WELCOME TO MS. DODSON’S

THIRD GRADE CLASS!!!

*“Every child deserves a champion: an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection, and insists they become the best* ***they*** *can possibly be.” – Rita Pierson*

Welcome to our class! I am so beyond excited to be a part of your family’s life this year!

We are going to have a great year in third grade, and the best way to start our year is to get to know the basic procedures!

1. School begins promptly at 9:15am. Students may enter the building as early as 8:45 to begin preparing for the day. I highly recommend your child gets here early enough to unpack their backpack and begin morning procedures.
2. I would like to call your attention to the importance of regular school attendance throughout the year. This can make the difference between satisfactory and below - average academic performance. Do, however, keep sick children at home until they are well enough to spend the whole day in the classroom. The first day a child returns to school after any absence, they should bring a written excuse. Your child will also be responsible for making up any missed assignments.
3. So that you may keep up with your child’s progress, I will send home graded work each week. When your child brings home the work, please remove the graded papers (sign and return, if indicated) and return it the next school day. Please review and discuss your child’s graded work with them. Please keep in mind that your child does many daily assignments in journals (reading, writing, science, word study, etc.) which remain in school. Please note that some assignments are intended for practice and will not receive a numeric grade. “Quality” is a word your child will hear frequently in third grade. The emphasis this year is on quality work, not quick work (works that exhibits minimal effort). There is an increased level of expectation, and it is very important for students to rise to the new standards.
4. In our classroom we are going to use class dojo to help encourage good behavior and decision making. When students reach a certain number of points they will be able to pick a prize or save their points for a different prize. If the student is not making good choices they will lose dojo points and if their behavior continues they will fill out a reflection form and it will need to be signed by a parent and returned to school.
5. Each day, the students will record their homework for the day in their planner. This will begin to teach the students the importance of responsibility, organization, and record keeping. The planner must be **initialed** nightly by a parent. Each student will be expected to assume the following responsibilities with regard to the planner:
* Record accurately, completely and legibly all assignments.
* Ask a parent/guardian to look at the planner, review it, and initial it each day.

According to Wake County Policy, third graders should work on homework for 50 minutes nightly, including completing 20 minutes of reading. Generally, each night, the children will complete a reading response and a math activity. They may also have an on-going project to work on at home. Homework is not optional and should be monitored by you for accuracy and completion.

1. In the beginning of the year, you will be asked how your child gets to and from school daily. If there are any changes in these arrangements, temporary or permanent, please let me know as soon as possible in writing. Also, please inform me of any changes to phone numbers (work and/or home).

1. In order to be prepared and ready to start our day, my time (between 8:45 and 9:15 a.m.) will be spent greeting and assisting my students. Unfortunately, it will not be a time in which I will be able to conference. However, should you wish to schedule a conference, please let me know and we will set up a time to meet.
2. Throughout the year, I will be working closely with the other third grade teachers, media and arts specialists, and curriculum specialists to provide a rigorous and relevant education for your child, striving to meet each child’s personal educational needs. As parents, you are crucial members of this team, as well. Communication is very important. I will send home a newsletter every Monday by email that will inform you of upcoming lessons/activities in our classroom. If you do not have access to email, please let me know, and I will send home a copy of the newsletter with your child. Please visit the Alston Ridge website for general information and supply lists. For information regarding Single Subject Acceleration, click on “Events and Information” and scroll to the bottom of the page.
3. We will have time for a snack each day. I ask that your child bring a healthy snack each day.

Again, I welcome your family to our third grade class! It will be a fantastic year, but please never hesitate to contact me with questions, comments, or concerns. I will tell your children many times this year that the only thing I expect of them is to do THEIR VERY BEST. Everyone’s best may look different and that’s okay, but I will always be proud of them if they are doing their very best. Third grade can be a bit of a transition, but together, as a team, we can all make it through.

Let’s do this!

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