



August 16, 2019

Dear 3rd Grade Parents,

I hope you and your family had an amazing summer.

My summer has been filled with plenty of new learning and preparing for third grade. Third grade is an exciting year that includes new academic challenges and many hands-on experiences including housebuilding and farming. I will have detailed information to share with you about the year ahead at the **Back to School evening on Thursday, September 19 at 6:30pm**. In the meantime, below is information to prepare you for the first few weeks of school.

### **Classroom Set-Up/Teacher Support Opportunities**

On the following days and times, I will be in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom getting ready for the start of school. Parent help with simple classroom tasks, cleaning and organizing would be much appreciated. Many hands make light work! Each third grader is invited to the classroom prior to the start of school to prepare their individual supplies. (Please see my prior e-mail with the link to sign up.)

Wednesday, August 28, 10 am - 1pm

Friday, August 30, 4 - 6:00

Monday, September 2, 10 am - 1 pm

Tuesday, September 3, 9 am - 1pm

Wednesday, September 4, 1:30 - 3pm.

### **First day of 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Wednesday, September 4th Arrival 8:00-8:10 am**

The door to the classroom opens at 8:05 am. Students are expected to be at their desk ready for school by 8:15 am. Parents new to the school are invited to attend an orientation at 8:30 in the school library. If your child is ever late, they should enter the main door of the building and check in with the front desk. Students should take off their outdoor items, knock at the classroom door and wait until the teacher has an opportunity to stop the lesson already in progress and greet them.

### **Bring on the first day:**

- Summer reading folder including their completed reading log.
- A 10" high (or smaller) reusable water bottle to stay in the cubbies. Please limit these to a maximum of 10 inches; larger bottles do not fit in cubbies and are therefore harder for students to access throughout the day.



- Indoor shoes – slip on sneakers or shoes with closed back and full sole appropriate for running, jumping and skipping. Ideally, no laces—slip on, Velcor, a quick snap or buckle are good alternatives. Some ideas: Van-styled or Converse grommet-only sneakers, casual Mary-Jane style shoes or Toms-like slip ons. We will be changing our shoes a minimum of 6 times a day!. A rule of thumb: they vigorously jump rope in them.

All other supplies will be provided by the school. Please be sure all toys and beloved objects, including backpack clip on toys, are left at home.

**Students are expected to wear ‘Assembly Dress’ for the first day of school.** (*See dress code on school website for details.*) Students may change into regular school clothes after dismissal.

**Students will be dismissed to their parents behind the school at approximately 12:00pm.** We will celebrate the start of the year with an all school picnic. Please bring a picnic lunch and blanket for your family. As a reminder, once students are dismissed, parents should supervise their children.

### Every Day

- Be well-rested and have a good breakfast. *Begin getting back into the school day rhythm now, with early bedtimes and early wake-ups. It helps come school time!*
- Wear or Bring Weather appropriate clothing - *We will go outside every day in any weather, often in the woods or near water, so rain jackets and rain pants, mud/rain boots, warm clothes, snow pants, gloves, hats, etc. are a must. Please label your child’s items.*
- Healthy snack and lunch – *We have a **nut-free classroom** due to students’ allergies. (Seeds and seed butters are fine.) No candy, sweets or chocolate. Whenever possible, send food in reusable packaging. To limit the risk of critters in our classroom and for parents to see what was eaten, all lunch trash including recyclables and compostable items will be sent home in the lunch box. We will implement a composting program in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade as part of our farming and gardening block in the Spring.*
- Hair brushed and out of face and eyes—*hair should be pulled away from face and firmly secured with hair bands and/or pins and/or neatly trimmed above the eyebrows.*
- Daily Dress - (*see dress code for specifics*) *The basics are: skirts & shorts to knee, sleeved shirts (no tank tops), no leggings worn as pants (can wear under skirts), no sweatpants/athletic clothing, no writing or graphics on clothing (overall prints ok). No nail polish, temporary tattoos or ink on the skin, or hair dye. Any jewelry should be simple and non-distracting. Any watches should be analog.*

**Back to School Potluck Brunch: Sunday, September 8, 10:30 am** at Lake Mansfield’s beach in Great Barrington. Plan on bringing a brunch item to share with the families of third grade. An on-line sign up sheet will be sent at the end of August.



## **Pick-up**

General dismissal time is 2:50 pm. 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders will be dismissed to their parent or caregiver at the front of the school. For the safety reasons, students will not be dismissed to parents waiting in cars. If children are not picked up by 2:50pm, I will assume they are going to aftercare. Our aftercare teacher will walk them to the Early Childhood building to participate in our afterschool program. They can be picked up there any time before 5pm (see our website for aftercare details and costs).

## **Missed days**

Please try not to miss school for reasons other than illness. All of our lessons are experiential and can never truly be made up. I will catch them up on their main lesson book work during the morning transition time or during snack if need be.

## **Communication with Class Teacher**

Handwritten notes delivered by the student with any information for the day are appreciated. While I always enjoy greeting parents in the morning, I am only able to be fully present with the children and cannot have conversations at the door. Generally, I will not check texts or e-mails until I have a free period later in the school day. Last minute messages may be communicated to the front desk; they will send me a paper note. We will discuss some basic communication guidelines at the Back to School evening.

## **Parent Nights**

Our first parents' meeting will be part of the **Back-to-School evening on Thursday September 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**. The other parent evenings for the year are **Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:15pm**, **Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**, **Thursday March 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm** and **Wednesday May 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:15 pm**. Please have at least one parent present at every class night throughout the year. We will be discussing important topics and also getting a taste of what your children are doing during their school day! Developmental and curricular insights, the weekly schedule, and block schedule are on the agenda for the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

I think that is enough for now! Have a wonderful rest of the summer and I will see you all soon.

Warmly,

Mrs. Fernbacher