Welcome to 3rd Grade!

The 3rd Grade Team at FES

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Your child has mastered the fundamentals in 1st grade and 2nd grade, and is now ready to thrive through 3rd grade! But it’s not just another year: This grade is a very important time in your child’s education, because it’s when students transition from what are often known as the “lower grades” to the “upper grades.” It is a crucial period in students’ learning as they become more independent and mature learners.

In 3rd grade, students progress from practicing basic skills to mastering them, and move on to develop more complex skills. For instance, your third grader will become a savvy reader, writer, mathematician, and thinker this year, digging deeper into topics and analyzing what they learn.

The 3rd grade classroom itself likely won’t seem that different: It is structured like most elementary school classrooms, with desks or tables for the students and usually an area for lessons and class meetings. As with previous grades, there are often also areas dedicated to different subjects of learning. For instance, there may be a spot for math tools and supplies, plus a class library dedicated to reading. However, this year, technology becomes an even more important part of the classroom as students use it for writing and research.

~ Excerpted from Scholastic’s, “The Guide to 3rd Grade”
**Attendance**

Daily attendance at school is very important! If your child isn’t at school, they can’t learn. 3rd grade is the first year of the upper elementary grades and presents a shift in the intensity and speed of the material presented. Missing just one day can deprive a student of the main lesson of a unit, which makes it difficult for them to adequately attain the knowledge they need for that unit.

_Buncombe Count County Board Policy #4400 – The Buncombe County Board of Education believes that regular school attendance is of crucial importance for educational achievement, that learning experiences that occur in the classroom are essential components of its learning process, that time lost from class tends to be irretrievable in terms of opportunity for instructional interaction, and therefore, that each student should attend school every day._

**If your child must be absent for an appointment, please try to arrange for them to be out of school during the last part of the day - anytime after 12:35pm.**

**Absences**

If your child is absent, please be sure to send a note to their teacher on the day they return to school. The data manager of our school will enter it into the system as an excused or unexcused absence. For more information on what determines whether an absence is excused or unexcused, please see the FES Parent/Student Handbook.

**Tardies**

Please try your best to have your child at school on time! Classes begin at 7:55am, but adult supervision for students begins at 7:15am. Being in the classroom by 7:30 gives students the opportunity to unpack their belongings, eat breakfast, use the bathroom, and complete morning work without being in a rush.

**Illness**

If your child has a fever or is throwing up, please keep them at home, as they are contagious. They must stay home until 24 hours after the fever has broken without the aid of medication (per BCS Parent Handbook). If you receive a call about your child being sick, please make sure you have arrangements in place for you or someone else to immediately pick them up. Please also refer to the list of illnesses on the “MAHEC: When to Keep Your Child Home from School” handout that you received in the information envelope at Meet the Teacher.

**Free & Reduced Application**

PLEASE apply for Free or Reduced Lunch if your family is experiencing financial difficulty or loss of employment - even if you are not planning on using it. Our school receives essential financial support for the number of students on free or reduced lunch.
Transportation Changes
Per the BCS Parent Handbook any changes made in student transportation once the day has begun must be made through the office. If you have a transportation change you may send an email or a note to your child’s teacher by 8:00 that day - no changes will be accepted through the teacher at any other time. All other changes must be made through the office. This is for your child’s safety.

Friday Folders
A red plastic pocket folder will come home every Friday afternoon in your child’s bookbag. In this folder you will find all communication from the school that you need to review. This information will ONLY come home through the Friday Folder on Friday afternoons. This way, you need only look for important information one day per week. Please go through this information carefully - please do not just throw everything out. Your child’s teacher will NOT have extra copies of papers that are sent home from the school, such as information from the PTA, the front office, the school nurse, or the county office. This will also be the vehicle your child’s teacher will use to return completed student work and classroom communication.

Weekly Planner Sheet & Homework (HW) Folder
As upper elementary students, students will be keeping track of their assignments and weekly schedules on the planner sheet in their HW folder. Please check this sheet with your child on a daily basis and sign your name on each day so that we know you’ve seen it. Unfinished work in the folder will need to be completed at home and returned the following day. Every student is expected to read for at least 20 minutes each day and work on their multiplication tables.

Student Work
There are three major types of work your child will experience on a regular basis: whole-group work, small-group or pair work, and individual work.
1. Whole-group work is typically when a topic is introduced to the whole class and all students have multiple opportunities to ask and answer questions. During this time, it is vital that students pay close attention to what is going on so that they don’t miss an important lesson.

2. Small-group or pair work is a time where students are working in a small-group or with a partner. This is part of the gradual-release model that teachers use to give students an opportunity to work on a concept that has already been introduced to the whole class. This is often the point where a student realizes that they may not have the understanding they need to complete the given task at that point in time. It is vital that students recognize this and let their teacher know they need assistance.

3. Individual work is the opportunity for a student to showcase what they know. This is often the point in a unit where students have already received instruction, they have practiced as a whole class and then with a partner, and are now ready to work on their own and show what they know. These assignments will often be graded.
Asking Questions
When a student doesn’t ask a question, they miss out on a lot! Asking questions is NOT a sign of ignorance - asking questions is what people do to become more knowledgeable. “It’s okay to not know. It’s not okay to not try.”

Work Completion and Turn-In
Please encourage your child to turn in all of their school work. When an assignment is given, once it is completed, it needs to be given to the teacher. Believe it or not, there are often times when a student completes their work, but fails to turn it in!

Grading Key

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number Grade/Letter Grade</th>
<th>CW (classwork)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>recorded in grade book</td>
<td>performance reviewed &amp; addressed with teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>goes toward report card grade</td>
<td>not entered in grade book</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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90-100 A Consistently meets assignment expectations at an outstanding level
80-89 B Frequently meets assignment expectations at a high level
70-79 C Meets assignment expectations at a satisfactory level
60-69 D Seldom meets assignment expectations
≤ 59 F Does not meet assignment expectations

Students have the opportunity to correct graded work that is lower than an 80% (B). (Excluding tests.)
Communication is key! Report card grades at the end of the quarter will not be a surprise to students.

Snacks
Students may eat a snack in class. Check with your classroom teacher as to whether they have a specific snack time. They must be responsible for bringing their own snack from home and for cleaning up any mess that is created. Please be conscientious about the types of snacks you send with your child. We strive to maintain a healthy learning environment in our classrooms, and this includes the types of snacks students bring to school. Brain foods are always the best choices for school snacks - those high in protein and whole grains are best. Sugary, processed foods do not do much to help a student think better while they are learning. Thank you for your support in keeping our kids healthy!

Drinks
We have new carpet in every third grade classroom. In the interest of maintaining these carpets, the only drink students will be allowed to consume in the classroom will be plain water. Please remember your child needs to bring a water bottle to school each day.

BCS & FES Phone Calls
Please make sure to listen to the automated calls that come from our school and the county, especially in light of COVID, it’s important to remain informed!

Any questions? Ask your child’s teacher. Let’s have a GREAT year!