

Mrs. Balinbin

3rd Grade Classroom Handbook

2019-2020

--Welcome--



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Classroom Expectations

In our classroom, we follow the 6 P's: prompt, prepared, positive, polite, productive, and patient.

- Prompt**: be on time (to school, to line up, location after transitions), follow directions quickly
- Prepared**: be ready for the day, think ahead
- Positive**: believe you can, keep going even when it's hard
- Polite**: be kind, think before you speak and act
- Productive**: use time wisely, show urgency
- Patient**: wait your turn, listen when others speak

These expectations are posted in our classroom and will be referred to throughout the day. At the end of each day, students individually assess their behavior and record on a daily tracking sheet. I review and add notes to each student's sheet, as needed. Students will use the following scale to assess their behavior:

1. Falls Below Expectations – I need to work on following directions. I am not giving my best effort. Most of my work is incomplete.
2. Approaches Expectations – I follow the rules sometimes. I give my best effort once in awhile. Some work is done on time.
3. **Meets Expectations – I follow the rules. I give my best effort. My work is completed on time.**
4. Exceeds Expectations – I am a role model. My effort goes above and beyond. My work is completed on time.

Tracking sheets will be sent home each month. Parents will be notified on a need-be basis.

**Note: A 3 is the goal! And this is what students will be earning most days. A 2 is great, too. It shows honesty and room for improvement. A 4 is rare and will be celebrated! It shows a student really worked hard.

Behavior/Reward System

Class Reward:

We have a pickle jar on display! When our class receives a compliment, a pickle is added to the jar. When the jar is full, we get to PICK-le a fun class treat or activity! The jar is then emptied and we work to fill it back up again.

Student Reward:

Students have the opportunity to earn **coupons** throughout the day. Students can earn coupons for *kind behavior, making good choices, and being positive*. Once a student has earned TEN coupons, they can trade the coupons for a trip to the Balinbin Store!

Student Behavior:

We use a “6 P” Expectation and Evaluation System. Read “*Classroom Expectations*” page for more details.

Student Consequences:

This will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Consequences look different for each child and can range from the loss of a privilege, removal from an activity, or a trip to the office. If there are consistent behaviors happening, home will be notified.

Communication

E-mail is the most efficient way to communicate with me throughout the year! I am happy to answer any questions, concerns, or set up an appointment to discuss any information that will help to ensure your child will have a successful year.

Absent? Sick? Going on a trip? Let me know! I can provide resources or classwork if appropriate!

I have classroom information and additional resources available on our 3rd grade **website** (**3rdgrade.smsbellevue.org**), and I will continue to update it throughout the year to keep you informed.

Each Monday I will send out a **weekly email** with classroom updates, important dates, and a general check-in with how our class is doing week-to-week. Please keep an eye out for this!

If your child needs a **homework extension** due to a busy week or family happenings, please just let me know!

Grading & Student Mail

What gets graded?

- Tests and major projects
- Day-to-day assignments are in workbooks and interactive notebooks. These are checked more informally and in-the-moment as I work with students. These are used more for my knowledge to see how students are understanding our curriculum.

How do I know how my child is doing?

- Homework! All homework assignments directly correlate with what we're doing in class. Sit with your child during homework time and see how it's going!
- The tests and major projects get sent home after I grade them.
- Ask your child! See how he/she feels about classwork.
- Email me! I can answer any questions you have about your child's progress.

What papers should I expect to come home?

Tests and major projects, games and day-to-day activities, homework, letters to parents, permission slips and Thursday packets.

What if my student's work says "FINISH" or it comes home incomplete?

No worries! I have all the information I need. It could be incomplete because we only did part as a class, it could be student pace, or it could be that it was a bonus activity and we ran out of time. If it says FINISH, that was a note for your child throughout the week. If they didn't get to it by Friday, it gets sent home. **This is not meant to be completed at home.** However, it is a good way for you to see how your child did that week.

Homework

All **Math** and **Reading** homework comes from your child's Walk-to-Math/Reading teacher.

We have a **yellow** weekly homework folder that goes **home on Monday** and **is due on Friday**. If your child needs an extension due to a busy week or family happenings, please just let me know!

All homework should be practice of content that was already taught in class. Students should be able to independently do their homework; however, I do ask that parents review the homework packet with their student.

If your child's homework is *consistently* too difficult, please let me know and I will adjust accordingly!

In the spring, we will be transitioning from weekly homework to nightly homework to prepare students for fourth grade.

Homework will always be posted on our 3rd grade **website (3rdgrade.smsbellevue.org)**.

Typical Homework:

•**Math**

- Math facts
- Word Problems
- Computation

•**Reading**

- Grammar
- Spelling
- Comprehension

Birthdays

I welcome a small celebration of your child's special day in our classroom. Birthday celebrations typically happen at 2:30 in the afternoon. If your child would like to share a snack* with the class, please let me know in advance so we can be cleaned up and ready to celebrate!

***Our 3rd grade celebration is **small**, but joyous. The birthday student gets to pick a friend or two to help pass out treats. We sing Happy Birthday, the birthday student gets to take the special bite, and then we watch a short show while the students are eating.*

If your child's birthday falls on a non-school day or during the summer, we can arrange a day throughout the year to celebrate!

If you are going to send birthday party invitations to school to pass out, please remember to invite all students in the classroom, or all of the boys/girls. If you have another plan, please do not send invitations to school and remind your child not to discuss the party at school.

