



Dear Families,

Welcome to Third Grade! I will be working diligently this year to ensure a year of challenge, innovation, and FUN for your wonderful children. The Third Grade Team is also planning exciting thematic units, cultural activities, and quarterly projects for your student. I am sure your summer will be full of camps, vacations, and family visits, but I also hope that you will assist your Superstar in staying on track with the items listed below so they are ready to rock and roll when they come back in the fall. Thank you in advance!

Xtramath

Xtramath.org is a math fluency site. The goal for each student is to complete the addition and subtraction portions of this site **before** beginning third grade. *Classical students should also memorize ALL of their multiplication facts.* Fluency in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division is vital to student math progress. If your child is more of a “hands-on” learner, feel free to grab some flashcards and practice multiplication/division that way. You can mark this down on the tech side of your attached forms if you like.

IXL.com

I have been informed students will still have access to this account throughout the summer. I suggest having your child go through any lessons they didn't complete during the previous (“3rd grade leveled”) school year. Ideally, your child should have completed **ALL** third grade skills before coming back to school, but definitely the (“B, C, D, & E” categories: addition,

subtraction, multiplication, division skill sets). I will check in periodically to see how the students are progressing in these skills.

Summer Reading

There are 1,440 minutes in each day. I would like to see our Superstars reading 30-60 of these minutes each day. The goal is to read 2,300+ minutes this summer. I will be introducing the students to a variety of genres throughout the year and differentiating between them. Please encourage your child to broaden their interest by checking out different types of books (science fiction, fairy tales, legends, historical fiction, informational, biographies, etc.). Consider spending 30 minutes a week reading along with your child. Although they like to read independently, children can learn powerful lessons from hearing you read with expression, using pauses appropriately, and thinking aloud. Plus, they grow so fast and cuddling up with your kiddo is time well spent!

Attached to this packet is a reading and separate technology log. I would like the students to fill these logs out (truthfully and with no pressure) as they read and complete technology this summer. Students can **bring it with them on the first day of school**. I will recognize our voracious readers/techies, who meet our goal, the first week of school.

Assessments

- Students will be given assessments for placement in differentiated reading in September/October. Keeping up with skill building over the summer will ensure proper placement.
- IAR testing during third grade: **Illinois Assessment of Readiness assessment:** Student take this test in the spring and we will prepare closer to the assessment period. (In addition to our regular, yearlong studies.)
- Aside from IAR, students will also be taking NWEA this upcoming year. As you know, third grade is a benchmark year. The NWEA MAP test and IAR scores will be **used to determine promotion to fourth grade**.
- I will always inform parents in advance of upcoming; important assessments.

More Information

- Forms and a welcome packet will be sent home at the beginning of the school year. A few weeks later, I will meet you at Open House. Open House is a great time to gain insight into the year ahead and ask questions.
- If you have not already, please sign up and use Parent Portal ASPEN to track your student's grades regularly throughout the year. **Be sure to save the username and password in a safe place!** It has a great alert system to keep you in the loop. Using ASPEN Parent Portal eliminates any "surprises" on a progress report or report card.

Should you have any questions/concerns, the best form of communication is through email. Please feel free to contact me anytime during the school year. I ask that you give a time period of 24 hours to respond; however, I will usually be able to get back to you sooner. I will also update you frequently through email and will be gathering all your contact information the first week of school. In addition, I will be looking for a room parent or two to help with organization the first month of school and to help plan parties. (Pending).

Unfortunately, I do not know what the fall will "look like". But, we will learn over the next few months together as families begin to fill out their concerns and desires through CPS surveys over the summer months. Please be on the lookout for these surveys.

I look forward to a great third grade year with your children. Have a wonderful, relaxing summer!

Kind regards,

Mrs. DeJulio

Summer Reading Log: Not sure where to start? Talk to your local librarian, visit Scholastic.com, or consult the *New York Times* annual lists of Notable Books for children. Books that have won Caldecott or Newbery awards are always a good bet! (add notebook paper if you need more space)

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Summer Technology Log

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