



WELCOME SUPERFRIENDS

MRS. GRAY'S THIRD GRADE CLASS 2016-2017

It was great getting to meet so many of you at Meet the Teacher. Mrs. Moulin and I are very excited to be your teachers this year, and we know we have a great year ahead of us. Our theme for this year is **"Speak Life."** We will be talking about what it means to Speak Life to others and even to ourselves everyday. Our theme verse is I Thessalonians 5:11 "Encourage one another and build each other up." It is a great theme for our year to keep us thinking how we can strengthen those around us. We will also be applying this to our own mindset to strengthen and encourage ourselves to persevere through challenges instead of giving up.

Third grade is a year of transition. Students are beginning to transition from the primary grades to the upper grades. We will be working on certain academic and organizational skills that will help prepare your child for the upper grades. Each student will be given a **blue** folder that is for homework papers and any unfinished classwork that needs to be turned in the next day. Please check this folder every night to see what homework your student has. In addition to that folder, on Tuesday night they will bring home a purple "Tuesday Folder" which will have all of the assignments they turned in the week before on one side, and other V.I.P. Very Important Papers such as corrections to make on an assignment, tests that need to be signed and returned, permission slips, or study guides.

Homework

There will be homework on Monday through Thursday nights. Students will be responsible for reading 15 minutes every night and responding on a sticky note, studying their math facts, memorizing a Bible verse, and practicing the weekly spelling words. In addition, students will have one or two other assignments per night that is due the day after the assignments are given instead of in a packet that is due at the end of the week. This helps students learn daily responsibility. Their homework assignments will also be noted in the weekly newsletter that will post on our mrsgraysthirdgrade.weebly.com and be included in their Homework Folder on Mondays. Any homework not turned in the next day will receive half credit. Homework should be no more than 60 minutes a day. If your child is taking considerably longer to do his/her homework, then please contact me. I will try not to give homework on the weekend, unless students have not completed their weekly work, as I know this is time for families to spend together.

Missing Work

If a student is missing any weekly work (daily or homework) at the end of the week, their parents will receive an email listing what they are missing. The students will need to be responsible to bring home the proper papers or books needed to complete the assignment. These assignments are due on Monday. If they are not completed by that Monday, they will not receive any credit for those assignments. This is a school policy. It is very important that students learn the personal responsibility of turning in their work on time. I will also be giving assignments that are due several days or weeks ahead so that students can practice budgeting their school work time. I will be talking to them about this in class. If there are any problems regarding the homework please don't hesitate to give me a call. Homework will be graded as follows:

✓ = Satisfactory ✓- = Needs Improvement



Grading

All tests and projects will be graded on the following grading scale:

100%=A+ 99 - 92=A 90 - 91=A-

89-88 = B+ 87 - 82=B 81 - 80=B-

79-78 = C+ 77 - 72=C 71 - 70=C-

69-68=D+ 67 - 62=D 61 - 60=D-

59% or below will be an F

All daily work will be stamped or have a star on it with any comments necessary. **If you do not see a stamp or a comment by me, please have your child return the paper as I have probably not seen it and your child has not gotten credit for the work.** Don't forget to check out www.sycamoreeducation.com for weekly grades. All grades from the previous week will be inputted by the following Monday.

Class rules and Incentives

We have five class rules which are based off of the Whole Brain Teaching model which is a research based system that utilizes all areas of the brain, keeps children engaged throughout their lessons, and helps them retain much more information than the standard lecture-discussion model. The rules are:

1. Follow directions quickly
2. Raise your hand for permission to speak.
3. Raise your hand for permission to leave your seat.
4. Make smart choices.
5. Keep your dear teacher happy.

I will also be using the Super Improvers Wall. Students earn stars as indications of personal improvement. Since stars are awarded on an individual level, each student is only competing against their last effort in a particular area. It's perfectly individualized and differentiated for the needs of each learner!

If a student struggles with our rules then after a reminder they will need to stay in a couple of minutes of their recess to conference with me and to practice following the rule.

I will also be rewarding students with Swag Tags, PR's, and Paw Powers. My classroom is a very positive environment with lots of opportunities for rewards.

Birthdays

On the day of your child's birthday you may bring a small treat for the class. This is not a requirement and is entirely up to you. The treats may be shared at 1:45. Please let me know ahead of time if you would like to bring something in.

Book It Reading Program

We will be participating in the annual school library reading incentive program "Book It". Write down how many minutes your student reads every night on their homework checklist which is turned in every Friday. We will tally the minutes read for each student as well as keep a record of how many minutes our class is reading. Our class's minutes will be used for the school "Book It" reading program. The students will also be reading silently every day in class. We are working on building up our "Reading Stamina" for 20 minutes. In order to get better at reading, your student knows they need to have a "Good Fit Book", and they build their stamina

by: reading the whole time, staying in one spot, reading quietly, and getting started right away. If they do these things on a daily basis they will build their stamina and become a better reader.

Bible and Spelling Tests

Your child will have a Spelling test and a Bible test each week on Friday. The spelling words and Bible verse will be given to you with the newsletter on Mondays. They will also be available on our class website at www.mrsgraysthirdgrade.weebly.com. Our first Spelling test will be the 2nd week of school. Our first Bible verse test will be this Friday, and we will be memorizing our theme verse. Part of your child's homework on Thursdays will be to do a spelling pretest. These words can be written on any lined paper or submitted through Google Classroom. Please have someone in your family give your child his/her spelling words. If they miss any words they are to write them correctly 3 times each. This allows parents to be informed as to how prepared their child is for the upcoming spelling test. **This pretest is to be returned to school on Friday as part of their homework assignment.**

I am looking forward to meeting each one of you at our Back to School night on **September 15th**. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to give me a call at 777-3009 or send me an email at sgray@friendschristian.org. Don't forget to check out our class website at www.mrsgraysthirdgrade.weebly.com for weekly homework, newsletters, pictures, videos, games, and other fun things.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Gray

Homework this week:

Return the bottom portion of this form with parent signature

Read everyday for 15 minutes

Memorize our Bible Verse:

"Encourage one another and build each other up." 1 Thessalonians 5:11

We will begin regular homework next week.

Please sign and return this indicating that you have read the parent letter.

Parent(s) /Guardian Signature_____

Child's name____ Date _____

