



Third Grade Information

I. OUR GOAL

Our goal is to provide your child with a learning environment that allows each student to work to his or her greatest potential. A positive atmosphere provides the proper environment in which a trusting rapport with your child can be attained and learning can be facilitated.

II. SCHOOL RULES

MEADOW PARK STUDENTS AGREE TO "FOLLOW THE ROPES"...

...Respect Oneself, Property, Each other, School

Please refer to the blue Meadow Park Handbook, especially items such as "parent wait areas", 7:55am arrival time, 8:10am start time for all students and 2:04pm dismissal for primary students. Students must go directly home and may not wait for older siblings.

III. ABSENCES/TARDIES

Students will be required to make up all major assignments when absences do occur. Also, a district wide policy is in place for tardies. You will be notified if this becomes an area of concern.

Please be sure to call the school's 24 attendance line at (949)936-5901 by 9:00am when your child is absent. If you would like your child's missed assignments for the day, please contact the main office, (949)936-5900 by 10:00am. We will do our best to have the work ready in the office by the end of the school day. Please note that an Independent Study Contract is required for an absence of 5 or more days.

IV. HOME-SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

An effective school program relies on a strong communication system between parents and the teacher. Report cards are given out three times per year and if needed, a progress report will be sent home between each report card. Each teacher has a voice mail and an email address. Please feel free to call us after school, e-mail us, or send a note if there are any problems or if you have any good news to share.

V. HOMEWORK

Organization is very important at this stage of your child's education. Homework helps to establish a pattern of self-discipline. This year, each third grader will be using their **Homework Planners** to record each night's written homework assignments.

Student Home-Reading will be recorded by the **minutes** they read each

night. They will record the title and minutes on their Reading Log along with a summary about what they read. Please assist your child in this area by initialing the reading log. Students are to read **20-30 minutes** each school night at their independent reading level. Weekend reading may also be added to their log.

VI. GRADING/REPORT CARDS

Several ways in which a paper may be graded include:

(1) Percentages, (2) Subjective comments, (3) Letter Grades, (4) Rubrics. Students may also be involved in correcting some of their own work which develops proofreading skills and provides timely feedback.

VII. CURRICULUM

It is our philosophy to structure teaching to meet the needs of each individual student as well as to address our California state standards.

Integrated Language Arts:

Our literature program integrates reading, writing, listening, and speaking. As the year progresses, students will be working in RTI groups. Writing occurs across the curriculum. It fosters thinking skills as students transform thought into well formulated paragraphs.

Math:

The state standards have raised student expectancies at all grade levels. Fluency (speed and accuracy) in the basic facts of addition, subtraction and multiplication **must** be mastered in third grade. The concept of multiplication is developed further, and mastery of facts is required. Division will be introduced as well. **In class,** we emphasize **process** with a strong focus on problem solving strategies, word problems, mental math, real life math, estimation, and use of manipulatives. **We encourage you to assist your child at home with speed and mastery of all basic facts.**

Spelling:

Student **awareness** of spelling errors is a target area. Students circle words they are unsure of to foster proofreading skills. Spellcheckers and dictionaries can be used to enable your child to correct their own work. Try to let **them** find their mistakes! Let them know spelling always counts. Personal Word Quizzes (PWQ) will be given at home on a weekly basis, in addition to our bi-weekly spelling tests given in class.

Social Studies:

Our main focus in third grade will be world and local geography, Native Americans, the History of Irvine, and government. The students will experience "reading to learn" as we instruct and test using our Social Studies books.

Science/P.E./Health:

Students will learn about structures of life by observing live crayfish, matter and energy, the sun and its family. Students will also learn the importance of fitness, hygiene and nutrition.

Handwriting:

We will introduce cursive writing. Correct formation of letters and neatness are emphasized in our handwriting program. Some students in third grade may have challenges with fine motor development. Cursive writing actually aids in furthering this development. Please give lots of positive encouragement to your child's efforts.

Special Programs:

- Weekly library time for book checkout
- Computer Labs to extend practice in the use of keyboarding, Microsoft Word, Power Point, and Internet research
- Music twice per month with a district specialist
- Otis-Lennon GATE testing is offered by the district, for a fee, to all third grade students. All families of third grade students will receive more information in the mail. GATE identification is determined by a score of 95th percentile or above. Scores are received in February. Third Grade CST scores can also determine GATE identification. Scores are received in the summer.

VIII. WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

Volunteering for school activities is **always** appreciated within the classroom, at home, or in ASSETS. Sign ups are ongoing throughout the year. If you are a new volunteer to the district, a form must be completed and processed before you can work in the classroom.

You can also make sure that your child gets plenty of rest on school nights and a good high protein breakfast before coming to school. Healthy snacks at recess are encouraged, since lunch isn't until 11:55 a.m. All of us working together will make this a very successful school year. Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

The Third Grade Team