The entire school will have D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read) Time from 8:00 - 8:15. Studies show that the more students read the better they perform.

Dress Code - We follow the countywide dress code. Please avoid short shorts or tops that don't cover the midsection when arms are raised. Tennis shoes are needed for P.E. A sweatshirt or light jacket is advisable to keep in the classroom for days when the air conditioner is on.

Folder - A folder is sent home each Monday. It contains a newsletter, graded papers, book orders, and other information. Take time to look at all items in the folder and return it on Tuesday. Sign and date the front of the folder.

Graded Work - Work is graded and returned to the students as soon as possible. It is good for parents to go over work that is done incorrectly. The graded work may have a note that tells the student to "Do over and return."

Guidance - We attend guidance classes every other week. We learn character education and other life skills. Mrs. Brandi Welch is our guidance counselor.

Homework - A homework sheet comes home every day with the day's assignments. A parent/guardian should check homework every night and initial the sheet. Homework is designed to provide extra practice in math, reading, and English.

Library - We go to the library once each week. Library books should be returned on time and should be taken care of. Students may recheck each morning before 8:00. Mrs. Melinda Carroll is our librarian.

Lunch - We eat late. Students pay \$1.50 for full price or \$.40 if reduced. Ice cream, water, and flavored drinks may be purchased for \$1. Visitors pay \$4.00 for lunch. Parents who eat with their child will sit at a separate table. We expect good manners at all times in the lunchroom. Lunch menus are listed in the *Independent* each week and on the school's web site.

Money - Please send any money in an envelope with the child's name, the teacher's name, and the reason for the money. The lunch money is sent daily to the cafeteria monitor who enters the information in the computer. It is important to label this properly so that students get credit for payment. If you have a question about lunch money, please contact Mrs. Dianne in the cafeteria.

Music - We go to music class every other week. Mr. David Kyles is the music teacher.

Newsletters - Parents receive a weekly newsletter on Monday with important information and dates. This can be taken out of the folder and kept by the parent.

Notebooks - All papers are kept in students' notebooks in the proper section. Parents should check the front section of the notebook every night for notes and other information as well as to see what we are studying. The notebook needs to come home every night and come back to school the following day.

Organization - This is a focus in third grade because we have so many subjects and so many skills to master. Work should be in the proper place in the notebook and never loose in a book or backpack.

Parent-Teacher Conference - This will be October 10, from 5:00-8:00 and October 11 from 9:00-12:00. Please plan to attend. This is a 15-minute conference to share thoughts about your child. If you need to meet with the teacher throughout the school year, please set up a time so that teaching/learning time is not affected.

Parties - All of our parties will be after lunch. We will have parties for Halloween/Autumn, Christmas, Valentine's Day and the last day of school. A parent volunteer will contact parents about what to send for parties. Please, no nuts of any kind.

Partner Teachers - Students will have two teachers. One will teach reading/language arts and the other will teach math, science, and social studies.

Picking Up Students - Students who are car riders should be picked up by the cafeteria entrance *unless* there is also a kindergartener riding. If this is the case, they can be picked up at the front door. When picking up students early, parents go to the office and sign out the child. The office staff will notify the student that the parent is in the office. Please send a note or call the office if there is a change in normal transportation plans.

PTO - Our Parent-Teacher Organization meets once a month. This organization supports our school in many ways. Please join, attend meetings, and help with special projects. Parent Involvement Programs will follow four of the PTO meetings.

Recess - Each class will have 15 minutes of recess each day. This is in addition to p.e. classes. Recess is not held on the playground. Students who do not follow school rules may be asked not to participate at recess.

Report Cards - Report cards are sent home every nine weeks in an envelope with a signature card and other papers. Return the envelope and the signed signature card on the following school day.

Research - One of the third grade standards is learning to do research and present information to the class. Students should learn to use reference materials and the Internet to find information.

Respect - We try to respect each other as well as property and possessions at all times. One of our school rules is "be respectful."

Responsibility - Another school rule is "be responsible." Third grade is the "transition" year for responsibility in the lower grades. Parents can help by having a particular place to keep school things such as backpacks as well as having a set time and place for homework.

School Day - The school day is from 7:55 - 3:00. Any student that arrives after 8:00 must stop by the office and get a late slip. The car rider bell rings at 2:50. Students who leave before 11:30 are not counted present for the day. Students who come in after 11:30 not counted present for the day.

Snack - We eat snack around 10:00 each morning. Snacks need to be healthy. Please do not send drinks other than water. Avoid sugary snacks. Do not send any form of nuts to avoid allergic reactions in some students.

State Assessed Checklists - State Standards are listed on the Tennessee Department of Education website. These are the skills that will be tested on TCAP tests.

## Subjects:

- Computer Lab - We attend twice each week for thirty minutes.
- Language- Proper writing and grammar skills are the focus for third grade.
- Math - Multiplication and division are focus skills. Students must show how to work problems in multiple ways and be able to write about their answers. Students will also learn to add and subtract fractions.
- Reading - We have two hours of reading each day. We encourage reading at home as well as at school.
- Science and Social Studies - We alternate science and social studies. A lot of science and social studies is integrated with our reading and math lessons. It is important for students to read for information in these areas.

Supplies - Students need a good supply of pencils with erasers and crayons. Rolling backpacks are not allowed. From time to time, ask your child if he/she needs pencils, crayons, a dry erase marker, or highlighters.

Title School - East Chester is a Title I school. Title I materials/equipment are available to all students. We emphasize reading, math, and discipline.

Toys - Toys, trading cards, etc. need to be left at home.

Water bottles - Students are encouraged to bring water bottles. Students need to bring these home on the weekends for thorough washing. The only liquid allowed in the bottle is water.

Web Site- East Chester's website is <http://www.chestercountyschools.org/eastchester/>. Please check for news, menus, and important dates.