

Weekly Classroom Newsletter

10/6/26

I know it's Tuesday! I hope you all received my Remind message yesterday. I wanted to at least get that information out quickly, but here I am with the rest of our newsletter!

Last week was a BIG testing week, and I'm sorry that everything seemed to end at the same time! I have most of the grading finished and am just about done with the Reading test. I will make sure those grades are entered into FACTS as well.

Tomorrow, the kids will be bringing home their test folders. Please take a few minutes to look through their tests with them and talk about any answers they may have gotten wrong. We do review tests in class, especially if I notice that several students missed the same question or struggled with the same concept. However, I know from experience that sometimes we think we are listening during a review, but it helps to see it again later! I always tell the kids that it doesn't really help us improve if we don't know what we did wrong in the first place. So, taking another look at home and talking through those mistakes with them is always helpful. Thank you for taking the time to do that!

As I mentioned yesterday we are going to go hard with math facts also. We now have a **Fluency Folder** that we will use for both Reading and Math fluency. The kids will bring this folder home so everything can stay together.

Please continue to practice:

Reading Fluency: 1 minute each night

Math Fluency: 2 minutes each night

For Math Fluency, students should begin at the top of the page and work in order from left to right and top to bottom. When the two minutes are finished, simply record how many problems they completed and how many they got correct.

Our biggest goal with fluency is **progress!** At the end of the week, students will receive a small fluency quiz grade out of 5 points based mainly on their improvement and effort in that week. We really want to see those facts becoming quicker and more automatic, so please continue practicing math facts at home whenever you can. It really, really does make a difference!

I will also be adding Journal grades into FACTS. I reached out to a few parents about journals already, but just as a reminder, we complete two journals each week. I am not looking for perfection! I simply want students to respond to the prompt, include a picture, and write the date at the top. If they are doing those things and putting in the effort, they will receive full credit.

We also started **Adoration in the chapel** this week! We will be attending Adoration on Tuesdays throughout the month of October.

Our **40 Hours Field Trip permission slips** also went home yesterday. Thank you to so many of you who already returned them!

Other than that, we are going to keep working hard and learning lots in third grade. I truly hope your children are enjoying their year so far. I am going to continue doing my very best to make sure they are learning, growing, and building the skills they will need for the years ahead.

I am also very thankful for your partnership, especially with our Reading and Math fluency practice at home. It really does mean a lot and helps reinforce everything we are working on in the classroom.

9/26/26

I hope this rain is not ruining your weekend plans too much and that you can actually enjoy being home with the family a little bit!

I wanted to give you a heads up about the upcoming week because we are coming to the end of quite a few chapters.

In Math, we will finish our chapter on Monday, have an overview/review game on Tuesday, and take our test on Wednesday.

We are also finishing our Social Studies unit, "Where Are We?" Our test will be Thursday and will include questions about where we are, including our city, state, country, and continent. Students will also label the continents and oceans and use a compass rose to follow directions on a map. I sent home their map and globe project, and they have gotten really great at naming the continents and oceans! Now I just want to make sure they are practicing where they actually belong on the map. The kids are also working on a fun partner or small group project where they are creating and filling in their own maps using some of the map skills we have been learning.

In Reading Wonders, we are learning about cultures, traditions, and celebrations. Our Wonders test will be Friday and will look very similar to the last one. They can use their book for the comprehension portion and will also complete a Fresh Read. We will practice Fresh Reads during the week, and I will send one home Thursday night if you would like to use it for a little extra practice.

Please also keep practicing fluency for one minute each night. They can read to Mom, Dad, brother, sister, grandparent, or anyone who will listen! I just want to make sure they remember, fluency is not about speed racing through the passage and just trying to "beat the number". We want smooth reading, expression, and pauses at punctuation. As they become more comfortable with the passage, their words per minute will naturally increase.

We are finishing our Grammar unit on Monday as well. I know it is already a busy testing week, but we are coming to a close on the unit, and I do not want us to spend several days doing nothing with the material and then have the kids forget everything we have been learning. So even though it is a busy week, we are still planning to have our Grammar test on Thursday. We will review together in the classroom on Tuesday and Wednesday so they are prepared.

Lastly, we will continue our weekly Spelling test on Friday. Students will write all 20 words in print, and I will also ask them to write a few in cursive. The cursive will not be graded yet. I will just correct it as needed so they can continue improving.

It is definitely a busy week, but we will be doing lots of reviewing and practicing together in class, so please do not feel like they need to spend the whole week studying at home. A little practice every day goes a long way.

