

Dear Families,

Hi! We would like to welcome you and your child to Third Grade! There are many exciting activities and projects planned for the students in the 2010-2011 school year. We are eager to work as a "teacher and parent team" to help make your child's overall learning experience a positive and challenging one! Remember, the educational process **begins at home**. We are only a tool for your child. To help build on that education, we need a "helping hand" from home - that hand belongs to you!

GENERAL CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Reading/Language Arts

Our reading series is called Imagine It. We will read several stories based on a theme and participate in activities to enhance the students' reading and comprehension skills. We will also be working with graphic organizers, such as story & character maps, venn diagrams, etc. There will be a reading test once a week. During reading class, we will also spend time developing our phonetic, vocabulary and spelling skills. Most importantly, we will be working to develop your child's writing in the following styles:

Descriptive: writing to describe

Narrative: writing to tell a story

Expository: writing to explain

Persuasive: writing to persuade

Math

Harcourt is our math series this year. We focus on place value, rounding numbers, regrouping with addition and subtraction, multiplication and division, graphing, geometry, measurement, time and money. Students will be expected to become actively involved in learning through hands-on activities and games.

Science

This year we will be learning about plants, weather, machines, the states of matter, and a variety of other topics. We will incorporate various activities and projects to heighten our learning.

Social Studies

In the beginning of the year, we read, study and participate in lessons about Chicago and other various communities. In the second half of the year, we will spend some time studying African-American achievers and diversity. We will also learn about our government, the Native Americans and Pioneer Life.

HOMEWORK POLICY

Students will be given at least 30 minutes of homework daily. **Homework can be found written in your child's Daily Planner and it is also available on our Smyser Website (www.smyser.org - just click on your child's grade & teacher name).** The Smyser Daily Planner will be used to record assignments for all subjects. **Parents are expected to review it daily with their child and sign their name at the bottom of the page, ensuring that all work has been completed.** In the event that a student should forget to complete the assigned work, the assignment will be highlighted in the Daily Planner and is expected to be turned in the next day to receive credit. Missed assignments due to an absence from class must be made up within a reasonable amount of time. (This will be determined based on the number of consecutive days missed.)

ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Students' classwork and homework will be sent home every other week. This will enable you to monitor your child's progress routinely. Please note that the only exception to this will be when a student receives a letter grade of a D or F on a test. Such papers will be sent home **immediately** for your **review and signature**. Progress reports will be sent home according to the Smyser 5-week schedule.

BEHAVIOR POLICY

To better reinforce the Chicago Public Schools Code of Conduct, we will be adhering to assertive discipline practices in our classrooms. The following rules will be discussed and displayed for the students to be aware of daily:

- Students are to exhibit respectful language and actions toward others at all times.
- Students are to work quietly at their seats unless instructed otherwise or working cooperatively.
- Students are to complete their own work.
- Students are to keep their hands and feet to themselves.
- Students are to arrive prepared for class (book, supplies, etc.) everyday.
- Students are to stay with the class unless instructed otherwise.
- Students are to cooperate with each other and demonstrate teamwork.

Rewards: Positive notes, classroom parties, movie days, game days and treat days

Consequences: For each infraction of the rules during the course of one day, the following sequence will occur:

- * Student name written in the Behavior Box (Mike) = Warning
- * One check added to name (Mike X) = Written letter on how to improve behavior
- * Two checks next to name (Mike XX) = Loss of recess
- * Three checks next to name (Mike XXX) = After school detention

SEVERE CLAUSE: In the case of a student's absolute refusal to cooperate, parents will be called for a conference where the appropriate disciplinary action will be discussed.

We hope this overview has proved helpful to you. Communication, commitment and cooperation are essential in the educational process. Let's work together to make this school year a success at Smyser "A COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS"!

Sincerely,

Third Grade Team

Please Detach and Return to your child's Third Grade Teacher

We have reviewed the classroom management plan and will do our best to cooperate with it during the 2010-11 school year.

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

Student Signature _____

Date _____