

3rd Grade Parent Handbook

WE BELIEVE IN
YOU!!

Atkinson Elementary

218-354-2300

2012-2013

STAFF:

MRS. PEGGY PARKER

MRS. MICHELLE TONSFELDT

MR. RYAN BOMSTAD



A Little About Mrs. Parker . . .

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you how excited I am to have your child in class this year and to give you a little bit of background information about me. I grew up in Rugby, ND. I have taught at Atkinson Elementary for 10 years, and this is my second year to teach 3rd grade. I have a Master's degree in Education. My husband Mitch and I have two grown children – Kelsey is 23 and will be finishing her college degree this year at the University of Minnesota, Mankato. Taylor is 20 and will start his second year at NDSU. (GO BISON!) I enjoy reading, music, sports, shopping, chocolate, and spending time with my family.

In my classroom, I have high expectations for my students. I believe that it is my job to help every student achieve at his/her ability level and to do so in a way that meets his/her needs. I strive to get to know the students' learning styles and to plan activities that cater to their individual needs. I expect every child in my classroom to learn, and I expect every child to behave in a manner that helps create a positive learning environment for other students. My classroom is always open to you. I am here to work with you and do whatever it takes to help your child learn. If you ever have any needs or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

I *LOVE* my job – working with your child on a daily basis while watching him or her grow and learn. I look forward to working together with you to make this a successful year for your child!

Wow!! Your child is now in third grade!! This is definitely a transition year in your child's education. We begin the year by printing in manuscript, and at the end of the year we are writing in cursive. Also, this is the first year that your child will receive letter grades on their tests and report cards. Near the end of the year, we will take the MCA's—Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments, which are required by the state. Your child will definitely work hard this year!! It is our hope that this handbook will help you get acquainted with our third grade program; please keep it handy in case you have any questions throughout the year.

Back to School



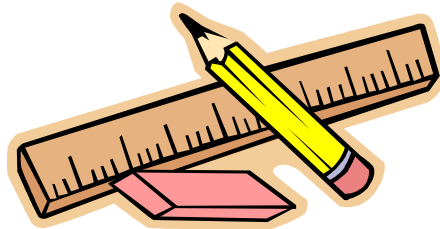


3rd Grade School Supplies



The needed supplies are listed in the elementary handbook. It is difficult to predict how many pencils, glue sticks, etc. your child will use during the year.

We do expect for every child to have all supplies listed. It is imperative that these supplies be replenished throughout the school year.



Lunch/Milk-Juice Break

Our lunch and recess time is 11:45-12:30. In the afternoon we have a ten minute milk/juice break. Remember that these need to be paid for in the office. Also, your child may bring a snack if they wish to. The school's **Healthy Snack List** is in the elementary handbook.



Communication

Homework folders will be sent home on a daily basis. Any notes or other communication you have may also be placed in the folder. **Please check your child's folder each day.** All graded work and school notes/newsletters will be sent home in the folder.

Please feel free to call the office to leave a message for any of us. We will return your call as soon as possible.

(218)354-2300

Ext. Parker(418) Tonsfeldt(433) Bomstad(434)

We encourage anyone who has access to e-mail to contact us at:

pparker@barnesville.k12.mn.us

mtonsfeldt@barnesville.k12.mn.us

rbomstad@barnesville.k12.mn.us

Check out the school web site for the latest school information:

www.barnesville.k12.mn.us

Teacher web sites may be accessed from school site.

Rules & Behavior Policy

Every good classroom is focused around every student learning. In order for this to occur, rules must be established and followed. The third grade discipline plan includes the following rules:

1. Respect others.
2. Listen.
3. Follow directions.
4. Be safe.

In addition to the above rules, there are several items that are not allowed in the third grade classrooms:

- No toys, balls, CD players, Gameboys, I-pods, purses, makeup, etc. brought from home. If your bus driver allows you to have these on the bus, then these items **MUST STAY IN YOUR BACKPACK WHILE YOU ARE AT SCHOOL!**

The third grade teachers will go over our behavior policy regarding refocus slips during the first few days of school.

Cheating & Plagiarism

If your child is caught cheating or plagiarizing (using someone else's work as their own), he or she will be given a 0% on that assignment and the parents will be notified.

