



**3rd Grade Curriculum Conference
September 2012**

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Reading Workshop:

We are following Columbia University's Teachers College Reading and Writing Project workshop method. The format of the reading workshop consists of a mini-lesson followed by independent practice and student-teacher conferences, a read aloud, and word work. Students have daily reading time in school where the class learns various skills, strategies, and habits of good readers and then students have independent reading time where they practice these skills. Homework is an important extension of these skills and therefore students should be reading daily. Students borrow books from the classroom library on a regular basis and it is these books that they should be using for their reading homework. Sometimes there will be writing assignments related to reading. Please make sure students always bring the books back to school so that they are prepared for the next lesson. They should also be completing a reading log of their in-school and at-home reading.

Word Work:

Word work includes all spelling, phonics, and grammar work. Our spelling work comes from the Words Their Way program, and consists of using spelling patterns and rhymes. To assist students in improving their grammatical skills we will use the Simple Solutions program. Spelling/Grammar homework is assigned nightly. Spelling and grammar quizzes will be given on Fridays.

Writing Workshop:

The writing workshop follows the same format as the reading workshop. Students are taught a skill in a minilesson; where they have a chance to immediately try the skill, followed by independent work time. During independent work time students have conferences with the teacher and sometimes with their peers. Writers' workshop class work is almost always an ongoing project; therefore it is important that students are always prepared with their notebooks. Each writing project lasts about 4 weeks. At the end of each writing unit the class will have a writing celebration. Parents are welcome to writing celebrations. In terms of the writing notebook, do not worry if there are mistakes in spelling, grammar, or punctuation. However, students should not ignore these completely. As students become more fluent writers, we will be improving and mastering these skills.

Social Studies:

The third grade social studies curriculum consists of studying communities around the world. During our studies students will complete various reading, mapping, writing, art, and music projects. There may be an extended project for a unit, and plenty of notice and information will be given out in advance. The units include:

- World Geography and Culture, Africa, Asia, Europe, and South America

Science:

The science curriculum is broken down into three areas: Life Science, Physical Science, and Earth Science. Lessons will center on: Matter, Energy, Simple Machines, Plant and Animal Adaptations. The Science Curriculum is reinforced through lab experiments inside the classroom.

Mathematics:

We are using the Everyday Mathematics Program this year. In the classroom we will use flexible groupings, whole class, and individual instruction. Students will have a variety of manipulatives to use and will discover that there are multiple routes to get the answer to any given math problem. The units are as follows:

- Routines, Review, and Assessment
- Adding and Subtracting Whole Numbers
- Linear Measures and Area
- Multiplication and Division (Part One)
- Place Value in Whole Numbers and Decimals
- Geometry
- Multiplication and Division (Part Two)
- Fractions
- Multiplication and Division (Part Three)
- Measurement and Data
- Probability

Students will receive reinforcement, practice and enrichment through homework. Homework will be given every night (excluding weekends and during the extended holidays, unless in preparation for a test.) In order to facilitate the students' learning all homework should be done on time. Please see the homework policy below. Tests will be given after each unit. Tests will be graded as follows:

100% to 95% = Level 4 (Exceeding the standards)

94% to 80% = Level 3 (Meeting the standards)

79% to 65% = Level 2 (Approaching the standards)

Below 65% = Level 1 (Below the standards)

Homework:

All homework is expected to be completed in full and on time. Any missing or incomplete work must be submitted the next day, and no later than the end of the week. Homework that is consistently missing or late will require an in-school conference between teacher, student, and parent. Missing work makes it difficult for your child to master necessary skills and meet the required standards.

Student Lateness/Absences:

Please make sure your child gets to school on time. School begins at 8:40 am and instruction begins right away. Lateness takes away from your child's (and the class's) learning. **All absences require a note, from the parent or the doctor, regardless of the cause of absence. All extended absences require a medical note.**

New York State Test Dates:

English Language Arts: April 16th, 17th and 18th

Mathematics: April 24th, 25th and 26th