Have a wonderful weekend! Stay dry and safe, and enjoy some family time!

9/14/26

Good morning, parents!

As you can see, it is Monday... which means I already forgot to send out my weekly letter on Friday! 😊 I will always try my best to get these out on Friday, but if Friday gets away from me, I will get it out on Monday!

Last week was really fun! I feel like we were finally able to figure out some of our routines and how our days are going to work. We also took a lot of time learning how to use our textbooks and materials at our desks. It took me a little bit to realize that the kiddos really did not use textbooks like this last year, so we had to slow down and really practice it together. I think we are ready to go this week!

In **Wonders**, we will continue working through our first unit, and we will have our first biweekly Wonders test this Friday. It will cover what we started learning last week and what we continue working on this week.

We also had our first spelling test last week, which was multiple choice, and most of the kiddos did phenomenal! This week, the spelling test will be a little different. They will write their words in print and cursive. I will be grading the print, but I would like them to try the words in cursive also so that I can help them with their cursive writing as we go.

For **Math**, we are working on place value and addition, and this week I really want to get into the full swing of our Math Stations. Please keep practicing those addition and subtraction facts at home! We want to get into multiplication soon, and having those addition and subtraction facts down will really help us when we get there.

The kiddos have also been working on their journals. Like we talked about at Open House, I have really been explicitly working with them on journal writing and what I am looking for. We are taking our time with it, and as the year goes on, it will get better and better!

One new thing we are starting this week is our **daily reading fluency practice**. I talked to a few of my colleagues who have taught third grade before, and they highly recommended that Ms. Gessner and I do fluency every day. We will be practicing it daily in school, but the kiddos will also be practicing at home Monday through Thursday.

I'm sorry, moms and dads—I know you are busy! 😊 I promise I am only asking for about **two minutes** of your time each night. For the first minute, your child will read while you time them, and you will write down how many words they read correctly in that minute. Then they will read it a second time and work on reading smoothly, paying attention to punctuation, and using expression.

I also sent a paper home explaining the fluency practice and exactly what to do at home.

We will be practicing it together every day in school too, so please don't worry if it feels a little confusing at first. I know it will take some practice for all of us to get into the routine, but I really think it is going to be so beneficial for their reading.

If I learned anything last week, it is that with routines, repetition, and lots of explicit teaching, they will get it!

Thank you again for everything you are doing at home and for all of your support. Also, another BIG shout-out to everyone who has been sending in notes for dismissal changes! Please keep doing that! As a third grade, we really need to know where everyone is going at the end of the day, and having it written down helps so much instead of the kiddos telling me and it going in one ear and out the other.

I am looking forward to another wonderful week with your kiddos!

As always, if you need me, give me a buzz!

Have a great week!

Ms. Maynard

Hi everyone!

I would like to start posting a weekly newsletter on our class webpage. I am going to try my very best to post one every week although I cannot promise that I won't miss one during a particularly busy week!

This past week, we spent a lot of time getting to know one another, learning our classroom routines, and becoming comfortable in third grade. Yesterday, we also began working in Math, Religion, and English, which we will definitely be doing much more of each week!

For **Math**, students will have:

- A hardcover Math textbook, which will need a book sock
- A Math copybook where they will write their notes
- A Math workbook that will be used for classwork and homework

It will be the same for **English**. Students will have:

- A hardcover English textbook, which will also need a book sock
- An English copybook where they will write their notes
- An English workbook that will be used for classwork and homework

We have English Monday through Thursday, so students will probably have a small amount of English homework most of those evenings.

I do not want homework to become overwhelming or stressful for our students or families. Homework for one subject, such as English, should not take longer than approximately fifteen minutes. I would like every student to try the assigned work each night. However, if your child genuinely tries and is struggling or becoming too frustrated, please write me a quick note explaining that they attempted the assignment but were unable to complete it. You may also email me. I will excuse the assignment, and we can work through the difficulty together when we go over it in class.

If homework is not completed and I do not receive a note, I am required to deduct five points from the student's homework grade and record it in the behavior book. This is a school policy from Mr. Dicker that I am required to follow, so please communicate with me whenever your child is having difficulty. I never want homework to become a huge source of stress at home!

I am so excited for this school year and everything we will learn together. If you ever need me, please do not hesitate to reach out. Once again, thank you so much for helping and supporting our classroom. Everything you have sent in and done for us is so greatly appreciated!

I will continue trying my best to post an update each week. Thank you, everyone!