

Mrs. Balinbin

3rd Grade Classroom Handbook

2026-2027

Classroom Expectations
Behavior/Reward System
Communication
Grading & Student Mail
Homework
Birthdays/Snack Policy
Ways to Help
Curriculum
Prayers
Schedule

Welcome to Third Grade!



Classroom Expectations

In our classroom, we follow our school SLE's: **Serve, Lead, Love, & Learn.**

- SERVE**: *Think outside of ourselves, give to our community*
- LEAD**: *Act to be an example of goodness*
- LOVE**: *Be kind and caring, love one another*
- LEARN**: *Try and do new things together*

These expectations (with class-generated examples) are posted in our classroom and are referred to throughout the day. Any time tensions arise, or there is a need for reminding, we refer back to the posters.

Each trimester, or as needed, we set goals for ourselves and our classroom around our SLEs.

Behavior/Reward System

Class Reward:

We use a variety of class reward systems for students to work together to earn points. Fill the jar, Teacher vs. Student, Table Points, and Class Tickets, are among some of the ways students work together to earn a reward!

Student Reward:

Students have the opportunity to earn **individual tickets** throughout the day. Students can earn tickets for *kind behavior, making good choices, showing examples of the SLEs, being a first time listener, etc* . Once a student has earned TEN tickets, they can trade their tickets for a trip to the Balinbin Store! I open the store during Fun Friday.

Student Behavior:

In our classroom, we follow our school SLE's: **Serve, Lead, Love, & Learn.**

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, apology notes, a trip to the office, etc. If there are consistent behaviors happening, home will be notified so parents and teachers can work together to create a plan moving forward.

Communication

E-mail is the quickest way to communicate with me throughout the year! I am happy to answer any questions, concerns, or set up an in-person/phone visit 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 Friday I will send out a **weekly email** with a class newsletter (classroom updates, important upcoming dates, what we're learning) and our Week-at-a-Glance for the following week.

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
- Major projects
- Day-to-day assignments that are in workbooks and interactive notebooks. These are checked more informally and in-the-moment as I work with students. These are used for the students and I to check-in with how they are working within our curriculum.

How do I know how my child is doing?

- Homework! All homework assignments directly correlate with what we're doing in class. Check-in 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 scholastic book orders.

What if my student's work 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 based on student pace, or it could be that it was a bonus activity and we ran out of time. Unfinished work that gets sent home **is not meant to be completed at home**. However, it is a good way for you to see how your child did in class that week.

I will make sure all incomplete work needed for grading purposes is completed in class!

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 Friday** and **is due on the following Friday**. If your child needs an extension due to a busy week or family happenings, please just let me know!

I would prefer that students turn in incomplete homework on Friday and get into the routine of bringing it back, turning it in, and communicating with me that they did not have enough time. Rather than them ask for an extension and forget to turn it in altogether.

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!

Homework will always be posted in **Google Classroom** and **attached to the weekly emails**.

Typical Homework:

Math	Reading
•Math facts •Word Problems •Computation •Review Games	•Grammar •Spelling •Comprehension •Writing prompts

Birthdays

I welcome a small celebration of your child's special day in our classroom. Birthday celebrations can happen **any day of the week** and we find a time in our schedule to take a break and celebrate! If your child would like to share a snack with the class, please let me know in advance so we can plan accordingly and be ready to celebrate!

***Our 3rd grade celebration is **small**, but joyous. The birthday student gets to pick a couple friends to help pass out treats. We sing Happy Birthday, the birthday student takes the special bite, and we watch a short show or listen to music 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 that does not include everyone, please remind your child to be mindful of feelings and please do not send invitations to school or discuss the party at school.

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 save their cookies, treats, and candy for lunch time.

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 their homework in their own backpack, packing their own snack and/or 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!
2. Create a school/desk area for your child to be successful! Have a designated area for textbooks, workbooks, folders, and coloring/writing utensils.

Help your child at school:

3. Drive on our Field Trips!
4. Purchase materials for the classroom from the [Amazon wish list](#) (link found on classroom website)
5. Donate funds for the teacher to buy materials and resources for the classroom.
6. 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 various assessments 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 *INTO Reading* 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 1-3 novels as a class.

For Spelling and Vocabulary, we will be using the spelling and vocabulary lists within our reading curriculum. Students will be assessed on their spelling and vocab 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 MyMath 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 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 & Culture. Our three main Social Studies projects are Market Day, Native American Dioramas, and a State Report.

Science:

We will be using Carolina Biological Kits for science. Students will learn how to record data, make careful observations, ask questions, identify patterns, and draw conclusions based on evidence. Our three main units are:

- **Life Science** (organisms, ecosystems, habitats, and heredity)
- **Weather and Climate Patterns** (their impact on people and the environment)
- **Forces and Interactions** (magnets, balance, and forces)

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 will learn this year – *The Apostles' Creed* and *Come Holy Spirit*.

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.

Schedule

3rd Grade Schedule, 2026-2027

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30-8:40	Morn Mtg.	Morn Mtg.	Morn Mtg.	Morn Mtg.	Morn Mtg.
8:45-9:30	Math	Math	Mass 9:00-10:00	Math	Math
9:35-10:00	Handwriting	Typing		Typing	Weekly Write
10-10:15	<i>Recess</i>	<i>Recess</i>	<i>Recess</i>	<i>Recess</i>	<i>Recess</i>
10:15-10:30	<i>Snack</i>	<i>Snack</i>	<i>Snack</i>	<i>Snack</i>	<i>Snack</i>
10:30-11:20	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading
11:25-12:10	Science/SS	STEM	1-5 Math	Religion	CM
12:15-12:40	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
12:40-1:05	<i>Recess</i>	<i>Recess</i>	<i>Recess</i>	<i>Recess</i>	<i>Recess</i>
1:05-1:20	Rest & Read	Rest & Read	Rest & Read	Rest & Read	Rest & Read
1:20-2:05	Tech	Writing	Science/SS	Religion	Science/SS
2:10-2:55	Art	Writing	Music	PE & Wellness	Unfinished Work
3:00	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal