**3rd Grade Family Handbook**

**Curriculum Night 2016 – 2017**

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**Mrs. Angela Cavlovic – 3A**

**Mrs. Tracey Miller – 3B**

**Mrs. Amanda Mihalyi – 3C**

**Mr. David Rigo – 3D**

**Marzolf Primary School**

**Shaler Area School District**

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**Welcome to 3rd Grade!**

We look forward to a wonderful year with your children. This handbook has been compiled to help increase your understanding and awareness of what we will be doing throughout the year as well as the expectations set for your son/daughter.

**Third Grade Teachers:**

3A: Mrs. Angela Cavlovic

3B: Mrs. Tracey Miller

3C: Mrs. Amanda Mihalyi

3D: Mr. David Rigo

Title I Reading: Mrs. Janel Biagiarelli Mrs. Lori Schultz

Intervention Coach: Mrs. Amy Fowler

Special Education: Mrs. Amy Scariot

Art: Mrs. Therasa Joseph

Physical Education: Mrs. Sharon Shearer

Music: Mrs. Angela Evens

Librarian: Mrs. Mary Pruhs

**Homework Guidelines**

**Homework Guidelines:** Homework will be assigned nightly. Homework assignments build responsibility and allow your child to review and practice the skills that we are learning in school. Your child’s homework should take approximately 30-40 minutes to complete (depending on your child’s pace). Please provide a designated time and space at home, free from all distractions, for your child to complete his/her nightly work. All assignment must be finished neatly and completed on time. Students are responsible for making up missed homework assignments. **Students must also remember to have their assignment sheet signed nightly by a parent or guardian**.

**When your child does not complete a homework assignment, they will have to finish it during their recess time. When homework is completed, they then can continue recess. After 3 missed assignments, they will not be able to participate in the end of the nine week reward activity.**

***What do researchers say about the value of homework?***

There is much conflicting information on the value of homework. How much is too much, should it be grade or not and does it impact student achievement?

Here are some thoughts from leading educational researchers on the value of homework. This information can be found in greater detail online at, ***The Center for Public Education***

* Paschal, Weinstein, and Walberg (1984) discovered through a meta-analysis of fifteen quantitative studies that **homework did have a positive effect on achievement, especially in certain grade levels.** Specifically, traditional, daily, and graded homework had the greatest positive impact on student achievement in the fourth and fifth grades.
* Townsend (1995) examined the association between homework and achievement in language acquisition among **third graders**. Results from her study indicated that **students who were assigned homework scored higher on vocabulary tests than those who were not.**
* Corno and Xu (2004) call homework **the job of childhood**. By examining taped sessions and interviews with parents and students, they discovered that **homework helped third graders learn** **responsibility and develop time-management and job-management skills**. The students also learned to work on schoolwork **when they did not want to and to adjust their attentiveness to the** **demands of a specific assignment**. These and similar benefits, such as **good study habits** and **independent learning**, have been found by other researchers as well (Johnson and Pontius 1989; Warton 2001). It is logical to assume that these factors lead to improved achievement.
* Some researchers have found that homework has a **positive effect on parents and families** by allowing them to show an interest in their children's academic progress (Hoover-Dempsey et al. 2001).
* The study did suggest that **family involvement might have behavioral benefits**, however, such as increased companionship between parents and children and increased awareness on the part of parents of their children's academic life.

**Type of homework we give:**

The type of homework typically given at the third grade level is to **reinforce what is taught and that leads toward the** **mastery of skills and concepts** needed to perform well not only on standardized tests but also when going on to higher grades. Journal writing

The Key here is to see that the homework we give should easily take **between 30 and 40 minutes a night.** The national Education Association suggests 30-40 minutes per night at the third grade level.

Our goal is not to make work for you and not to make your child hate school. On the contrary, it is to truly lay a foundation that will give your child the above benefits. My door and phone are always open to working with you regarding this issue. Please know that I am in your court on this one.



**STAR Behavior Plan**

We reviewed and discussed the school and classroom rules on the first day of school. The star behavior plan was developed to give each student; guidance in making good decisions about his/her behavior, and an opportunity to be successful in a positive learning environment.

**I can be a MARZOLF STAR!**

**Self Control**

I will control my hands, feet and voice.

**Thoughtful**

I will use kind words and help others.

**Accountable**

I will try my best and complete my work.

I will ask for help if I need it.

**Respectful**

I will take care of my space, my school and others.

I will listen while others are speaking.

**INCENTIVES:**

1. Possible daily reward for stars that have not fallen
2. Weekly reward…Friday Fun Time for all whose star has not fallen more than once
3. Class celebration of students’ choice

**CONSEQUENCES:**

1. Verbal warning
2. Star is “turned around”
3. Star “falls” and student must fill out think sheet.
4. Parent phone call
5. Office referral

**Supplies**

 Each student has been supplied with pencils, crayons, desk folders, and a take-home folder. In addition, scissors, glue, paper, etc. are available for use in the classroom. Any supplies that you wish to purchase are at your discretion. In addition, students should have access to crayons, scissors, paper, pencils, and glue for use at home to complete homework assignments.

 It is recommended that each child have a pencil box to store pencils, crayons, and markers. This keeps items within easy reach, and helps with organizational skills.

**Folders and Weekly Wednesday School Information**

 Each child has been provided with a take-home folder. This folder serves as a source of communication, as well as an organizational tool. Please check your child’s assignment folder and homework to ensure it is completed. Don’t forget to sign assignment sheet nightly.

