

Welcome to 3rd Grade

with Miss Johnson

Dear Parents,

Welcome to my class and your child's third grade year here at Indian Creek Elementary. I am Miss Johnson, your child's teacher, and I am so excited to have your child in my class this year! I grew up in Idaho and graduated with my Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Brigham Young University – Idaho in 2012. After student teaching in 4th grade, I have had the pleasure of substituting for the past two years in many different classrooms here in Idaho and also in Utah. I'm looking forward to a fantastic year with a class of my own! I enjoy arts and crafts, reading, playing games and pretty much anything outdoors. I also enjoy spending time with family and friends, and I love to teach! Furthermore, I believe most students learn better when they are actively engaged, so I will strive to make my lessons exciting, interactive, and interesting for students.

I have high expectations for my students, and I look forward to helping each child achieve his or her potential. I believe every child wants to learn, and I will encourage your child so that he or she may find success and a happy future. I am looking forward to the year ahead and all of the learning and teaching that will take place in my classroom and beyond. Indian Creek is a fantastic school, and I am lucky to be a part of an amazing staff. Since I know each of you knows your child best, I will be looking to partner with you to best serve your child. Please help me with this endeavor by sharing any information with me that you think might be helpful. I look forward to working as a team to help your child be successful.

The papers in this packet will give you important information about our classroom and the upcoming year. Please look through them with your student and sign and return the last page of the packet. I will also go over all of this information in class and answer any questions your child may have. If you have any questions, please feel free to communicate with me via e-mail. I will also post frequently throughout the year on our class website. You may also contact me here at the school at 922-1009. Once again, I am excited to work with you and your child to help make this year the best that it can be!

Sincerely,
Jaclyn Johnson

Email: jmjohnson@kunaschools.org

Class Website: missjohnsonsclasshappenings.weebly.com

Classroom Policies & Info

Specials Classes:

Our class is scheduled for specials each day. These classes include: P.E., Library, Music, and Keyboarding. Third grade has specials first thing in the morning each day. On Monday and Thursday each week, please make sure that your child dresses appropriately for P.E. by wearing tennis shoes or by bringing an extra pair of shoes to put on.

Homework:

I will make sure your child is aware of his or her homework and of my expectations. However, it will be your child's responsibility to ensure that his or her homework is finished and turned in to me. I expect homework to be turned in on time, and I know your child is capable of this. ☺ Homework will be coming home in the form of homework packets, spelling lists, and unfinished work that is assigned through the week. Students will highlight their homework in their agenda each day so you can see what needs to be completed. Homework should be done independently, followed by a parent check. Homework should be a review of what we have worked on in class. If your child is struggling or frustrated with a homework assignment, attach a note and let me know the next day. This shows me what I need to reteach in class or individuals who I should work with to reinforce concepts.

Nightly Reading and Math Fact Practice:

Third graders should spend a minimum of 20 minutes reading nightly. Please make sure you encourage your child to read portions of the text aloud as well. This helps your child to showcase his or her skills and to improve his or her fluency. The books your child reads should be at a comfortable instructional or independent reading level. Reading is absolutely essential, so please help your child and me by encouraging them to read daily. Your child should also do math flashcard practice for a few minutes each night. Students should review addition/subtraction facts and be fluent by the end of September. They should begin multiplication flashcard practice in October, with occasional review of addition/subtraction.

Birthdays:

We celebrate all birthdays for each month on the last Friday of the month at 2:00. I will send home a note reminding parents about a week beforehand. If you would like to send in treats or drinks, please let me know in advance. We currently have 25 students in our class. Please do not feel obligated to send in something! Students will sing "Happy Birthday" before eating, and then play a few games. Summer birthdays (including August) will be celebrated at the end of the school year.

School Lunch:

Students should pay for their lunches in the cafeteria before the first bell at 8:10. Please send in lunch money in a sealed envelope with their name on it. You may join your child for lunch if you choose as long as your child remembers to put your lunch in with the lunch count in the morning.

