**Things to know about Mrs. Hannah’s 3rd grade class**

**I am so very excited to be your 3rd grade teacher! It is going to be a fantastic year! We will learn so many wonderful and exciting things together!**

**Contact Information**

 If you need to contact me the best ways are through a note or email. My email address is hhannah@bcbe.org, it can also be found on my website <http://hmhannah.weebly.com/>. Parents and students can visit my website to view: spelling words, school calendar, weekly newsletter, what we are learning, and educational links to helpful websites.

**Class Newsletter/Weekly Email**

* Weekly Newsletter goes home every Friday and should stay in the front of your child’s binder. The newsletter will also be posted on my website and emailed to the parent address I am provided with.
* I send an email at least once a week (sometimes more if I think of something valuable for you to know that week). The emails will go to the address provided on the student information sheet.

**Take Home Folders**

* Handouts from the office and homework handouts will be sent home in the take home folders daily. Those should be returned to school the following day.
* Parent contact (notes)
* Graded papers will go home every Tuesday/Wednesday. If there is a change in this day, I will let you know ahead of time. They should be returned signed by the end of the week.

**Classwork Folder**

* Morning Work: Handwriting/ journal writing, (Daily Math, and Daily Geography should be turned in daily)
* Classwork - basically most everything is kept here

**Lunch/Snack Money:** Lunch money can be paid online at myschoolbucks.com. If you wish to send it in, please send it in an envelope with the child’s name on it. Students can visit the snack bar with money you send from home. We have special snacks most Friday’s (Rita’s Ice, Smoothie King, PTO Snack, etc.) and this will be stated on the weekly newsletter.

**Water Consumption:** I permit my students to bring a water bottle to school to keep on their desks during the day. **Plain water is the only beverage permitted, and the bottle must have a secure lid**. Reusable water bottles should be taken home daily to be cleaned.

**Attendance & Illnesses:** Please send a written note whenever your child is absent. **Excused** absences include illness and doctor’s appointments. **Unexcused** absences include out-of-town trips, missing the bus, and family vacations. Please be aware that Mr. Doherty can allow up to 3 days of administrative leave. This leave must be approved by Mr. Doherty 2 weeks prior to your child being absent. Classwork missed due to absences will need to be completed when the student returns during our snack time. The student will be accountable for making this work up. If you know ahead of time that your child will be absent, please let me know so that I can gather any work to send with the child.

**Class Expectations and Policies**

Establishing good classroom discipline is essential to each child’s success, confidence and well-being. Every child should feel that the classroom environment is safe and secure; free from all threats of physical or emotional harm. In addition, it is important that each child learn to develop self-discipline and good work habits, to resolve conflicts peacefully, and to think independently. For these reasons, I have the students collaborate to create the classroom norms they feel are necessary and consequences to go with the rules. I encourage students to take responsibility and own it in the choices they make.

To promote self-worth and a community, our grade three classroom will focus on positive behaviors with lots of positive reinforcement. Praising students when they have contributed positively to the classroom environment is also a disciplinary 'tactic'.  Students need recognition not only for positive reinforcement but for building self-esteem and self-worth.   All students will receive praise when it is appropriate; good behavior is always worth encouraging and taking notice.

**Conduct**: **Clip Chart**

* Daily Progress (also reading log)– kept in Take Home Folder
* Parent signs daily
* Conduct grades will be taken based on where students land on the clip chart daily. If students stayed on or above “Ready to Learn” they will receive a G for the week. If their clip stayed below “Ready to Learn” they will receive an S, N, or U (depending on the severity of the choices made).

Students will start each day with their clip on “Ready to Learn”. If classroom norms are broken, they will be asked to move a clip down. The first move is a warning. The second move will result in the “Teacher’s Choice” of consequences (snack/lunch detention, sitting out during an activity, or other consequence students thought of at beginning of the year). The third move will result in parent contact and possibly an office referral.