 Weekly Wednesday information is sent home every Wednesday afternoon. Any school information will be sent home in the white Wednesday envelope. Please remove, view the items inside, and return the envelope. **Do not send papers back in the envelope**. Weekly Wednesday school information is now available online too.

**Lockers**

 Each student has been assigned a locker in the third grade hallway. Students are not permitted to enter another student’s locker.

**Third Grade Curriculum**

**Communication Arts**

 Communication Arts encompasses the subjects of Reading, Language Arts, and Spelling. The third grade curriculum draws from a variety of resources including Harcourt’s Storytown series. Throughout the year in Reading, students read texts from different genres such as realistic fiction, non-fiction, poetry, drama, biographical pieces, and fiction. We discuss the author’s purpose in writing various types of text which are usually to persuade, inform, or entertain. The comprehension strategies that are reinforced are main idea, summarizing, fact and opinion, context clues, cause and effect, compare and contrast, and inferencing. Students also read chapter books throughout the year. Our first this fall is an old favorite, “*The Boxcar Children*.”

 You have heard much about the PA Common Core and our more “rigorous” levels of instruction. We will take the students deeper into many comprehension skills that prior were treated more lightly. Your children will grow rapidly with the supports we have in place, you will be amazed!

 In Spelling, the weekly lists have 15 words that follow a pattern. The Spelling packet is to be turned in by Friday each week and should be **neatly** completed.

 Our Language Arts units will also focus on a variety of skills such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, and pronouns. We also complete various writing pieces throughout the year such as personal narratives, creative stories, how-to (informative) pieces, persuasive writing, compare and contrast, and research papers. The writing process is modeled and followed for many writing projects.

**Math**

 The PA Common Core extends into math as well. Students are exposed to many new concepts and skills in third grade Math. We begin by reviewing addition and subtraction with multi-digit numbers and continue with an intense study of multiplication and division facts. Students have weekly quizzes on math facts and are expected to be rapid and accurate in their recall of facts. The study of multiplication begins this fall. We will help students understand how to think in terms of relationships between numbers and operations. Along with multiplication and division, students practice place value, rounding, estimating, graphing, probability, fractions, and geometry. Students also do a lot of problem-solving, in third grade in order to prepare them for the PSSA given in the spring.

**Social Studies**

 The different units that we cover in Social Studies throughout the year are communities, map skills, urban, rural, and suburban areas, Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh, and our National Government.

**Science**

 Our four main areas of focus in Science are plant growth and development, simple machines, rocks and minerals, and vertebrate animals. Students engage in hands-on learning through the use of ASSET Science materials for the plant growth and development unit and rocks and minerals unit.

**Health**

 In Health, we discuss ways to keep our bodies healthy. We also study ways of dealing with stress and the effects of tobacco, drugs, and alcohol on our bodies.

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**Shaler Area School District Grading Scale**

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**82% - 91% B**

**72% - 81% C**

**64% - 71% D**

**63% and below F**

**E-Mail:** We check our email frequently, so if you have any questions or concerns, this is the **BEST** way to contact us.

cavlovica@sasd.k12.pa.us Angela Cavlovic

millert@sasd.k12.pa.us Tracey Miller

mihalyia@sasd.k12.pa.us Amanda Mihalyi

rigod@sasd.k12.pa.us David Rigo

**Voicemail:** You may leave us a voice mail at any time. We try to check our voicemail daily and will return your phone call ASAP. If you have a concern that needs immediate attention, please call the office and leave a message. To leave a voicemail call (412) 492-1200

EXT. 6613 Angela Cavlovic

EXT. 6630 Tracey Miller

EXT. 6620 Amanda Mihalyi

EXT. 6612 David Rigo

**Communications:** Please feel free to contact us any time with questions or concerns regarding your child’s progress.

**Additional Notes**

**Morning Snack:** Each child is permitted to bring a single-serving nutritious snack to eat in the middle of the morning. After students take a bathroom break, they eat their snacks.

**Birthday Treats:** Each child may celebrate his/her birthday, if they wish, by bringing in a **non-edible treat** for the class; (i.e. pencils, stickers, tattoos, etc...). **Food items are no longer permitted, and will be sent home if sent in to school.**

**Birthday Invitations:** **Students are NOT permitted to hand out personal or party invitations at school.** This practice can sometimes cause ill feelings among the students.

**Absences and Homework:** When your child is absent from school, you may wish to have class work and homework sent home. Assignments can be sent home with siblings or another student from your neighborhood. Please notify the office by 9:00 a.m. if you would like your child’s work collected. You may also choose to pick up the work in the office. When your child returns to school, a written excuse is required.

**Just a reminder…**all visitors to the school need to check-in at the office. Students are only permitted to be dismissed from school through the office. If you need to bring in a forgotten item to school for your child, please take the item to the office. The office will notify me to pick up the item. Thank you for your cooperation!

**Schedule for Specials:**

**DAY 1 -** PE 2:00 – 2:40, Library 2:45 – 3:20

**DAY 2** **-** Music 2:00 – 2:40

**DAY 3 –** Art 2:00 – 2:40

**DAY 4 -** PE 2:00 – 2:40

**DAY 5 -** Music 2:00 – 2:40

**DAY 6 -** Art 2:00 – 2:40