Volunteering

There are lots of opportunities to volunteer in third grade. You may want to set up a regular time to come in and read with a student, or help out with other classroom tasks. You may want to chaperone a field trip. Volunteering shows your child that you value school. If you are not able to volunteer at school, perhaps you can take a job home to do. Contact us and we’ll put you to work!

Scrapbooking!

Each month your child will combine writing and photos to create a page to be included in a wonderful keepsake of third grade.

Classroom supplies
(check with your child and replenish as needed)
* Ear buds or Headphones
* Bookbag or Backpack
* 2 plain Composition Notebook
* 3 Spiral notebooks
* 36 Sharpened #2 pencils
* Crayola Markers
* Scissors (Fiskars)
* 2 Large Glue sticks
* 4 Folders (at least 2 plastic) w/pockets
* 3 boxes of Kleenex
* 1 Small school box
* 1 Pkg of baby wipes
* 1 box of colored pencils
* 1 Ream white copy or colored copy paper
* 1 roll Paper towels
* Expo Dry Erase Markers

Please label supplies and make sure they fit in the small school box. Extra supplies may be kept at home until needed or added to classroom supply buckets.

Communication

Clear, consistent communication is key to your child’s success. We provide several methods of communication:

* Newsletters: A hard copy will be sent home in Friday folders. It will also be emailed to you and posted to our website.
* Friday folders: Your child will bring a folder home each week. Along with the newsletter, it will include corrected work and any pertinent paperwork. Please look over this information with your child each week, sign the parent signature page, and return the empty folder to school the next school day - usually Monday.
* Voice mail and Email: We check these several times a day. If there is something which requires urgent attention (such as a change in your child’s after school routine), be sure to talk to us directly.

Homework

In accordance with district policy, third graders can expect about 30 minutes of homework per night. Math, reading, and spelling will be assigned daily, with other subjects as noted. Your child will have a homework folder, with daily assignments listed on a homework slip. A parent signature is required each night. Homework is generally not assigned on Fridays.

Website

The third grade website at RHS (found at randolph.spps.org) has lots of information about the teachers, our class, its curriculum (including parent letters for each math unit), and pdf’s of the current newsletter.
**Reading/Language Arts**  We will be using the Readers Workshop model for instruction in reading. This model incorporates a mini lesson, skills work, guided reading (in small teacher directed groups) and independent reading. We use the Accelerated Reader program as one way to keep track of books read. Students will also have the opportunity to read a set of books nominated for the Maud Hart Lovelace award and may vote for their favorite in the spring if they read at least 7 of the 12 titles. More info will follow.

We will use a “word wall” for instruction on the hundred most commonly misspelled third grade words. Third graders will be tested at the end of the month on each list.

**Writer’s Workshop** will be the format for teaching writing to third graders. Using a “Writers Notebook”, students will write daily, practicing skills that make authors effective writers. Skill and craft lessons are built into each day, along with time for individual conferences and writing time. Eventually, students will choose some of their writings to take further - to publication - through the writing process.

**Mathematics**  We use the district’s adopted math curriculum, *Every Day Math*. This curriculum “recognizes and builds on children’s capabilities by expanding the range of their mathematics experiences and ideas” (Everyday Mathematics, Everyday Learning Corporation). Parent letters for each unit, which gives tips and ideas for helping your child with math concepts and homework, called “Home Links” can be found on our website. We also provide instruction on district Learning targets associated with each unit.

**History/Geography**  Randolph Heights uses the Core Knowledge Curriculum to teach Social Studies. We are excited to offer your child this intense, highly regarded material and think you will find that students are just as excited. Some topics to be studied in third grade include Native Americans, Vikings, the Age of Exploration, Colonial America, Ancient Rome, and Rivers of the World. Students will learn about the geography, demography, and culture of each of these eras and gain an understanding of how our past impacts our present and our future. Look for occasional at home projects connected with history units.

**Music Education** - This year, students will receive music education from their classroom teachers as well as from Ms. Bird. We will focus on basic notation in 4/4 time signature, and learning about several composers. Students will then be learning to play the recorder.

**Specialists**  Your third grader will see the following specialists on a rotating schedule:

- **Ms. Bird** - Art/Music Education
- **Mr. Richards** - Physical Education
- **Ms. Pelletier** - Science Education

**TDAS (Gifted/Talented) teacher:**  - Ms. Letellier