

Welcome to Ms. George's Third Grade Class!

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Meet the Teacher

Hello! My name is Ms. George and I'd like to welcome you and your child to third grade! I'm very excited about this school year. I am eager to work with your child, and I hope to make their third grade experience exciting, positive, and rewarding. I am looking forward to getting to know you and your child. First, I will tell you a few things about me.

I moved to Columbia from a small town called California, Missouri. I moved to Columbia to attend the University of Missouri. Go Tigers! I spent four years in college and received my Elementary Education degree. I also finished my Master's degree from Mizzou as a Fellow. This is my third year teaching third grade at Cedar Hill. I previously taught third grade at Hallsville for five years and am so excited to be teaching third grade again this year!

I am looking forward to this school year and establishing a positive relationship with your child. I hope the transition into third grade is an easy one; I want your child to have a fun and successful year!

Classroom Information

Daily Schedule:

- 7:15-7:45 Arrival to classroom
- 7:45-8:00 Class Meeting
- 8:00-9:50 Reading Workshop
- 9:50-10:30 Specials
- 10:30-12:00 Math
- 12:00-12:25 Lunch
- 12:25-12:45 Recess
- 12:45-1:45 Writing
- 1:45-2:10 Science/Social Studies
- 2:10-2:25 Recess
- 2:25 Dismissal

Classroom Rules:

In order for our classroom to be an orderly, productive, and safe place to learn, I have established the following expectations for my students.

1. Follow directions quickly.
2. Be ready to learn.
3. Look and sound like a learner.
4. Be kind, positive, and helpful!
5. Try your best.

We will also focus on Cedar Hill's expectations to Be Safe, Respectful, and Responsible.

The first few days of school we will be discussing what the rules mean and how they apply to everyone in our classroom learning community.

Behavior System:

Behavior will be managed with a web-based program called Class Dojo to help track students' behavior. It is an excellent communication tool to help keep you updated about your child's daily behavior.

In Class Dojo, students can earn points for positive behaviors such as being on task, following directions, helping others, etc. Students can also lose points for negative behaviors such as being off task, not following directions, etc. Students love being able to track their points and will have access to them throughout the day.

Once you have joined our class you will be able to check your child's progress anytime. You will also be emailed a parent report on Fridays. Students can create their own account so they can check on their own progress as well. (There's even an app!) Parents love having instant access to how their child is doing.

[Use this link to sign up now!](#)

Meals in the Classroom

Breakfast will be served in the classroom starting at 7:15. Your child will have from 7:15-7:45 to eat breakfast. It is not required that your child eats breakfast, but if they do eat it will be recorded and taken out of your child's lunch account. It is important that your child is here on time so they have plenty of time to eat breakfast in the morning! Lunches will also be in the classroom to avoid contact with other classes.

Birthdays and Treats:

We love to celebrate birthdays in our classroom! If you choose to send in special treats for your child's birthday, please make sure that they are store bought, have an included list of ingredients, and are individually wrapped. It is best to avoid anything with nuts due to the large amount of nut allergies. **Please let me know in advance that you would like to send in treats so that I can make plans for it. We will enjoy birthday treats at the end of the day.** If your child has a summer birthday, you may send in treats closer to the end of the school year and we will celebrate.

Invitations to parties can only be passed out in school if the whole class is invited. Children this age are very sensitive to being left out.

Communication

Homework Folder:

Every night your child will bring home his or her Homework Folder. This folder may include special notes, reminders, graded work, etc. Please look through all the information inside the folder, empty it out, sign papers inside if needed, and return it to school the next morning!

There are two pockets inside the Homework Folder. One pocket is labeled "Return to School". Please check this side and return the information as needed. The other pocket is labeled "Keep At Home." Anything in this section should be taken out and reviewed.

Classroom Newsletter:

On Fridays our classroom newsletter will be delivered via text through the Remind app. This is one way you can easily stay informed about what is going on in our classroom. You will find information about special events, upcoming specials schedule, what we will be learning the next week, links to important items, and other important information. There will be no paper copies to help be more environmentally friendly!

