

Welcome to 3rd Grade!

Dear Parents and Students,

August 10, 2026

Welcome to our classroom family! My name is Christine Boatman and I will be your child's teacher for the 2026-27 school year. I am truly excited and honored that you have entrusted me with your child's educational achievements for the next 10 months. It is a privilege that will not be taken lightly. Together, we will learn and grow while never forgetting to have fun.

Before we get to the goals for this year, I would like to let you know a little about myself. This year marks my 27th year of teaching, and my 11th year here at Fay Elementary. I truly love it! I have taught almost every grade from kindergarten to high school, as well as special education. People ask me all the time which I liked the best, and honestly, I cannot choose! All of them had their own special parts! I have one son who is 21 and is currently in the US Navy. I am originally from northern California but love living in sunny San Diego.

I graduated from San Francisco State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Studies specializing in creative arts. I went back to school soon after to obtain my Master's Degree in Education, with an emphasis in positive reinforcement, as well as a California Reading Certification. I have a professional clear, CLAD, California Multiple Subjects Credential, Special Education training, Gate Certification, among a ton of training in different areas. I also had the honor of being named Fay Elementary's Teacher of the Year for the 2018-19 school year.

Enough about me! On to our classroom.

One of the many important lessons your children will learn this year is that we are all human and we are in this together. We are learning together. Mistakes are what help us learn. My hope is that they will embrace their mistakes and use them as learning opportunities. As I tell my students every year, we will have days where everything will work out great! We will also have those where things will not work, we will be confused, and we will want to give up. That is normal. We must remember to be patient and know that everyday is a new chance to start again. We will be working a lot around the growth mindset and how to implement it into our daily lives.

In our classroom, we are a family. Before anything, building a community is key. Children will learn when they feel comfortable, accepted, and safe. That is exactly the environment that we will create, together. My students always know that we are in this together. I promise to always listen to their words...no matter what. Honesty and integrity are a huge part of our year. I believe if we raise our youth to be good citizens, they will be unstoppable. Each voice is very important, no matter how big or small. I want my students to always feel comfortable to use their voice to express themselves. EVERYONE is important. When I have a substitute teacher, my students will evaluate them just as the sub does. They will have a voice to tell me how they felt their day was and how the sub was. It is incredible to see how much our children blossom when we listen to them.

Students will be expected to participate everyday. Attendance is very important.

3rd grade is the first year of state testing. It is very important that your child is at school, on time, every day. We start learning from the moment they walk in and finish minutes before the final bell. This is the first year that your child is considered an “upper grade” student. There are some learning curves that we will work through. Students will leave their computers at school so that they will guarantee to have them charged and ready to go each day. Homework will not be computer based and will start on the third week of school. Students are given a homework folder which is their responsibility to take care of and bring back and forth to school. Homework is given on Monday’s and returned on Friday’s.

Please make sure your child leaves their toys (labubu’s, needoh’s, fancy pens, markers, etc) at home. Those types of things are very popular right now and to avoid theft and distractions, please keep them at home (this also includes removing them from their backpacks).

We do have celebrations in class. If you would like to send things in, please make sure that they are healthy. No chips, cookies, cupcakes, cakes, etc. are allowed this year. Fun things that can be done can be: fresh fruit cups with tajin, veggies, non edible items such as stickers/pencils/etc.

We will have:

- ★ PE on Monday’s from 1:00pm - 2:00pm (please make sure your child brings proper clothing and shoes for PE days as well as a water bottle)
- ★ Daily wellness breaks 10:15am -10:30am - children may bring a healthy snack for this time.
- ★ Library: To be determined
- ★ Visual and Performing Arts - Every other Monday 10:45-11:30 (starting the first day of school)
- ★ Daily mindfulness
- ★ Every Wednesday is a short day (Dismissal is at 1:00pm)
- ★ There is usually 1 short Tuesday a month.
- ★ Breakfast will be served at school for those who would like it. Breakfast ends at 8:55am.

This year, students will only be dismissed from the blacktop. If you have an older sibling picking up your child, please let me know.

Class dojo is where I will be doing most of my communication. Please make sure that you are checking it often. Feel free to message me there or email me at cboatman@sandi.net. I am pretty quick to reply.

I plan to check in with families often. I think a partnership between home and school is so important. Welcome to our school family!

Respectfully, Christine Boatman

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