

# Third Grade Parent Handbook 2010-2011



Mrs. Diana Baumgartner  
Mrs. Ellen Berns  
Mrs. Joanne Forth  
Mr. Karl Thompson

Dear Parents,

We welcome your child to third grade at Coal Creek and look forward to working with you and your child to have a fun and rewarding learning experience this year. 😊 We hope that the information in this packet is helpful in understanding the specifics of our third grade expectations and curriculum and in helping your child to have a successful year with us.

### **Important Phone Numbers:**

Attendance: 720-561-4502

Main Office: 720-561-4500

Diana Baumgartner: 720-561-4513

Ellen Berns: 720-561-4514

Joanne Forth: 720-561-4525

Karl Thompson: 720-561-4559

### **Email**

Each teacher can be reached by email using the address:  
first name.last name@bvsd.org

### **Websites**

Each teacher has a website, which can be accessed from the third grade homepage. On these, you will find additional information, important dates, and links to helpful websites. Each month, we will post (on the third grade website) a newsletter with announcements, curriculum, and important dates to remember. Please note that our daily schedules are on the third grade page as well. Thank you for checking these often.

### **Our Goal**

Our goal in third grade is to empower and motivate our students toward becoming independent learners. At this age, they are capable of taking over responsibility for homework and class assignments as well as developing strong work habits and understanding the importance of being organized.

What's exciting for anyone about learning is the chance to share knowledge with others. As the year progresses, our third graders "blossom" in their ability to communicate their thoughts, both verbally and in writing. We believe an invaluable part of every student's understanding of concepts and ideas involves many opportunities to teach and expand upon their individual strategies with their peers in class.

The enthusiasm and resulting motivation are contagious!

### **Student Expectations**

Expectations for third graders are that they honor Coal Creek's positive behavior system in the classroom and on the playground. The students know the acronym:

R- responsibility

O- ownership

C- cooperation

K- kindness

S- safety

As a community, we continually strive to reinforce these positive behavioral traits. This carries over to help enforce classroom and school rules as well.

### **Habits of Mind:**

"Habits of Mind" refer to the dispositions and attitudes that help students to solve problems, the answer to which is not readily apparent. They are based on research and observations of the behaviors of "successful" people, and the concept behind the HoM framework is that they can also be modeled and taught at home and school by teachers and parents alike.

Habits of Mind help students to sharpen their thinking skills, so that they are not just randomly guessing or drawing a blank when faced with a challenge, dilemma, or dichotomy in life. They help students to respond to the question: "What is the most INTELLIGENT thing that I can do right now?"

**The sixteen Habits of Mind** include:

Persisting, Managing impulsivity, Listening with empathy and understanding, Thinking flexibly, Thinking about your thinking (metacognition), Striving for Accuracy, Questioning and posing problems, Applying past knowledge to new situations, Thinking and communicating with clarity and precision, Gathering data through all senses, Creating, imagining, and innovating, Responding with wonderment and awe, Taking responsible risks, Finding humor, Thinking interdependently, and Remaining open to continuous learning. These are based on the works of Arthur Costa and Bena Kallick.

As teachers, we utilize content and real life applications as a vehicle for talking about the HoM. We call this effort, "infusion," and at Coal Creek, all staff are encouraged to find a variety of opportunities throughout the day to reference a mindful disposition. The children have been hearing these words for years as we have integrated these ideas into our school's vision and practices.

## **General Third Grade Policies:**

### **Homework**

Our goal with homework is to reinforce what has been taught during that week. Equally as important is to instill and reinforce the attribute of responsibility. Each child will receive a homework packet on the first day of the week, and we expect them to be able to complete it mostly on their own. When it is complete, it is helpful for a parent to check it over with his/her child, sign the front, and allow the student the responsible role of making sure it is turned in on time Friday morning.

Occasionally, there will be a sheet of homework that comes home in your child's backpack, either because they may need more time to complete this at home, or it was assigned for extra practice. This type of homework is always due the next day.

### **Friday folders**

These will be sent home each Friday and should be reviewed, signed by a parent, and returned Monday. We will write comments in these as needed (not every week). The preferred method of communication for efficiency is email.

### **Recess**

We send children out to play almost every day, so please dress your child appropriately for the weather. Children may bring balls, and jump ropes, but we do not allow toys in school. These quickly become a distraction and result in hurt feelings when they are broken or lost.

### **Birthdays**

Birthday celebrations are optional. Students may choose to celebrate their birthdays by bringing in treats (individual portions, please) and/or donating a book to the classroom or library. It is helpful to let the teacher know ahead of time when these will be coming in.

### **Transportation**

Be sure your child knows where to go when school gets out. Students need a note to go home with a friend on the bus. Please make after school plans in advance. Children are not permitted to make phone calls for planning purposes, from school.

### **Supplies**

Some supplies do not last all year. Please check with your children from time to time regarding crayons, glue, pencils, scissors, etc. Usually we tend to run short on pencils and markers (especially after winter break).

## **Grading System**

Our grading system is set by BVSD and closely aligned with district standards. Students receive a *progress* grade as well as *academic performance* grades. These are based on class assignments, projects, quizzes, tests, and demonstrations of student's understanding of concepts.

### **Student Progress**

E= Excellent progress

G= Good progress

S= Some progress

N= Not demonstrating progress

### **Academic Progress**

#### **4** Advanced achievement of the standard

Skills and concepts are accomplished *independently* and *consistently*. Products are created that are unique and demonstrate in-depth and critical thinking.

#### **3** Proficient achievement of the standard

Grade level standard; skills and concepts are consistently accomplished with minimal or no assistance; creates products that are of high quality and demonstrate thought.

#### **2** Partial achievement of the standard

Student is performing near grade level; skills and concepts are emerging with practice and with teacher assistance; creates products that need refinement.

#### **1** Does not meet the standard

The student is not making adequate progress toward grade level standards; skills, and concepts need repeated practice and frequent guidance from the teacher; inconsistent quality of related products.

# Third Grade Curriculum

## Language Arts

Taught throughout the year: *Cursive*, conventions of writing (punctuation), parts of speech, 6 Trait writing lessons, and spelling.

### **Trimester 1**

Letter writing  
Fairy tales, tall tales  
Literacy groups  
Animal research

### **Trimester 2**

Native Amer. research  
Legends  
Literacy groups  
CSAP practice

### **Trimester 3**

Literacy groups  
Poetry

## Math

### **Trimester 1**

Probability  
Graphing  
Measurement  
Computation (+, -)  
Place Value  
Number Sense

### **Trimester 2**

Multiplication  
Number sense  
Geometry

### **Trimester 3**

Fractions  
Division  
Decimals

## Social Studies

### **Trimester 1**

Symbols of CO  
Landforms  
Geography  
Native animals  
Ancient People

### **Trimester 2**

Native Americans  
Explorers  
Mountain Men  
Spanish Influence

### **Trimester 3**

Miners  
Ranchers  
Pioneers

## Science

### **Trimester 1**

Scientific Process  
Human Body Systems  
Health

### **Trimester 2**

Matter and Energy  
Health

### **Trimester 3**

Fossils  
Health