Snacks & Breakfast:

Your child may bring a healthy snack to eat at first recess if they would like. On days when we don't have morning recess they can quickly eat a healthy snack during our five-minute classroom morning break. If your student will be eating breakfast at school please have them arrive in the cafeteria by 7:45 so they have enough time to eat. They will need to eat first before they go to the playground, to make sure they can finish before the bell rings at 8:05.

Absences:

If your child is absent, the work we completed for the day will be on their desk in an absent folder when they return. They will take this home and return the assignments located on the "return to school" side of the folder. Based on how long they were absent or the nature of the absence, I will tell them the due dates for the assignments missed. All absences need to be called into the office.

Late/Missing Work:

Students will be given a due date for their assignment. If they anticipate not finishing their assignment in class by the day it is due, it is their responsibility to put it in their homework folder, and take it home. It is also their responsibility to take the appropriate books home to complete the assignment, if needed. When an assignment is missing I will notify the student. They will need to stay in at first and/or last recess to complete the assignment with my help, if needed. If late or missing work becomes an issue I will conference with the student to come up with a solution and will let you know of the situation.

Book Orders:

Throughout the year, I will be sending book order forms home with your child. If your child would like to purchase books, you can order online or send in a check and order form to me. I will have more information on this when I send home the first book order for the year. Book orders are a great way to find books that your child is interested in and would enjoy reading. It is also a great way for our class to get points to earn books for our classroom library!

Visiting our Classroom:

Parents are welcome to visit our room! If you would like to volunteer in our classroom you can fill out the volunteer page in this packet. Once I have that page I will get back to you after the first few weeks of school to set up times for you to come in. This helps me have things prepared for you to do when you come to our classroom. If you need to conference with me you can call or e-mail me and we can set up an appointment. Please remember that you do need to check in at the front office before coming into the classroom. All building doors will remain locked during school hours. The school must also have a background check on file if you would like to volunteer.

3rd Grade Curriculum

Reading: Within our reading program we will teach grade level curriculum as well as differentiated material that will expand your child's reading skills. Our reading rotations will focus on the sub-skills that are tested in the SBAC and the IRI (students must receive a "3" on the IRI in order to be considered at grade level, intervention help is given to those scoring a "1" and extra strategy instruction is provided for those receiving a "2"). These areas of emphasis will increase your child's comprehension, vocabulary, technical reading, fluency and higher level thinking. We will be reading several novels within our leveled reading groups. Book bags will be sent home containing books at a student's reading level. It is critical that developing readers do not read books that are too far above their reading level. If your child makes 5 or more errors on a page when reading aloud, it is too high.

Math: In third grade we will learn more deeply about place value, counting money, reviewing addition and subtraction and doing so with higher numbers, telling time and reading graphs. Third grade is the big year for multiplication and division. We will also learn about geometry, measurement and fractions. Students will be taught the third grade curriculum with the adopted third grade math curriculum along with our own supplemental math materials. Students will also be expected to explain their thinking and show their knowledge in written form.

Spelling: In spelling we will focus on spelling patterns and word families. Student spelling lists will be leveled by ability and change about every two weeks. We will practice by sorting and writing our words each week, alongside hands-on activities. Students will be tested on the words on their list along with capitalization and punctuation on the sentence dictation part of the test. Spelling words will be written in their agendas with the text date, which come home each night in their S.O.S. binders. I will also post spelling lists on our class website.

Writing and Language: Students will be writing everyday in third grade. Third graders will have many opportunities throughout the year to practice writing for different purposes. Some examples of types of writing students may be doing are; narrative, informative, descriptive, journaling, poetry, research papers, persuasive and opinion writing. Our language component will be very strongly connected to writing. A few things we will cover are, parts of speech, sentence structure, capitalization, punctuation and contractions.

Social Studies: Our Social Studies curriculum is developed around the concept of working together in a community. We will learn about types of communities, including Kuna. Third graders will also get to present in our third grade Wax Museum. Students will research a famous person by reading a biography and by researching online. They will then be helped to write a short paragraph that they will memorize, dress in a costume, and present their "person" to our community.

