

Third Grade Expectation Night



Dear Parents,

Welcome to your child's third grade classroom at Nelson Prairie Elementary School. I am looking forward to a wonderful year! If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me. I can be reached before or after school at (815) 462-2874 or through e-mail at edeckinga@nlsd122.org.

Each student will be required by the district to keep a daily assignment notebook. Your assistance in asking to see this notebook each evening and checking to see that each assignment is completed will be of great benefit to your child. The majority of assignments should be completed in the time allowed in class, with the exception of nightly math homework and some preparation for tests. Any work that your child did not complete in class may also be assigned as homework. At times, additional activities may be sent home to complete for homework.

Your child's take-home folder will go home each night and will contain any notes/class work to be shared with you. Please check your child's folder each night.

I am looking forward to an exciting and rewarding year with you and your child. Welcome to third grade!

Sincerely, Mrs. Deckinga

Classroom Guidelines Be respectful.

Be responsible.

Be a good listener.

BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE!

CHAMPS We will be using the CHAMPS behavior management system. There is a sheet posted on the front board for each criteria. There is also a magnet on each poster identifying to students the expected behavior.

- C Conversation: Level 0 Silent – Level 4 Outside Voice
- H Help: Identifies students how to ask for help–Raise hand, ask a friend, walk over to teacher
- A Activity: Identifies for students whether the activity is independent, group work, or whole class
- M Movement: Identifies for students whether movement is required for the activity, such as stay seated or moving with permission
- P Participation: Identifies for students what participation is expected for the activity. For example, respectful discussions, focus on tasks and activities, whole body listening, etc.

Positive Reinforcement of Desirable Behaviors

Character Counts and the CHAMPS model will be used to set clear expectations and encourage desirable behaviors.

Classroom Discipline Plan :

- 1. Move to PURPLE: SLAM DUNK! Outstanding Behavior**
- 2. Move to PINK: 3 POINTS! Super Behavior**
- 3. Move to BLUE: BUZZER BEATER! Great Behavior**
- 4. All students start on GREEN daily: ON THE COURT- Good Behavior**
- 5. Move to YELLOW: DOUBLE DRIBBLE-1st warning Be careful**
- 6. Move to ORANGE: CHARGING: 2nd warning Beware**

7. Move to RED: TURN OVER -An "Oops Note" will be sent home regarding behavior. The note should be signed and returned to school the following school day.

If a student receives 2 "Oops Notes" during the school week, the teacher will call home. Students may also have to clip down if disruptive to another teacher.

Any student that prevents others from learning and/or the teacher from teaching will be sent to the office. Your child will document his/her behavior on a calendar. At the bottom of the calendar, your child can write a personal goal for the month. This should be an attainable goal that your child can strive to reach. Your child should also write down what he/she will earn when the goal is reached (movie night, visit the library, sleepover at grandma's house, etc.). The calendar should stay in your child's "take-home" folder for the entire month.

Specials Each day we will have P.E., Music, or Art from 9:30-10. On green days, we will go to music with Miss Bendy or art with Mrs. Kordik. On blue days, our class will have physical education with Mr. Hammond. In addition, on Fridays, we will have library resource time from 2:30-3pm.

Snack Time We will have snack every morning and on half days, too. Please send a nutritional snack with your child each day. We have a few peanut/tree nut allergies in class.

Lunch Students can purchase a lunch or bring a cold lunch from home. Lunches are purchased a month in advance so that the exact number can be ordered, which means that we do not have extra lunches at school.

Newsletter A weekly newsletter will be posted on my classroom web page at the end of each week to inform you of skills that we will be working on and any special activities for the upcoming week. A weekly

newsletter **will not** be sent home, so please remember to check my web page weekly. If you wish to receive a hard copy of the weekly newsletter please let me know, and I will send it home with your child.

Money When you send money to school, please place it in an envelope that is clearly labeled with your child's name, classroom (Deckinga, room 27), and please be sure to note what the money is for.

Birthdays The New Lenox School District 122 Wellness Committee requests that students refrain from sharing food related birthday treats. These treats will **not** be allowed in the classroom for student birthdays.

Book Orders Scholastic Book Orders will be sent home throughout the year. Orders can be placed online, or you may send your order to school with your child. Checks should be made payable to Scholastic Books.

Grading Scale

B=Beginning D=Developing S=Secure

Homework Policy Homework assignments should be returned to school the following school day. All homework assignments will be placed on the Assignment Board for students to copy into their assignment notebook daily. Parents should review and initial assignment notebooks each day.

Typical Homework

- Reading is expected at least five nights per week for 15 to 20 minutes.
- Spelling and vocabulary lists should be practiced at home.
- Math homework will usually be sent home on Monday through Thursday and is due the next school day.

Third Grade Curriculum Reading/Writing: We will be using the ReadyGEN Pearson reading series which is a rigorous, integrated literacy program that accelerates learning for students by presenting modeled reading with authentic text. Lessons include a Close Reading routine where students will learn how to approach complex texts by citing evidence from the text, exploring key ideas and details, and analyzing text structure. ReadyGEN uses a generative approach to vocabulary instruction where words are taught in clusters, with a focus on key words that are critical to understanding the text. Throughout the year, students will practice informative, narrative, and opinion writing in response to text. ReadyGEN also offers interactive anchor texts, digital publishing tools, and game-based online activities to increase student engagement while building literacy skills. Students are encouraged to be reading every night.

ReadyGEN uses a gradual release of responsibility model. Students write in the modes of Informative, Narrative, and Opinion. Each writing lesson also focuses on one or more grammar, usage, and mechanics conventions.

- I Do: The text or student writing sample is used as a model and springboard for teaching the writing modes and process.
- We Do: Students write with guidance from the teacher and are taught to carefully analyze, synthesize, write to sources, or defend claims.
- You Do: Writing Keystone Checklists occur throughout the module to assess students' ability to write narrative, informative, or opinion pieces as they practice independent writing.

Grammar: We will cover sentence structure, capitalization, punctuation, prefixes, suffixes, homophones, synonyms, antonyms, and contractions.

Spelling/Phonics: We will be using the ReadyGEN spelling/phonics program which focuses on spelling patterns. Students will receive lists that should be practiced nightly. Spelling tests will be given once the words have been introduced and practiced. Students will have opportunities for practice in the classroom that will include: workbook pages, creating sentences, ABC order, word patterns, etc. Nightly practice is highly encouraged.

Math: Our math series is Everyday Mathematics. We will be covering time, number stories, arrays, multiplication, division, fractions, operations/computations, measurement, and geometry through the use of activities, discussions, and games. These skills will be repeated throughout the year. **Students will be expected to memorize multiplication facts.**

Social Studies: Pearson "My World" Social Studies is the series our district is currently using. This series utilizes storytelling to bring social studies to life. The program connects social studies content and literacy instruction with materials that are streamlined and attuned to today's classroom.

Science: Our science series is also from Pearson. This year, we will continue to implement the new Next Generation Science Standards. We will cover the following topics: Motion and Stability: Forces and Interactions, From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes, Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics, Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits (plant and animal only), Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity, Earth's Systems, Earth and Human Activity, and Engineering Design. The students will be creating an Interactive Science Notebook for each of these areas of study.

Handwriting: Our district uses Handwriting Without Tears, which will introduce cursive writing. The program is easy to learn and uses unique strategies to teach good letter formation, spacing and neatness and cursive connections.

Report Card There are several changes to the report card for 3rd grade this year. "Reads Texts Fluently" is now a component under the Reading category. There were also some changes to the Writing skills, Math skills assessed per trimester, as well the learning behaviors (social development, work habits, self-discipline, and effort.)