

August 20, 2009

Dear Third Grade Parents,

I am pleased to write this letter and introduce myself as your child's third grade teacher. This will be my fifth year at Good Shepherd. Previously, I taught fifth and sixth grade in Stockton. I look forward to getting to know all of the parents who have children in my classroom this year, and get to know your children and their unique talents and strengths.

Each Monday I will send home a packet in a plastic folder. It will contain the newsletter for the week as well as the homework packet which will be due on Friday. The homework packet will consist of a variety of math, spelling, social studies, and science follow up activities to go along with what is being taught in class that week. I will also be requiring that students read at home in the evening for twenty to twenty-five minutes and record their book titles and the pages that they have read on a weekly reading log.

Multiplication and Division are taught in the third grade. Both concepts require a lot of time practicing and memorizing facts. Your child will need a set of multiplication flash cards for practicing at home. We will start learning about multiplication towards the beginning of the second trimester, but it is recommended that you start practicing with flash cards at home now.

Each Friday we will have a spelling test. We will learn the words in class and have a pretest on Monday. The pretest will be self-corrected so that the student will know which words they need more practice learning. In September we will have three bonus words each week they will be noted on the newsletter.

During, the first week of school we will be spending some time learning about behavior expectations for the classroom. I will also be teaching the students about the procedures that we will have in place in the classroom in order to maintain and optimize the learning environment. We will also be learning our routines such as read aloud and silent reading.

We will have monthly class meetings. The idea of the class meeting is for students to learn to problem solve on their own. We will start the class meeting with a compliment(s) from the compliment jar. The goal is to get students to learn some conflict management skills as well as to create a team environment.

Our first teacher Read-Aloud will be Charlotte's Web. We will start this during the second week. Read-Aloud will occur daily. Students will follow along in their copy of the book. We will use this experience to talk about story elements as well as to learn vocabulary. I will also include reading comprehension activities and addition journal writing about the particular book.

Every week depending on time, I will try some art projects with the students. I also want to get some experiments going during the year for science. We will start with some life science experiments (like planting seeds,) then hypothesize and observe them. The first topic we will cover in social studies is "Geography and Landscapes."

At this point I am still working on planning the field trips for the year. They will tie into the third grade curriculum. I will let you know when I have more information to share about the year's field trips.

One very important note is in order to save paper and school resources we will be reducing the amount of worksheets the children will use and find other ways to teach and assess the topics. Please check Ren Web for weekly newsletters and announcements. I look forward to having a wonderful year.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Tschirky