



# Parents' Survival Guide for Third Grade

2020-2021

Welcome to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade! We are excited for your child to be here and hope that you are also looking forward to a great year!

We all understand that parents can feel anxious when beginning a new school year. The information included in this guide will answer parents' frequently asked questions. Please read it thoroughly and keep it for your reference throughout the year.

Thank You! ☺

Mrs. Kelsey Dininny - Room 121

Mrs. Joanna Haupt - Room 119

Ms. Jessica Hershberger - Room 120

Mrs. Savanna Marsh - Room 117

Mrs. Emily Rosenbaum- Room 118

## Important Information

### Absences

If your child is absent, please have him/her complete the make-up work as soon as possible. If you would like to request missed work be sent home, please notify us by **1:00**. We will have your child's work ready **after 2:00** as it takes time to gather the materials and write out the assignments. **A written excuse is required for all absences, even if verbal information was given to the office staff. An excuse must be returned within 3 days of the absence, or the absence will be considered unexcused.** A few excuse forms have been included in your welcome packet for your convenience.

A vacation taken during the school year requires you to submit an Educational Trip Form that can be found on the district website under the Parents tab. Request work before a vacation at least **one week prior to the trip** so that it can be planned and prepared for the student.

### Tardiness

Students arriving to school **after 8:45** are considered late. In this case, the student should bring a note signed by a parent explaining the reason and present it to the office before reporting to homeroom. Parents must accompany the student to the office to sign in their child.

### Dismissal

Please send all dismissal notes to school with your child in the morning. **Written notification** from a parent is necessary when a student will be leaving school early, riding a different bus, getting off at a different stop on their regular bus, going home with a friend, being picked up by a parent, or staying after school for an activity. If there is a special circumstance that requires your child's dismissal plans to be changed during the school day, we ask that you inform the office of these changes **by 2:30.**

Please **do not** email dismissal changes to your child's teacher. Substitute teachers do not have access to our email and teachers may not check their email for new messages after our planning time.

**Every Friday, students dismiss at 11:50 p.m.**

## **Transportation Form**

*Please fill out the transportation form that is included in your welcome packet and return it as soon as possible.* This is how your child will be dismissed everyday unless written notification for an alternative is received.

## **Back to School Forms**

Please return the following items as soon as possible:

1. the folder or bag your Welcome Packet came in
2. Transportation Form
3. Special Education Form

## **Supplies**

Students in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will need a few supplies in addition to what is provided by the district. This list of items is included in the welcome packet that your child brought home on the first day of school. Please send these items in as soon as possible, **but no later than Wednesday, September 4th.**

## **Book Covers**

Your child will have **1** textbook that requires a book cover. It must be **jumbo** sized or it will not fit on the book. The **cloth book covers** work best and last the longest, but paper covers are okay. Please do not use the sticky book covers or use tape to attach the book cover to the textbook.

## **Power School / District Website & Updates**

Richland is once again using **Power School**, which will help you monitor your child's academic progress throughout the year. The graded assignments completed in class are added to the online grade book on a weekly basis.

We encourage you to visit our school district's website at [www.richlandsd.com](http://www.richlandsd.com). It includes very important information such as the school handbook, the lunch menu, school calendar, special class schedule, delays and cancellations, and other special events.

Under the Parents or Contact Us tab, you will find a staff directory. By clicking on the teacher's name, you will find information posted about your child's class! **We encourage you to visit this page weekly.**

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade's Monday - Thursday Schedule**

8:25 - 8:55	Homeroom
9:00 - 11:25	Language Arts
<b>11:30 - 12:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
12:05 - 1:10	Math
1:15 - 1:55	Special Class
2:00 - 2:30	Recess
2:35 - 2:55	Math
2:55 - 3:25	Social Science
3:30 - 3:45	Dismissal

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade's Friday Schedule

8:25 - 8:55	Homeroom
9:00 - :50	Language Arts
9:55 - 10:10	Special Class
10:15 - 11:15	Math
11:15 - 11:45	Social Science
11:50 - 12:00	Dismissal

### Lunch / Snack

We do not have snack in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade on Monday - Thursday because we eat lunch in the middle of our school day. However, we do allow a *working snack* on Fridays since lunch is not served.

Due to COVID-19, parents are not able to eat lunch with their child at this time.

### Water Bottles

Students may have a water bottle on their desks. Only clear water is acceptable - no flavor packets, juice, soda, etc. Due to COVID-19, students will not have access to water fountains, so bringing a water bottle is encouraged.

### Special Class Schedule

Our special class schedule will once again rotate through five classes as "Day A - Day E". Friday is included in this rotation. The schedule that is specific for your child's class will be sent home on the first day of school.

### Communication

We have each provided our email address to you in this welcome packet. This is the best way to contact us throughout the year. You may also leave a message for us by calling the school at 266-5757 or sending a note with your child.

### Homework

As a third grader, your child will have approximately 30 minutes of homework each night, except on Fridays. Very rarely will a test be scheduled or a project be due on a Monday. Your child should **be reading as well as practicing his/her math facts each night** as part of his/her homework routine.