Refocus Forms

The third grade classes will be using refocus forms this year as part of their classroom behavior plan. Students earn refocus forms for misbehavior, incomplete homework, or no homework throughout the school day. This includes the classroom, music, gym, recess and lunchroom. When a student misbehaves, he/she will receive a warning and his/her name will get written in a notebook. If the behavior continues, the student will get a check mark by his/her name. If it continues again, the student will receive a refocus form. If a student turns in incomplete homework or turns in no homework, then a refocus form will be given. The missed work must be done during recess to receive full credit. If the assignment is not turned in, then a score of 0 points will be given for the assignment.

After a student has received 5 refocus forms for homework and/or behavior, a parent meeting will be called. After receiving 10 or more refocus forms, the consequence will be at the principal's discretion.

A copy of all refocus forms will be sent home in the homework folder and need to be signed by a parent and returned the next day. If a child receives **less** than 5 refocus forms throughout the year, he/she will earn a citizenship award at the end of the year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's classroom teacher.

Homework Policy

Students will receive an effort grade of 25 points for completing their homework on time. If homework is not completed, students will receive a refocus form and will complete their work during recess. Any homework that is never turned in and not completed during recess will receive 0 points.

Tests

Tests will be given a percentage grade based on the following grading scale:

100-94: A

76-74: C

93-90: A-

73-70: C-

89-87: B+

69-67: D+

86-84: B

66-64: D

83-80: B-

63-60: D-

79-77: C+

59 and below: F

CORE SUBJECTS:

The following subjects are letter-graded (A, B, etc).

Reading: We will have 60 minutes of reading daily. Our reading series is divided into six themes, each of which takes about six weeks to finish. There is a weekly test at the end of each week. There is also a theme test and a writing project at the end of each theme. Usually Fridays are reserved for Leveled Readers or other skill lessons that the teachers feel would be beneficial.

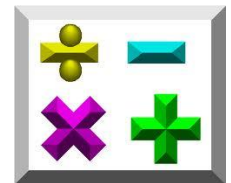


Language Arts: We have English three or four days a week (depending on the chapter). Reading and English are integrated and many times follow the same skills; however, our worksheets and tests are completely separate. Writing is also included in language arts.



A spelling list is sent home every Monday. A practice test is given on Wednesdays, and the final test is given on Fridays. If your child spells every word correctly on Wednesday, he/she does not have to take the test on Friday and is rewarded by having free time outside (inside during bad weather). They also may earn a Spelling Award at the end of the year if they receive a 100 every week on **either** the Wednesday **or** Friday test. There is also a spelling site that your child can go to, to practice their spelling words. It is www.spellingcity.com. After you get to the site, click on **find a list**, type **peggy parker** in box and click on search, click on **peggy parker in blue**, and then click on the **spelling list title (ex. Theme 1 Cliff Hanger 1)**. This site makes it fun for your child to practice their words in many different ways. They also have this app on their iPads.

Math: Our math series is quite challenging! We have 60 minutes of math daily, and we need every minute! Most of the time, we are able to finish the work in class. If there are students who still need more time, the teachers are more than willing to give up part of the noon hour to help them. There is a **Daily Spiral Review** homework sheet which the students are expected to complete and return the next day. We encourage parents to do the homework sheet right along with their student. These sheets are not graded, but the teachers use them as part of the "effort" grade on the report card. **The second part of math homework is practicing their math facts for 10-15 min. with flash cards or on their iPad.** We will have log sheets for the parents to sign off on each night in the back of their homework folder. There are also tests at the end of each chapter. The dates of the tests are announced in the weekly newsletters.



Rotations: We have rotations three days a week (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday). **Science** is taught by Mr. Bomstad, and **Social Studies** is taught by Mrs. Tonsfeldt. Because there is so much material in each textbook, we will not finish the books from beginning to end. Instead, we have picked out the concepts that were not taught in second grade and focus on them. Study guides

will be sent home at least a week before the tests, and the test dates are also announced in the newsletter. The tests, along with any worksheets done during the chapter, will determine the letter grade at the end of each quarter. Effort grades are based on class participation. Cursive, is taught by Mrs. Parker and is not letter-graded. Mrs. Parker will also be doing more writing projects throughout the year. The students are usually very excited to start with cursive and may wish to practice before they actually learn it in class. We do discourage this; if bad habits start, they are harder to correct! We also have a Handwriting Award at our end-of-year Awards Day.

