

Welcome to Third Grade!

I am so excited to be a part of your child's education, and can't wait to watch them grow! This is an overview of my teaching philosophy, curriculum, and day to day expectations and events in 3N. I hope you will feel acquainted with 3N.

Body Movement: Children, like adults, can have trouble sitting for too long. Throughout the day we will have body movement breaks. The type of movement ranges; but is quick, purposeful, and fun. Students that struggle beyond that have preferential seating and can stand during instruction as long as it does not interrupt others' learning. Additionally, kinesthetic learning is incorporated regularly.

Book Orders: Our scholastic classroom code is listed on the class webpage, **T9WN7**. You may utilize our class code at any point in the year for order through the Scholastic Webpage.

Chairs, Blankets, Mats, etc... We are eating and working outdoors whenever possible. A stadium chair or an old beach towel / blanket are great for students to bring outdoors to eat and use throughout the day.

Communication: As parents, you know your child better than anyone. Our partnership is of the utmost importance. I welcome any and all forms of communication via email, calls, or meetings. I check email daily, but do not check the voicemail on my classroom phone. It does not indicate a message without dialing out. For questions or comments, I find that email is the easiest form of communication. I will respond within 24 hours during the week. ****I may not be able to check my email during the school day. If there is an urgent matter that needs immediate attention please call the front office and they will relay the message to me.**

The third grade team has a website that will allow you to access information, review schedules, the GCS calendar, and find helpful links. I also have an individual Google Classroom that is linked from the third grade website and can be found [here](#).

Curriculum: All lessons are taught based on the Common Core State Standards and Greenland Central School district expectations. Regular assessments are given to collect data on each child. Formative assessments drive instruction, pace, and determine the type of review needed. Summative assessments are given at the end of a unit of study to show end progress. Teacher observations and anecdotal notes also serve as ongoing assessment. Each lesson starts with a stated target or purpose. Research shows that if a child can articulate what he/she is learning and why, then more knowledge is gained.

Grading:

For long term projects and some other assignments, a rubric or scoring guide is provided ahead of time and reviewed with students. This is a clear way for students to know what needs to be done to earn the desired grade. Example rubrics are posted to the third grade website.

Report cards will be sent home at the end of every trimester. Examples of the Report Card and HOWLS are posted to the third grade website.

Health: Health lessons will be incorporated into our curriculum as the year progresses. We will cover topics such as; what makes a family, healthy choices, and identifying safe and trusting adults when you are in trouble.

Homework: The purpose of homework is to reinforce skills taught in school and to teach responsibility and time management skills. Students have homework folders where all of their homework sheets and passwords will be housed. They also have agenda books where they will write their daily assignments. If

students are not completing their hw I will ask that parents sign their agenda books daily to make sure we are both on the same page with the hw expectations. Completing homework includes bringing it back to school.

Each night your child will have to read for 20 minutes on their own. They will track this reading in their agenda binders. On Friday's, they will need to have their minutes totaled (80 minutes earns a "3" which is grade level expectations). We are focusing on reading stamina and reading a variety of texts at the beginning of the year.

Depending on the unit of study and it's difficulty I may send home a math worksheet. This will be a short and efficient worksheet that shows me your child's understanding of the topic at hand. I ask that students spend **15** minutes on the assignment, and if it is presenting itself as too challenging or becoming a frustration between you and your child please sign the top and I will count it as full credit. I will then meet with your child the next day to review the skill.

Special projects and assignments will also be due throughout the year but will be spread out over a longer period of time.

Lunch/Snack: Please send a healthy morning snack to school with your child. It is a long time until lunch if no snack is eaten. Energy levels deplete quickly and appropriate snacks enable children to better focus on their learning. We are working to eat lunch and snack outside whenever possible. When eating inside they will use a divider at their desk. No candy or soda please.

If your child is getting a school lunch, it will be delivered to the classroom each day prior to our lunch time at 12:15. Students will eat inside the classroom at their desks or in an outdoor classroom, weather permitting. We will practice good hand hygiene and clean our eating areas thoroughly throughout the lunch and snack period.

It is helpful to have your child's milk money in an envelope marked with their name, date, and amount enclosed.

Mask Breaks: I will take students out for mask breaks and walks as needed. We will be outdoors during these breaks and spaced apart from peers.

