

September 2007

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome your child to my class. We can look forward to a very exciting and rewarding school year. We are truly lucky to have the opportunity to spend third grade together. I believe it will be a positive experience for all of us.

In order to provide my students with the positive learning environment that they deserve, we will be following the behavior contract listed below. Also, I want to make you aware of the grading policies, which we follow, in third grade as well as some important events. Please read on...

Behavior Contract

I have listed below our classroom rules, consequences for misbehavior, and positive reinforcements used to encourage desired behavior. In third grade, we will be spending time on good character development as we work with each other to learn and grow. You will see some of these ideas reflected in the rules that we have developed together. We also will adhere to the guidelines in the Student Handbook that can be found in the school calendar. Please review the following information and discuss it with your child.

Classroom Rules:

- 1) Keep your hands and feet to yourself.
- 2) Help one another to solve problems.
- 3) One person speaks at a time.
- 4) Be kind to each other and show respect.
- 5) Listen to the speaker.
- 6) No name calling or bullying.
- 7) Use appropriate language and good manners.
- 8) Always be honest.
- 9) Share and cooperate with classmates and teachers.
- 10) Take care of your materials.
- 11) Raise your hand to speak.
- 12) Follow directions right away.

A color-coded behavior calendar has been inserted into your child's take home folder. The color indicates behavior for that school day. Parents or guardians need to sign the behavior calendar at the end of each week.

Color Code:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Green – | Excellent Behavior |
| Yellow – | Warning |
| Orange – | Consequence (chosen based on the misbehavior) |
| Red – | Severe Clause / Principal's Office |

Severe clause will be used in the event of a child defying the teacher, fighting, or disrupting the class in any way that prevents the teacher from teaching and the students from learning. When a student chooses to misbehave, an appropriate consequence will be chosen based on the issue.

These are some of the consequences that may follow:

Time out
Make amends
Call home
Letter home-please sign and return
Principal's office

No recess
Detention
"Think about it"-student reflection

Individual Positive Reinforcements:

- 1) Confidence (most valuable)
- 2) Praise (used most often)
- 3) Stand Out Star
- 4) Prize
- 5) Free time

Grading Policy

Some assignments, such as handwriting practice, will be given one of the following marks:

Excellent
Good
Needs Improvement

Other assignments may be scored as a fraction. The assignment will be worth a total number of points found in the bottom number. The top number represents the number of points earned by the child. Example: 8/10. This means that the assignment was worth 10 points and 8 points were earned. Finally, tests, quizzes and major class work assignments will be given a letter grade:

A	90% to 100%
B	80% to 89%
C	70% to 79%
U	below 70 %

While assignments with letter grades are weighted most heavily when considering final grades, all work is converted to a percent and contributes to the final grade.

Important Information

Homework (Will be discussed at Back to School Night)

In order to help keep us organized, your child has a labeled "Take Home" folder. This is to be used to take home completed work and homework (HW). The "KEEP" side is for you to keep at home and the "RETURN" side is to be sent back to me. This folder will be one of the most important tools we use to help us be prepared for class and therefore must be brought to class EVERY DAY.

Birthdays: Parents are welcome to send in a treat on their child's birthday. Please send it in with your child in the morning. Summer birthdays can be celebrated at the ½ year birthday.

Sharing: Every Friday, a few minutes will be devoted to sharing time. Students are permitted to bring something from home that they feel will be of interest to the class or share something that they have written. This helps students to develop oral speaking skills in a safe and comfortable environment. Please do not allow your child to bring valuable items to school. Toys and such should remain at home at all other times.

Lunch / Recess (12:00-12:40) and Physical Education: Every day after lunch students will be going outside for recess, weather permitting. Sneakers are required for gym class; therefore, dress shoes should be changed before going to recess and gym class.

Special Subjects (1:35 to 2:15):

A day	Physical Education/Health	Mr. Santarone	
B day	Spanish (9:55-10:35)	Mrs. Abdalla	
C day	Art	Ms. Friedman	(first semester)
	Music	Mrs. Savage	(second semester)

I look forward to working with you this year to make your child's school year a productive and positive one. Please feel free to contact me at the number or email address below. I can be reached before and after school by appointment. See you at Back to School Night Thursday, September 20th!!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Wendy Romano
853-0126
wromano@woodburysch.com