

Third Grade Reference Guide

Homework

Homework will be assigned nightly, Monday through Thursday each week. Most nights it will consist of reading, spelling, and math practice. Our intention is to assign homework that should take the student about 30 minutes each night to complete, not including the independent reading that is expected. This is an average – some night may take a little less time, some nights may take a little longer. Often homework will be assigned in a packet at the beginning of the week so students can complete it as time allows given other family obligations and out of school activities. Homework is intended to be practice and reinforcement of what is learned in class and serves as a connector between home and school.

Independent Reading at Home

Each student should be reading nightly at home independently most nights for approximately 20 minutes. The actual amount of time each night is less important than establishing a regular independent reading habit at home. Books should be the child's choice – fiction, non-fiction, graphic novels, magazines or other periodicals are all acceptable.

Student Planner/Agenda

It will be your child's responsibility to copy the homework assignments from the board into his or her student planner each day. We will practice writing down assignments completely and accurately during the first weeks of school and continue to practice throughout the year.

Homework Folder

Each student has a plastic, closeable homework folder to keep his or her assignments in. It is his or her responsibility to learn to put assignments in the folder at school and back into the folder at home. We will practice and remind students of this at school. Please encourage your student to completely pack his or her book bag at night before going to sleep – mornings are very busy times and it will provide peace of mind to your student and to you to know that things are packed and ready to go ahead of time as well as supporting your student in developing organizational skills. Please try to avoid bringing forgotten homework to school. Third grade is a prime year to support the development of organizational habits that will help your child succeed throughout their school career and learning to be responsible with assignments is key to this development.

Year-Long Reading Goals

Our goal for each student, if they are not already, is to turn him or her into a reader – someone who enjoys reading and seeks out books and reading opportunities. Completing books is a critical part of becoming an independent reader. Each student will have a goal of reading at least 25 books by the end of the school year and reading across a variety of genres. Each student will also have a reader's notebook at school to keep track of books he or she has read and book he or she wants to read. Books completed at home count toward this goal. When your child completes a book at home, they should write down the title, author, and genre in their planner so they can add it to their reading list at school.

Friday Folders

Every Friday, unless otherwise noted, checked/graded papers will go home in your child's Friday folder. You will also receive any field trip forms, announcements, or papers that need to be reviewed by an adult. Please sign the form inside and return any necessary papers on Monday the following week. If you put something in the folder that needs to go to your child's teacher, please tell your child so he or she can give it to one of us – we don't always get to check folders right away when the week begins.

Snack

Students will have the opportunity to eat a snack each morning if they desire. Please send a snack Mondays through Thursdays for your child if he or she wants one – Fridays will be our special snack day. It is important that you send appropriate snacks for your child. PLEASE do not send snacks that are messy or that leave a residue on hands. Soft drinks or sports drinks are not acceptable as beverages. Please also avoid snacks that are high in sugar. These do not tend to keep growing children full for very long – a snack

with some protein is a great choice. Also, please avoid snacks that require a fork or a spoon. If the student does not have one, we do not usually have extras in the room.

Birthday Snacks

If you would like to send in a special birthday snack for your child we will have them at the end of the day just before we go home at 2:30. We do have allergies in our classroom so please email me before sending in a birthday snack and we do not allow snacks with nuts or nut products. Please make sure these snacks are ready to serve – if anything needs to be sliced or anything similar it needs to be done ahead of time as we are on a tight time schedule throughout the day. Please also always email your child's homeroom teacher ahead of time to ask about bringing in a birthday snack – some days there may be conflicts with the time and another may work better. We always try our best to have birthday snacks on the student's actual birthday if possible. As always, this is optional.

Invitations/Gifts/Thank You Notes

Please do not send party invitations or gift thank you notes to school for your child to give out unless every person in the grade is receiving one or, alternatively, all the girls or all the boys are receiving one. This is to avoid the hurt feelings that happen when someone has not been included. Please also do not send any gifts to school to be given to another child (i.e. if your child missed another's birthday party).

Absences

If your child has to miss school, please email your child's homeroom teacher or send in a note the next day with the reason so we can note it in Veracross.

Transportation Changes

If your child is riding home with a friend, we must have a note either in writing or by email to that regard. We cannot let your child go home with another family without it. If there is a last minute transportation change (day of), please always call the office so they can buzz our room in addition to emailing. While we make every effort to check email during the enrichment subjects, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so every day due to the busy nature of our academic schedule.

Class Web Site

Our classroom web sites can be found at <http://www.msberrysts.weebly.com> or msdonohues3rdgrade.weebly.com. These can be accessed from the main STS web page as well. On our sites, you can find quick links to important web sites such as: Scholastic Book Orders, homework web sites, and other sites that we will use throughout the year. In addition, there is a blog where I will post my weekly newsletter (minus things like student names if applicable), a calendar where major events, assignments, and tests are posted, curriculum information, photo gallery, and specific information about special projects or assignments as they are assigned. I intend this to be a hub of information about our class and I will continue to add to it and change it throughout the year. Please let me know if there is some specific information you wish was available on our web site but is not there currently.

Questions/Concerns

If you ever have any concerns or questions about your child, what is going on in class, or anything at all please do not hesitate to contact us. Email is best initially as we are not regularly available by phone during the day – we are more than happy to set up a time to talk by phone via email or meet with you in person at any point during the school year. Nothing is too trivial. Our email addresses are eberry@sttimothys.org and kdonohue@sttimothys.org.