Mask Usage: Students must wear a mask during the day when inside the building. If students are able to distance themselves outdoors they can remove their masks. Sending in extra masks in a labeled ziploc bag is very helpful.

Math: In math, we will continue to use the Math in Focus program. Math in Focus is the U.S. version of Singapore's proven math curriculum, which highlights problem solving as the focus of mathematical learning and balances conceptual, visual learning, and problem solving to help all students achieve greater success. Math in Focus is aligned with the Common Core Curriculum. At times we may supplement with outside programs. More information can be found on the GCS website.

Morning Meeting: From the Responsive Classroom approach by Northeast Foundation for Children, I use the Morning Meeting method daily. This is a time when we greet one another, review our schedule for the day, share, and complete an activity. Although it looks different this year, we are working to continue these practices. We also complete a closing meeting and discuss the successes of our day.

Notes: Never hesitate to send an email if you have questions, comments, or concerns. Our communication will be vital to your child's success. If you know your child will be absent or tardy in advance, an email is helpful. **Any dismissal or change of plans/absences should be sent to the front office.**

Parent/Teacher Conferences: At this time Parent/Teacher conferences will be scheduled virtually. More information to come from the front office.

Philosophy: Students need a safe, loving, and supportive environment in order to take risks and grow. In third grade students will make academic, social, and emotional growth- all three are of equal priority. I hope to help your child discover their strengths, become independent in their studies, and develop a

passion for learning. Students will leave third grade as confident students with critical thinking skills. They will acknowledge others' strengths and share kindness daily with members of the community. Students will appreciate themselves and their abilities as lifelong learners.

Reading: GCS will continue to utilize the reading program titled Lucy Calkins' Units of Study, we are in year 4 of this program. The program focuses on teaching students to become high-level thinkers who read for pleasure and academic purposes through the reading workshop model. Reading workshop starts with a mini-lesson then moves on to small, focused group-work and one-to-one conferences. We will also use the reading block to integrate our science and social studies curriculum, complete vocabulary study, and Close Read. Close Reading is when students are guided to read and reread small parts of text to deliberately examine meaning and gain a deeper understanding of the text as a whole. Students reflect on individual words, sentence order, style, and development of ideas. We will use a variety of genres to teach the act of reading closely. For more information on the Lucy Calkins programming please visit the Heinemann website or the GCS website.

Report Cards: Report cards will be completed three times and sent home at the end of each trimester. Example report cards have been posted to the third grade webpage.

Sci/SS: GCS utilizes Mystery Science for our science curriculum. Mystery Science supports the Next Generation Science Standards. We also support the science curriculum with non-fiction reading and writing as well. For more information about the new standards, please visit:
<http://www.nextgenscience.org/about-standards-development-process>.

The social studies curriculum covers Immigration, Native Americans, maps, and economics. Students complete several project based learning activities over the year aligning with the social studies curriculum.

Technology: Technology is integrated into all subject areas for twenty-first century learning. We use a document camera and projector throughout the day as a teaching tool and present United Streaming short clips to support the curriculum. Vocabulary lessons when applicable will be introduced with a PowerPoint presentation. We are fortunate to have our own class set of Chromebooks to conduct Internet research with pathfinders and use various website activities to aid in learning. They will practice targeted skills in math with IXL and xtramath.org throughout the week. Students will also use NewsELA, RAZKids, and Typing Club in order to delve deeper into topics and practice important ELA and Math skills. Students will become familiar with the Google Classroom platform and be able to navigate Google applications. One way I will keep families up to date on happenings in the classroom is through the third grade web page and emails.

Word Study: You may know word study as spelling- like the name, it is a bit different than you may be familiar with. Students will be responsible for learning new patterns and rules that follow the English language. They will be involved in activities in the classroom that will help them learn many words. Good spellers don't memorize words, they know patterns of words. We'll work on this skill utilizing Foundations.

Writing: Our writing instruction is based on the 6-Traits writing model. The 6-Traits writing model for assessing and teaching writing is made up of six key qualities that define strong writing. The traits are as follows: ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, and conventions. Lessons will focus on specific traits within various units of writing. The units of study will include descriptive, narrative, expository, persuasive, and research.

Please let me know if you have any other questions or concerns. I look forward to a year of learning with you and your child!

Best,
Abby Normandeau