Students may also be able to move their clip up for good choices. If students show exceptional behavior they may move a clip up to “Good Day”, “Great Day”, or “Super Student”. Each time a student moves his/her clip up they will earn a ticket that they can use to make classroom store purchases. Prizes will cost from 5-30 tickets. Students will get choose when and how to spend their earned tickets. Students will also have the opportunity to earn jewels, silver clips, and gold clips- all things that they can share with you as we discuss them. ☺

# **Cooperative Learning**

I wholeheartedly believe in cooperative learning in the classroom. Students are placed in mixed ability groups so that they may help each other during the learning process. Research has shown that all students do better when they are allowed to discuss and defend their ideas as they learn. Working in small groups also helps students learn valuable social skills they will need throughout life. Parents are often concerned about grades in the cooperative learning classroom. Don’t worry! All grades come from individual assignments and tests. No student's grade will be raised or lowered based on the performance of others in the group. If you ever have any questions or concerns I will be happy to discuss those with you.

**Curriculum/Learning**

In third grade we have fun, but it is a huge transition year. Many of their assignments will change from what was seen in second grade.

* **Reading:** we use Reading Street as our main reading curriculum. We will cover the 3rd grade standards across curriculum using a variety of resources. There will be a reading test every Friday. The test will be composed of reading passages and questions to answer using that passage. The questions will reflect the skills we have worked on that week and previous weeks.
* **Science:** we use STEMscopes. Grades come from activities, video quizzes, and unit tests
* **Social Studies:** we use the Studies Weekly newspaper. This curriculum can also be accessed online at [www.studiesweekly.com](http://www.studiesweekly.com) Tests are on Thursday’s.
* **Math:** we are using Go Math. Grades from Math will come from: Mid-Chapter Checkpoints, Chapter Tests, and Multiplication Fact Quiz on Thursday (we will have 2 fact grades a quarter. Each week’s quiz grade will be averaged together to make these grades). Once students have been tested on a math skill, it becomes “fair game” and will be reviewed on tests throughout the year.
* **Spelling:** students may choose how to study their spelling words for the week. I have activities listed on our class website. The weekly spelling pattern will be listed on the class newsletter as well as on the class website each week. Weekly grade will be on Friday- assessing the skill for the week, not just the ability to spell a word correctly.
* **Grammar/English:** We will have a weekly skill focus for grammar. Grammar skills will be seen in their writing. Grades will come from their published work, worksheets on grammar, and their process of writing.

**Homework:** I believe that homework is necessary for practicing skills that have been learned or for enriching the classroom experience. On the other hand, I don’t believe in overloading students with busywork! In some cases, homework is simply classwork that was not finished. I try to give ample time in class for the completion of assignments, but some students work more slowly and must finish at home.

In order to help students get their homework assignments done, students should take it home in their Take-Home folder. Students are responsible for placing homework assignments in their folder. After they complete an assignment, they should place it in the pocket/folder and return the next day.

* I expect all homework and classwork to be turned in on time- the following day unless stated otherwise. Students will not be allowed to call home if they forget their work. Students should pack their book bags at night with all the materials needed for the next day. Organization is the key to success!
* Homework Club: All students will begin each month in the “Homework Club”. They are taken out of the club when they do not return the nightly homework. Students who stay in the club all month will earn a ‘free’ spin from the prize wheel (no homework pass, shoes off in class, bring a share item, etc.) and a certificate.
* Some homework to expect: Spelling sheet/assignments, Math sheet, multiplication facts, and reading log. These may not happen every night, they are just the more typical types that you will see.
* Reading Logs- Students who complete the reading log each week/set goal will receive a Golden Ticket. This ticket will be good for Fun Friday in class. Students who do not earn the Golden Ticket will spend the Fun Friday time reading or completing other classwork.

I believe that you, the parent, are a huge part of the classroom! I encourage parent/ teacher communication and I am excited to get to know each of you as well as your child! Please do not hesitate to email me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Haylee Hannah