If your child is having a difficult time consistently getting his/her homework done within 30 minutes, please write a note informing us of the difficulties your child may be having on a specific assignment. We can provide additional help with any questions s/he may have. It is important that your child try to answer the question as best as they can so we can assess what the student already knows and assist them from there.

Remember, the purpose of homework is to help reinforce what we have learned in class. It is important that your child does his/her homework each night to make sure that s/he understands what we have learned. Please be sure to have homework supplies (i.e. pencils, paper, erasers, sharpeners, etc.) at home to complete assignments. If you don't have these items at home, please let us know and we can provide your child with a homework kit. It is also very important to designate a location at home to store papers that are sent home from school for future reference.

Assignments that are not completed on time will be completed during recess, with occasional exceptions made by the teacher. Homework is included as part of the course grade.

Time will always be given at the end of the day for students to gather the materials needed for homework completion. Your child should be bringing home the following three items every day:

## 1. Homework Agenda

## Math Facts

The homework agenda is the most important tool your child will be using to help them develop responsibility and organizational skills this year. The PTO has provided your child with a homework agenda in which s/he will record all assignments. Teachers will provide time for students to record assignments in the agenda throughout the day. Your child is responsible for bringing his/her agenda to school each day and taking it home each night. After you have reviewed your child's completed homework, please initial his/her homework agenda daily at the bottom of the page. All of your child's login information will also be stored on the first page of their agenda so that they have access to their usernames and passwords both at home and in class.

## 2. Homework Folder

Students will be using a BLUE HOMEWORK FOLDER throughout the year. Students will use this folder to bring home all paper assignments to be completed each night as well as reading calendars, study guides, and any other information they will need to complete their homework.

## 3. Take Home Folder

This folder will be sent home every night and will include communications from the administration, the classroom teacher, and the PTO, as well as returned assignments and order forms. This folder should be emptied nightly and returned the next day.

The expectation for the beginning of third grade is that addition and subtraction facts have already been memorized. **Please be sure to have addition and subtraction flashcards up to 18 for practicing at home.** After a very brief review of addition and subtraction facts using timed quizzes to assess fluency, we will begin teaching multiplication facts. Students will be creating their own set of multiplication flash cards to use throughout the year.

## **Math - Student Reference Books**

Students will not be given their own Student Reference Book, as this resource can be accessed online. Students will be issued a user name and password to log in on the Everyday Math site where materials can be viewed as needed. We also have a set of Reference Books for the students to access in the classroom. Student Reference Books will not be sent home the day before a test unless one is requested by writing a note to your child's teacher.

## **Scholastic Book Clubs**

Your child will be bringing home Scholastic Book Club order forms monthly. It is a great way to purchase books at reasonable prices as gifts and/or nighttime reading. With each dollar spent, teachers earn points to receive free books for our classroom. If you would like to place an order, fill out the form including your child's name, and return the order to

your child's homeroom teacher. *Checks should be made payable to "Scholastic Book Club."* PLEASE, NO CASH!



## **Birthdays**

Birthday celebrations are sponsored by the PTO on a monthly basis. No birthday parties including treats will be held in individual classrooms, but we will make sure it is a special day for your child!

If your child will be having a party outside of school, we ask that you follow the procedure found in the student handbook regarding sending invitations: **Invitations cannot be distributed at school unless all the girls, all the boys, or the whole class is invited.** Otherwise, invitations must be mailed from home, so please plan accordingly. **Teachers cannot provide parents with addresses, phone numbers, or last names of other students without parental consent.**



## Behavior Plans

### Classroom Reward System

Each day, your child's class can work towards filling a jar based on criteria established by each teacher. When the jar is filled, the class earns a party of their choosing to celebrate their accomplishments!

### Ram Rewards - Individual Reward System

Rams Rewards are tickets that we use as part of our school-wide positive behavior plan. It is very important to recognize the good behavior students show not only in the classroom, but also on the playground, on the bus, in the cafeteria, and while using the restroom. Ram Rewards can be earned by displaying RAMS behavior - being RESPECTFUL, ACCOUNTABLE, MOTIVATED, and/or SAFE. Throughout the day, each student has the opportunity to earn Ram Rewards. Every Friday a prize drawing will be held. The more Ram Rewards a student earns, the greater the chances are for his/her name to be drawn from the bin. Remind your child to make good choices that exemplify RAMS behavior. Lost Ram Rewards cannot be replaced.

## Additional Information

We want to extend a sincere thank you in allowing us to take part in your child's education. We believe it takes a team effort to help a child to succeed, so we want to work with you to meet your child's needs. Whatever difficulty you or your child may be having, we will work together to come up with a solution. We are here to help your child with any problem, large or small. *Please do not hesitate* to contact us at any time with questions or concerns.

We hope to have a fantastic year with your child. We are excited about doing many fun activities that will help reinforce what we are studying with the students.

We hope that you and your child enjoy being a part of the third grade team here at Richland Elementary School!

