

3rd Grade 1st Quarter Parent Letter

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year, This year there are two 3rd grade classrooms. Mrs. Sweeney and Mrs. Burke will be teaching in room 508. Mrs. Sheerin's classroom is located in room 501. We are all super excited to be back at Cassell with your children and can't wait to begin another fun year together.

This year's whole-school theme is ART is the HeART of Learning!

Here's an outline of what we plan on teaching this year:

Social Studies:

We will navigate through the Illinois Social Studies United States Region My World Interactive 3. This quarter we will be focusing on:

Chapter 1: Our Environment

We will be studying land and water, weather, climate, forces of nature, using the earth's resources, and interacting with the environment.

Chapter 2: Economics

In this chapter we will discuss goods and services, types of resources, economic choices, and human capital and our future.

Chapter 3: Communities Build a Nation

In this chapter the students will learn about America's first peoples, early explorers, early Spanish and French communities, and creating a new nation.

Science:

We are excited to introduce OpenSciEd this year! Students will learn science through hands-on investigations, real-world questions, experiments, and classroom discussions. Rather than simply memorizing facts, students will ask questions, investigate, use evidence, and solve problems. Our goal is to build curiosity, critical thinking, collaboration, and a love of science!

Reading:/Writing:

We will be using a new Reading and Writing curriculum this year called MyView Literacy. My View Literacy will build strong reading, writing, speaking, and language skills. Students will read a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts while learning to identify main ideas, key details, themes, text evidence, vocabulary, and important text features.

In writing, students will practice writing well-organized paragraphs and multi-paragraph pieces. They will work on opinion, informative, and narrative writing while learning to support their ideas with evidence, use details, organize their thoughts, and revise and edit their work. Students will also strengthen grammar, spelling, vocabulary, comprehension, and fluency. Our goal is to help students become confident, thoughtful readers and clear, independent writers.

Math:

The 3rd grade math series is called, "Envision". These are the topics we plan on covering this quarter:

- Topic 1: Understand Multiplication and Division of Whole Numbers
- Topic 2: Multiplication Facts: Use Patterns
- Topic 3: Apply Properties: Multiplication Facts for 3.4.6.7.8

We would like you to work on addition/subtraction and multiplication facts with your child for about 15 minutes/night 4-5 days/week. The class will also work on a daily math packet (teacher led), to expose them to various mathematical concepts.

Classroom Behaviors:

Our classroom behavior system is designed to give students opportunities to make positive choices and learn from their behavior. Students will receive two warnings when they are not following classroom expectations. If the behavior continues after two warnings, the student's name will be placed on the board. When a student's name is on the board, they will still go outside for recess with the class, but they will have recess separately from their classmates. During this time, students may choose to draw with chalk or play independently with a ball.

Our goal is to provide a consistent consequence while helping students reflect, reset, and make better choices moving forward. We appreciate your support in reinforcing positive behavior at home. If the behavior continues then a call or email to the parents will be made/sent to discuss the student's behaviors. If your child exhibits behaviors not consistent with our classroom rules on a regular basis, a meeting will be set to discuss strategies to get your child back on track.

Communication:

As you know communication between home and school is extremely vital. Please email us if you have any questions, concerns or you feel we need to know anything else pertaining to your child.

Grading:

Assessments: 50% of grade

Classroom assignments: 40% of grade

Homework: 10% of grade

Homework

Homework will be assigned Monday-Thursday. In addition to regularly scheduled homework, students will be expected to read 20 minutes each night and practice math skills nightly.

- Students will have 2 days to make up the work for each class day they were absent and will be graded according to the same criteria as if the student had not been absent
- For every day after the 2 days, the assignment will be graded for accuracy and also have 10 points deducted from the remaining total points (Include this in your parent letters!)
- Both absent and non-absent missing assignments are graded as 0% (missing)
- Absent "work" cannot be sent home prior to an expected absence as every assignment is given with instruction and is not considered "busy work." Thank you for your understanding.

Looking forward to a great year,

Mrs. Angela Sheerin, Room 501

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