**Healthy treats are encouraged: granola bars, popcorn, fruit/vegetables, breads/pastries, fruit snacks, etc.*

Snack Policy

We have a short snack time each morning in the classroom at 10:15 a.m., right after our morning recess. I ask that students eat *healthy* snacks during this time!

Please make sure all snacks are **NUT-FREE**, as we have a nut-free classroom. Your child may eat nuts in the lunch room, but I ask that all snacks be free from nuts.

Your child is encouraged to bring a water bottle that they will be able to refill and can keep in the classroom throughout the week.

Ways to Help

There are plenty of ways you can help your child at home and at school!

Help your child at home:

1. Help him/her practice independence and responsibility! This can look like putting homework in their own backpack, packing their own lunch, navigating the carpool line, gathering own materials for homework/project/recipe/traveling, or grabbing items at the store. All of these are great ways for your child to build self-confidence and learn independence. Do what works for your family!

Help your child at school:

1. Purchase materials for the classroom from the Amazon wish list (link found on classroom website)
2. Donate funds to ClassFund through TeachersPayTeachers, a resource for the teacher to buy units, assessments, assignments, games, etc for the class
3. Drive on our Field Trips!
4. Donate supplies or snacks for parties or celebrations (we have a Halloween party and a couple other small celebrations throughout the year)

Third Grade Curriculum

Language Arts:

To best support our K-5 students at SMS, our Walk-to-Read/Math program is designed to allow students to move fluidly throughout the year between Reading and Math groups taught by various teachers. This will help teachers reach students best and provide them individually with the skills they need at their level. We will be using the STAR Assessment Program to help us, as a staff, make decisions regarding Reading and Math groupings.

In Reading, we will be reading selections from the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt *Journeys* curriculum. We will be focusing on comprehension skills (predicting, inferring, main idea and details, major themes, retelling/summarizing), fluency, self-monitoring strategies, writing skills, vocabulary, spelling, and extending our reading skills to other subjects. Toward the end of the year, we will read 1-2 novels as a class.

For Spelling we will be using the spelling list within our reading curriculum. Students will be assessed on their spelling both in formal assessments (tests) as well as informal assessments (everyday writing).

Writing is a part of our every day routine. We constantly practice complete sentences, capitalization and punctuation, correct spelling, and elaborative writing. Formally, we will be learning how to write a narrative paper, opinion paper, and a research paper. Throughout the year students will be practicing cursive handwriting.

Math:

We use the Math Connects program for 3rd grade. Students will work from a workbook, as well as use an interactive notebook to take notes and practice concepts. We play a lot of games to solidify concepts and have additional handouts. This year we will cover place value, multiplication and division, geometric figures, measurement, and fractions and decimals to name a few; however, our main focus will be on multiplication and division. As we near these two major topics, as much practice at home of the facts will best prepare your child for fourth grade math.

Third Grade Curriculum

Social Studies:

Our overall Social Studies theme is Community, focusing within the United States. We will be taking a look at community within geographic areas, America's early communities, community change over time, community government, economic choices, and people and culture. Our two main Social Studies projects are Market Day and a state report.

Science:

We will be using Foss Kits and a Carolina Biological Kit for science. Students will learn how to record data, observe, make connections, and work on description. Our 4 main units are

- Sun, Moon, and Stars (outdoor observations of the Night Sky during day and night)
- Water (explore the properties, changes, and uses of water)
- Weather and Climate Patterns (impact on people and the environment)
- Life Science (organisms, ecosystems, habitats, and heredity)

Religion:

The *Blest Are We – Faith in Action* program goes through four major themes: The Church is One, The Church is Holy, The Church is Catholic, and The Church is Apostolic, We will also learn how the Church has a mission to the world.

Throughout the Liturgical Year, will focus on the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter.

There are two prayers that students need to learn this year – *The Apostles' Creed* and *Come Holy Spirit*. Students should feel comfortable communally reciting *The Nicene Creed*.

Prayers

The following are prayers that your child will learn and be tested on throughout the year. We will practice these prayers at school, but extra practice at home is greatly appreciated!

Prayers to know by 3RD

Grade:

1. Sign of the Cross
2. Prayer Before Meals
3. Hail Mary
4. Our Father
5. Glory Be

Come Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations. Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,

and in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;

on the third day
he rose again from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of
God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting Amen.

Prayers

The Nicene Creed (to be recited communally, please practice reading with your child)

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was
incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and
became man.

For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was
buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of
the Father.

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and
the Son
who with the Father and the Son
is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the
Prophets.

I believe in one holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the
forgiveness of sins and I look
forward
to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Schedule

**Coming
Soon!**

Kid-Friendly Websites

Here is a list of fun websites that you can navigate with your child. My students in the past have really enjoyed them! These are all a great option to help reinforce what we are learning in the classroom, as well as challenge or interest your child beyond the classroom curriculum. Enjoy!

<http://www.kidfriendlysearch.com> has links to multiple web pages, grouped by subject area.

Math

xtramath.org

ixl.com

coolmath.com

Language Arts

http://www.abcya.com/third_grade_computers.htm

kidspell.com

<http://www.supersummary.com/spelling-guide/>

Science

<http://discoverykids.com>

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com>

<http://wonderopolis.org>

Social Studies

<http://kids.usa.gov/social-studies/>

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/kids/>

<http://www.thechildrensmuseum.org/info.asp>

Art

nga.gov/kids/kids.htm

Multiple Subjects

sheppardsoftware.com

funbrain.com

<http://www.neok12.com> (videos about different subjects)

<http://studyjams.scholastic.com/studyjams/index.htm>