Our rotations will be taught a little different from past years in that we will teach it in blocks. If they have science 1st, then they will have Science for 7 days in a row. The same will happen with Social Studies and Handwriting. After the 7 days then they will switch and go to a different rotation. We have decided to do this because they will have 45 min. of instruction each day versus 20 min. and their tests will not end up on the same days.

RtI (Response to Intervention): For 30 minutes each day, the students will go to their RtI groups. These groups are very flexible, and the students may change groups and/or teachers often.

Accelerated Reader

At the beginning of the year, the students will take the STAR test that will determine their reading level range for Accelerated Reader. Based on the results of the STAR test, the students will know which books are on their reading comprehension level. Students may read and take tests on books outside of their reading levels. It is our hope that this will encourage students to READ ---- whatever it is that they love to read! Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Tonsfeldt, and Mr. Bomstad will monitor the students to ensure that they do not check out books that are far too easy or far too difficult for them to read.

The students will work toward a goal of so many points per quarter as determined by their teacher. Of course, students are encouraged to take as many tests as they wish in order to accumulate Accelerated Reader points.

Your child will receive a reward at the end of each quarter and at the end of the year for obtaining their AR goals.

We are also requiring that your child AR reads at least 20 minutes a day for homework. There will be a log for the parents to fill out each night.

If you or your child has any questions regarding the reading level or the AR program, you may contact their teacher.

Accelerated Math

The Accelerated Math program works in a similar manner to AR, in that students take a STAR Math test at the beginning of the year in order to determine the skill level at which they are currently working. Unlike AR, the Accelerated Math program requires students to work toward earning objectives rather than points. The Accelerated Math program will be an integral part of the third grade Math curriculum, and therefore students will not have a specific goal to work toward.

NON-CORE SUBJECTS: The non-core subjects are not letter-graded, but instead are given an

O, S, N, or I.

Art: once a week on Mondays



:once a week on Fridays

Computer: at least once a week to the lab or using the mini-lab and working daily on their iPads.

Typing Pal: (keyboarding): for several weeks throughout the year.

Spanish: This year we are very fortunate to have the high school Spanish teacher come to third grade. The students will have Spanish 45 minutes every third day during the fourth quarter. We will need to change our schedule for rotations a bit during that time.

And, of course we have phy.ed. and music!!

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Birthdays: Birthdays can be celebrated in the homeroom if your child wishes to. If the birthday is during the summer, he/she can celebrate a half-birthday (count six months ahead of the real one). Treats can also be sent, keeping in mind the list of healthy snacks that is in the handbook.



Book Orders: These will be sent out every other month and are entirely optional.

Parties: We have three parties a year. Each homeroom is responsible for one party. Mr. Tonsfeldt's room will have the Halloween party, Mrs. Parker's room will have the Christmas party, and Mr. Bomstad's room will have the Valentine's party. Each student will be assessed \$5.00 at the time of the party to pay for the food and supplies. A letter will be sent home with details about two weeks before each party.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU TO
MAKE SURE THAT YOUR CHILD HAS A HAPPY
AND SUCCESSFUL YEAR IN THIRD GRADE!!**



Student Information Sheet

Child's Name _____

Lives with _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone/Cell Phone _____

E-mail _____

Mother's Name _____

Place of Employment _____

Daytime Phone _____

Father's Name _____

Place of Employment _____

Daytime Phone _____

Tell me about your child's strengths/special abilities.

Tell me about your child's weaknesses/fears.

Does your child have any concerns about this year?

Tell me anything else I should know!

Any health concerns (ex. Allergies)?

9/4/2012

3rd Grade Contract

I have read, I understand, and I agree to follow all of the policies set forth in the 3rd grade handbook. If I have any questions or concerns at any time, I will contact my child's classroom teacher.

X _____

Student Signature

Date

X _____

Parent Signature

Date