Remind Text Service:

One of the most frequent ways I communicate with parents is with Remind. This is a service that allows me to send all of my parents text messages. I will send out a link every Friday with information about the upcoming week. **Be sure to check this weekly!**

My office hours through Remind are Monday through Friday 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM. If you send a text outside of my office hours, I will not receive it or be able to respond until 7:00 AM.

[Sign up using this link!](#)

Homework

Weekly Homework:

In third grade, there **WILL NOT** be any assigned homework. Since students are working so hard during the school day, it is important for them to explore their own interests outside of school. Here is a list of optional homework that will greatly benefit your child:



- * Read 20 Minutes
- * Math Lesson Practice Sheets

Occasionally, students may bring home an assignment from class that needs to be completed. This most likely will be the result of not finishing the assignment in class.

Nightly Reading:

In third grade, your child's reading should improve tremendously with support both in the classroom and at home. I **highly suggest** that each of my students read 20 minutes every night. This can include library books, magazines, newspapers, eBooks, etc. You can choose to read with your child, listen to them read, or have them read on their own. A combination of all three is best!

Reading Counts:

Reading Counts is a reading incentive program designed to motivate kids to read. In third grade your child will be encouraged to take a comprehension quiz on a book after they finish reading. If they pass the test, they will be awarded with Reading Counts points. Each child will have his or her personal point goal. If your child meets their goal, there are rewards/celebrations that they will be able to participate in. You can help your child with Reading Counts at home by reading at least twenty minutes a night!

Math Lesson Practice Sheets

At the beginning of each math unit, you will receive a parent letter and practice pages for the upcoming unit. I will not collect these pages, but it will be additional practice for your child.

At the end of each math lesson (usually one a day), students have a “homework” page to help them practice the skill we learned that day. Feel free to have your child complete just a couple problems or the entire page, it's up to you! You could also save these pages for the weekend to review. Some students feel as though they do not need extra practice on some skills, but choose to complete the homework on more challenging material. ***I do not require these to be turned back in to me!*** These pages are for practice and review only. However, if your child is struggling with something on the practice sheet, they may bring it in and ask for additional help.

Absences/Missed School Work:

In the event that your child has to miss school due to an illness or emergency, please call the office at 659-3160 to let them know or email me. I will collect the work your child has missed so it will be ready for them to complete when they come back to school. Also, if you know your child will be gone in advance, please let me know! Good attendance is one indicator of success in the classroom!

Grading

Daily Work:

Your child's grades will be based on how well they perform third grade level skills. While we will complete a lot of work in third grade, only a few items will be graded and recorded. The majority of your child's work will be used for me to guide my instruction to meet their needs. A 3 indicates your child completed and understood the assignment. A 2 indicates your child needed some help or did not understand all concepts. A 1 indicates your child struggled with the assignment.

We will also check classwork often together. These assignments will be checked by your child and will not be recorded in the grade book. These assignments will be marked with a “T” which will represent that we checked the work together and discussed.

Assessments:

Assessments will be graded and recorded for a grade on your child's report card. Assessments will be kept in your child's data notebook.

You are able to see your child's grades through the Parent Portal.

(<https://jeffersoncitymo.infinitecampus.org/campus/portal/jeffersoncity.jsp>) This will allow you to access your child's grades whenever you'd like to check their progress. If you need more information about this, please contact the office at 659 – 3160!

Data Notebooks:

Our classroom will use Data Notebooks in connection to individual goal setting. Your child will make goals and reflect on their achievements throughout the year. This notebook will store all of their accomplishments!

Data Notebooks will consist of **ALL assessments** divided by subject. Notebooks will go home at midterm and at the end of each quarter. It is important for you to review the binder with your child and discuss its contents each time it comes home. Binders **MUST** be returned to school. These will be used as a tool for your child to set goals for themselves and track their progress throughout the year.