



August 19, 2019

Dear Students and Parents,

Hello and welcome! I am excited about having you in my classroom and getting to know you better throughout the year. This is going to be a fantastic year! Please read this letter to review my expectations and learn more about what you can anticipate in my class this year.

3rd Grade Expectations and Information

Classroom Rules: The rules in our classroom are the same as the school rules: Make Safe Choices, Show Respect, Use Kindness and Work Hard. Respect and responsibility are very important in our classroom. You are expected to respect all adults, other students, yourself, and the property of the class and school. When respect is given, every student will have a safe environment in which to learn, succeed, and share knowledge. You are responsible for your own actions, assignments, and learning.

Rewards and Consequences: When you meet or exceed the expectations in our classroom, you may receive recognition such as a classroom Great Grizzly, ROAR out and Positive Office Referrals. In our classroom, we have a few different ways to earn positive rewards.

One way is through “J-Bucks.” At the beginning of the week you will receive a Student Paycheck. This is payment for exhibiting the five Scholarly Habits: Respect, Perseverance, Excellence, Risk Taking, and Preparation. Students may earn extra J-Bucks for going above and beyond in these areas. Conversely, students may be fined and have to pay me if they are struggling with showing these habits. J-Bucks may be redeemed for reward coupons, once students have saved up enough.

All year, you will be in teams. Your teams will change throughout the year, but you will always have a group of 4 or 6. Your team can work together to earn points for your table, and at the end

of the week, the table with the most points will earn a reward. We will also work towards a whole-class reward by earning “Fuzzies” for showing the scholarly habits.

If you are continually **not** making good choices or showing the scholarly habits, you will receive a warning from me, and your name will go on the board. If the behavior continues, you will reflect on how your actions are interfering with your learning, or the learning of people around you, and a plan of action for fixing the problem will be required. Phone calls home, missing recess, or, as a last resort, a visit to the office may occur if students need more help resolving problems.

Daily Planner: The school has provided each of you with a daily planner. This is a very important communication and organization tool. You are required to bring your planner every single day, and will copy your assignments and other important information into it daily. You **MUST** have your planner signed each night after a parent or guardian has checked to make sure that all homework has been completed. Each day, I will be checking to make sure planners have assignments copied down correctly, that parents have signed the night before. Please see the homework policy and missing assignments sections of this letter for more information on missing assignments/homework.

It is the student's responsibility to make sure that any newsletters, graded work, and other important handouts are given to parents. Students will receive a homework folder for nightly homework and on Friday it becomes the Friday folder for important paperwork and graded work. Please be sure to check your child's planner AND folder each night. Parents, please feel free to jot notes to me in the planner, since I will check them daily.

Homework Policy: Homework is required practice which extends the work we are completing in class and helps teach responsibility. It also helps us to keep track of students' progress towards the standards. Homework scores give us information, but will not be reflected on their grade report. Homework will be given almost every night, Monday through Thursday. It will typically consist of a math study link, reading, and possibly spelling homework. All homework needs to be completed to the best of your ability. It will be the student's responsibility to write down their daily homework, keep track of when it is due, and turn it in on time. Students will not be allowed to call home for forgotten homework. For every day that all of your homework is turned, you will receive a punch on your “HOT” Card. “HOT” stands for “Homework on Time.” After you earn fourteen punches, your HOT Card becomes a coupon for a free homework pass or may be redeemed for “J-Bucks.” If the student's planner is filled out and signed, they will receive another HOT card hole punch.

One of the school rules is, “Work Hard.” To this end, I expect all students to follow the directions completely and put their best effort into all their assignments. Occasionally, if you

need to work on an assignment because you have not completed it on time, or need to redo an assignment that does not reflect your best effort; you may have to work on it at home.

Grading: There are some District-Wide changes in the way that we will be reporting grades beginning this year. More information about Standards-Based Grading will be forthcoming.

Absences: When you are absent, it is your responsibility to make sure you get the work you missed. After you return to school, you should check with me to see what you have missed. If you have questions, please see me before you leave for the day. Any papers that were passed out while you were gone will be placed in a folder on your desk. Be sure to look them over and ask questions before taking them home. For each day you are absent, you will have that many days plus one extra day to turn in the missing work. When you are out sick for several days, your parents can arrange to pick up your work for you to complete at home. If you know you will be missing school for a family vacation, please have your parents notify the office and me in advance. You will need to make up the work you missed when you return to school.

Snacks: You are encouraged to bring a mid-morning snack to give you energy and help you stay focused until lunch time. We will not stop working for a snack, but you may enjoy your snack while you work. Snacks need to be healthy and easy/not messy to eat while you are working. Some suggestions are: crackers, pretzels, chips, cheese sticks. Granola bars, fruit snacks, apples, carrot sticks, etc. Sugary snacks such as candy, cookies, and cupcakes will not be allowed because they do not help you focus – you will be asked to save it for lunch. Due to food allergies, you will not be allowed to share snacks with other classmates. I am happy to accept donations of snacks for the good of the cause for students who may forget their snacks from time to time.

Water Bottles: You may bring a water bottle to keep at your desk to remain hydrated and minimize distractions from visiting the water fountain. To protect the carpet from stains, you may **only** have water in your water bottle, and water bottles need to have a secure lid to help avoid spills. We also ask that students not freeze their water bottles prior to bringing them in, the condensation melts on the desks and ruins their work. Please take your water bottle home each night to be cleaned.

Birthdays: If you plan to bring in treats for your child's birthday, please let me know ahead of time so that I may plan adequate time at the end of the day to pass out the treats. Please bring in treats that are easy for the students to pass out on their own, so that it will be quicker. Cakes that need to be cut and served, ice cream that needs to be scooped and drinks that need to be poured are not allowed. Suggestions include: cookies, cupcakes, and doughnuts. If you send in drinks, I

ask that they be pre-packaged like juice boxes or Capri Suns, and, per custodial request, not have red dye. Per the school handbook, students may bring in snacks for their classmates only. They will not be allowed to deliver birthday treats to other teachers/friends in the building.

Communication: Parents, I hope you have found the above information useful. If you have any questions, please feel free to jot a note in the planner, send me an e-mail or call my voicemail. Sending a quick e-mail is the easiest way to communicate with me. Communication between parents, students and teachers will help us make this year a great one.

Website: Our newly designed Glacier Peak website is up and running. Throughout the year we may post pictures or videos of Glacier Peak students in action. If you would prefer that your child's image not be posted on the website, please contact your child's teacher in writing.

Thank you for reading through the third grade expectations and information. Again, I'm looking forward to a fantastic year!

Sincerely,
Mr. Johnson