

Cassell
Fine Arts School
PLAYS THE GAME
Game Achieve Master Excel

**3rd Grade
1st Quarter Parent Letter**

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year, This year there are two 3rd grade classrooms. Ms. Berger 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. 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.

Supplemental materials will also be incorporated into the curriculum.

Science:

Our science series this year is called **Inspire Science**. It is divided into 4 units. This quarter, we will begin with "**Forces Around Us**". The lessons will include motion, forces that change motion, electricity and magnetism. The students will have the opportunity to participate in many hands-on activities with this unit. We think the students will very much enjoy the activities throughout each section.

Reading:/Writing:

This year's reading and writing program will consist of several components. We will continue to utilize the ARC/IRLA program. The IRLA is a unified standard-based framework for student assessment, text leveling, curriculum, and instruction. The IRLA ensures that grade level instruction in reading is rigorous and that differentiated support meets the needs of all students in our class. Through extensive reading, writing, research, and critical analysis, students develop knowledge and expertise in a variety of disciplines, preparing them to lead in a changing world. Novels will be used as a supplement to this program. This year we will begin with two "Magic Tree House" books. We will use various resources to promote comprehension and fluency.

For in-depth spelling, phonics, and grammar skills, we will use "**Zaner-Bloser Spelling Connections**". This program prepares students with systemic lessons and effective practices that will improve their ability to communicate both verbally and in writing. In addition, students will complete daily language reviews as a group. The class will also be asked to write journal entries 2-3 times per week.

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:

Students will be given 3 verbal warnings throughout the day, if necessary. 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 at Ms. Berger: jmberger@cps.edu, Mrs. Kovac: madonovan1@cps.edu and Mrs. Sheerin: amharnedy@cps.edu 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 students grade

Homework and Participation: 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.

If a student is absent, they have a day to make up their missed work for each day they're absent. For example, if they are out two days, they have two days to hand in the work after they return to Cassell. Both absent and non absent missing assignments are graded as 0% (missing)

Sincerely,
Ms. Jackie Berger
Mrs. Angela Sheerin