Science: In Science this year, we will learn about states of matter. We will explore heating and cooling properties, energy, and solids, liquids and gases. We will also explore our solar system and look at the sun and the moon. We will also study plants and animals, along with simple machines.

Daily Schedule

8:05 – 8:15	Attendance and Announcements
8:15 – 8:45	Specials – P.E. (Mon. & Thurs.), Library (Tues. & Fri.), Music (Wed.)
8:45 – 9:15	Social Studies/Science/Health and Music (Fri.)
9:15 – 9:45	Math Rotations
9:45 – 10:00	Recess (Wed. & Fri.)
10:00 – 10:45	Math Block
10:45 – 11:45	Reading Block (Selling/Word Study, Comprehension, Fluency)
11:40 – 12:20	Lunch
12:20 – 12:30	Cursive
12:30 – 1:30	Small Group Reading Instruction (Reading Rotations)
1:30 – 1:45	Recess
1:45 – 2:40	Grammar and Writing
2:40 – 2:50	Agendas and Dismissal

Classroom Behavior Plan

Expectations:

1. Please do not do anything that interrupts the learning for you or others.
2. Treat others the way you want to be treated.
3. Always do your best!

When Students Choose to Follow Expectations:

- Group celebrations and rewards
- Individual rewards
- Everyone is learning, our time isn't being wasted! (This equals more time for the fun stuff ☺)
- We can participate in fun, hands-on classroom activities that may otherwise be impossible if there are many students who are choosing not to follow the rules.
- Great relationships are built between you and your classmates.
- Your learning time in the classroom will be successful.

When Students Choose Not to Follow Expectations:

I want this classroom to be a positive, safe place for everyone. If someone chooses to interrupt the learning of other students, I will do something about it. Since we are all so different, there will be different consequences for different actions. Anything I do is because I care for each and every one of you, and we can all learn from our mistakes. I will not get mad or angry with you; I will expect you to solve the problem that has been caused.

There are occasional times when the entire group may need to have a consequence together. Even though I understand not every single person in the classroom misbehaved, there are those times when a whole-group consequence is fair. This is mainly when I cannot be around to see those who specifically needed a consequence. (Example: An unsatisfactory report by a substitute or specials teacher.) These consequences may include writing a note to the teacher or missed recess minutes. It is a rare time when this happens, but it is sometimes necessary. You make many choices throughout the day, and the way you act in class is a very important choice that we will work on together.

Incentives and Discipline:

- Class cash will be given to students who turn in their homework, make good behavior choices, and participate in classroom activities and discussions. You will be able to buy coupons for 'special' privileges with your money.
- School SOAR tickets will also be given to students who are following school-wide expectations. These tickets will be entered in a weekly drawing.
- Students who are found not following school and classroom expectations will be given a warning and are expected to fix their behavior. I will keep track of student behaviors daily on a clipboard. I will conference with students if a behavior becomes a reoccurring problem. We will come up with a consequence that fits the problem together and figure out ways to problem solve in the future. If a student receives three marks in a day they will fill out a parent contact sheet explaining the choices they made that will have to be signed and returned.

Our Classroom Community:

- Nothing is more important to me, than the way you treat those around you. Treat others the way you want to be treated!
- Think about the way you treat others, and only treat them in a way that will build them up, and not tear them down.
- Please join me in keeping our classroom safe, comfortable, fun and a great place to learn. You have A LOT to learn before 4th grade, so now is the time to make a choice of how you are going to act to me, and those around you.
- I know we all make mistakes...We ALL will...(including me!) That's when we will apologize, move on, and try to be better!
- Get ready for 3rd grade...It's going to be awesome!!!

Management Plan Agreement, 2015-2016

*I have read Miss Johnson's management plan for 3rd grade and I agree to follow it.

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Teacher Signature: _____

*Please turn this in by Friday, August 28th. Thank You!