

Dear Families,

Welcome to third grade at Wheeler! The following information will be helpful throughout the year.

***Please review the live links within this document.**

Absences

Please call or email the school to report your child's absence: jkmeier@mpsomaha.org and pasteensma@mpsomaha.org. If your child is absent, missed work will come home. The work is to be completed at home and returned to school.

Arrival

The first morning bell rings at 8:20. Students may arrive no earlier than 8:15 as there will be no supervision until that time. Third graders can go through the back or front entrance.

Assessments

Third graders will have the following assessments: MAP and NSCAS. Exact testing dates will be announced as we get closer to the assessment. Please avoid scheduling appointments, etc. during testing times. MAP testing will be taken in the Fall, Winter and Spring. The state test is NSCAS. This will be taken in the spring. There is both an ELA and Math test for both MAP and NSCAS.

Birthdays

Children may bring store bought treats (pre-cut) for their birthday. There are 26 students in our class. Please include the ingredient label. If your child has a summer birthday, they may choose to bring treats for their half birthday. Please avoid treats with nuts.

Students are asked not to pass out birthday invitations unless invitations are for the entire class.

Classroom Communication

Classroom communications will be located on our class page and emailed.

[Miss Steensma Class Page](#)

Field Trips

Third grade usually plans 1 field trip throughout the year. As time gets closer, we will inform families about our upcoming field trip plans.

Grades

Yes! Third graders will receive percentage grades. You will have access to their grades through Synergy/ParentVue. There are many ways that grades will be determined. If you have specific questions about grading, please ask.

Grading Scale: 90-100 = A

80-90 = B

70-80 = C

60-70 = D

0 - 60 = F

Homework

Occasionally, students may have unfinished work from class that needs to be completed as homework and returned to school the next day. A few projects may be assigned that may involve homework. Third graders are expected to read and practice math facts at home. **Completing work on time is an expectation and an opportunity for students to learn good study habits.**

With our new ELA curriculum, spelling lists/tests are to be determined.

iPads

Students will use an iPad throughout the day for educational purposes. iPads will stay at school unless there could be an E-Learning Day or initiated by the classroom teacher.

Lunch

Third Grade Lunch: **12:05-12:25**

Recess: **12:25-12:40**

If your child brings a reusable lunch box, please have their name on it. You may deposit money into your child's account for daily lunches. You can either send the money with your child or deposit it into their account online. If your child brings a reusable lunch box, please have their name on it.

Parent/Student Handbook

See [link](#) for the Parent/Student Handbook.

Parties

We will have a Fall and a Valentine's party. There will be more information later about these events. Please consider volunteering to help with our parties.

Phone Calls

Students will be allowed to use the school phone for **emergencies** only. They will not be able to phone home for schoolwork, library books, or cold lunches/snacks. Please assist students in developing the responsibility for remembering to bring all needed supplies to school each day.

Planners

Starting in third grade, your child will be using a daily planner. They will be filling out their planner each day and marking possible assignments. If an assignment was not finished at school, it should be finished at home that night. It is our hope that the planner will enable families to have conversations about learning and upcoming events. **We ask that a parent/guardian signs the student planner each day. Please help your child to remember to return their planner each day as well!**

Small Groups

Miss Steensma, Mrs. Brown, and Mr. Fleming will be implementing the “Walk-To” model in the area of Math.

Re-teaching is ongoing in third grade. Your child may be a part of a small re-teaching group throughout the year, for example, practicing math facts. There are many staff members/volunteers at Wheeler who lead re-teaching groups. In addition to re-teaching groups, there are intervention programs. Families will be contacted if students receive intervention programs outside of the classroom.

Snacks

Third graders have a daily scheduled snack time. Students may bring a small, healthy snack that will not be shared. Suggested snacks include fruit, applesauce, fruit snacks, cheese/crackers, popcorn, granola bars, pretzels, and beef jerky. **Please do not bring snacks that contain nuts and candy.**

Specials (PE/Music)

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9:10

Wednesday: 9:05

- Monday/Thursday: P.E.
- Tuesday/Friday: Music

[P.E. Shoes Reminder](#)

Star Student

All students will be featured as our Star Student for one week during the school year. Information about this will come home prior to your child’s featured week. This is a great way for students to share about themselves with their peers.

Water Bottles

Please send your child with a water bottle each day. **Please do not send flavored water, pop or juice.** We have a water bottle refill station near our classroom.

I am looking forward to a great year in 3rd Grade,

Miss Steensma

pasteensma@mpsomaha.org