

Desert Sage



Third Grade Handbook

2010-2011

Welcome to Third Grade

Dear Parents and Students,

A very warm welcome to 3rd grade! We have set high goals for our classes and together we believe we can obtain those goals. This will be possible by having open communication and mutual support. As a team, we can prepare your child for the future and help them meet any challenge presented. We look forward to a memorable year as we establish the culture of our third grade community..

Third grade is a big step up from second grade! You will find that after three years of your child being considered "little" in school, third grade moves him or her forward into the "big kid" category. Building upon the foundation started in earlier grades, students cross the bridge from learning to read and write, to reading to learn, and writing to communicate. It is a time of growing independence and accountability. This is also the first year of letter grades! All of this is very exciting, but also very new! We are confident that with your support and encouragement this transitional year will be a very rewarding one.

Please don't hesitate to contact any of us with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,

The Third Grade Team

Classroom Schedule

Mornings

- Writing
- Spelling/Grammar
- Math
- Specials or Science/Social Studies

Lunch/Recess

- 12:10-12:50pm-Lunch/Recess

Afternoons

- Read Aloud
- Reading
- Science/Social Studies or Specials
- Study Hall

Fun Stuff



Birthdays

Birthdays are a special time in the life of a child. If you would like to bring in food items or other goodies to school to celebrate your child's birthday, please notify your child's teacher **prior** to that day. Please send the treats and napkins either first thing in the morning, or at the very end of the day. All birthday treats will be enjoyed the last 15 minutes of the day. **Please keep in mind that per district policy, any food items brought in must be packaged and purchased from a store and that we are prohibited from slicing and serving whole cakes.**

Class Parties

The children will have four class parties during the year: Fall Festival, Winter Festival, Valentine's Day, and End of the Year. We will be asking for parent volunteers to help with our parties. If you would like to serve as your child's Homeroom Ambassador, please let the teacher know as soon as possible!



Behavior Expectations

Class Discipline Plan

Our plan for students is to teach them how to be in charge of their own behavior so they learn to make successful choices. The classroom discipline plan is built upon the principle of natural and logical consequences that will help children examine and learn from their negative choices. We believe that each and every child should have the opportunity to be part of an environment that is conducive to learning, and that any disruption to this learning will not be tolerated. We expect children to use their good manners and good behavior in, as well as out of the classroom.

Students will have a behavior card to keep track of their positive and negative choices each day. Behavior cards are an excellent way for you as parents to keep track of your child's behavior in school. Any day that a student receives 3 or more negatives, the behavior card will be sent home for parent signature and lunch detention will be served the following day. At the end of each quarter, all students who have earned twice as many positives as negatives, will be able to attend the end of the quarter activity.

Consequences

Consequences for negative choices will be used. These consequences may include lunch detention, denial of certain privileges, temporary isolation from the rest of the class, notification to parents, and in extreme cases, visiting

the principal. If there is a severe disruption, the student will be sent immediately to the principal.

Please share any changes or "happenings" in your child's life that might affect his/her classroom performance, so that we can be sensitive to these.

Class Rules

Our class rules mirror the school wide rules: Be Safe, Be Responsible, and Be Respectful.



Homework

Very little actual homework will be sent home. Any class work that is not completed within the school day will be taken home and completed for the following day unless otherwise specified.

Homework Tips

- Make sure your child has a regular place, time and supplies for homework.
- Make a list of work to be done. All assignments will be written by your child in their planners.
- Make sure the student's name is on the paper, and the paper is done neatly in pencil.
- Look over your child's homework. Help them make needed corrections, but don't do the work for them.
- Congratulate your child on a job well done!
- Contact your child's teacher if there is a homework problem.



Late Assignments

Any late assignments may have recess time taken to complete missing assignments as well as receiving a negative.

Absences

When a student is absent from school, s/he must make up the work in a reasonable amount of time. Each student will have an area in which class assignments will be collected, if they are absent. It is their responsibility to check the area when they return to school. If you know in advance that your child will not be at school, please let your child's teacher and the front office know as soon as possible!



Communication

Take Home Folders

Each student will have a take home folder. In their take home folders will be papers that the child has completed along with any important school or class notes. The "Leave Home" side of the folder will have things for parents to keep. This will include any school communication, or work that was not graded but completed together in class. Please help your child stay organized by cleaning out this side of the folder each night. The "Bring Right Back" side of the folder will have any notes that need to be returned.

Parent/Teacher



Communication

Communication is key to success! All of us are most easily contacted by e-mail as we frequently check for messages from the office. Any phone calls will be returned at either the end of the day or early the next morning. Teacher web sites will be updated frequently so please check them on a regular basis as we will not be sending home paper newsletters. Grade books are updated regularly and will be the responsibility of the parent to check your child's progress. We will not be sending home progress reports, but with instant access to grades and your child's graded work, you should have no difficulty keeping track of your child's progress throughout the year.

We are looking forward to a
fabulous year together!

