

Third Grade Handbook

2015-2016

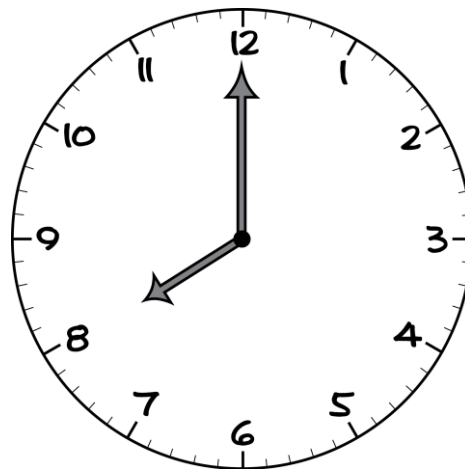


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THIRD GRADE SCHEDULE

- 7:10-7:40—Unpack & Morning Announcements
 - **School starts at 7:40**; your child will be marked tardy if arrival is after 7:40
- 7:50-9:30—Reading
- 9:30-10:15—Specials
- 10:15-11:35—Math
- 11:35-12:00—Recess
- 12:00-12:36—Lunch
- 12:40-1:30—Writing Workshop
- 1:30-2:15—Science/Social Studies
- 2:15-2:20—Pack Up & Dismissal



Common Core Georgia Performance Standards (CCGPS)

The CCGPS is being implemented in Reading, English/Language Arts, and Math. The CCGPS is designed to prepare students for college and the work force by providing clear, understandable, and consistent content that is rigorous and high in application. There are five themes within the CCGPS to enhance the quality of your child’s instruction: rigor, text complexity, reading and writing within all content areas, and balanced assessments.



More information about the CCGPS can be found on the Fulton County website by clicking on “Students & Parents” then “Resources” and locating the “Common Core GPS” link or by visiting the following website:

<http://www.fultonschools.org/en/divisions/acd/learnteach/Pages/fccsgps.aspx>

THIRD GRADE CURRICULUM

Students in third grade are going from the idea of “learning to read” to the idea of “reading to learn.” **The pace, content, rigor, and expectations are increasingly higher than from years past, and the students will need to apply themselves more by practicing good study habits.**

Reading, English/Language Arts (ELA):

Reading instruction will take place mostly in small groups where students will read books that are on their level. The skills that are focused on during guided reading aligns with the standards. Students will be assessed on the reading standard(s) that instruction has been centered around. CCGPS has fewer standards to cover which provides teachers the opportunity to further develop students’ understanding of the content being taught.

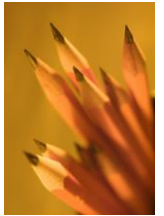
Third grade will be using a variety of resources to teach the standards. These resources will be our *Good Habits, Great Readers* program, leveled guided reading books, teacher-created materials, and novels.

Writing instruction will happen during Writer's Workshop, a structured way for teachers to present content and students to practice and share their work. We will follow the Lucy Calkins' Units of Study curriculum, which has been adopted by New Prospect and perfectly aligns with the writing and language CCGPS. There are four units that focus on narrative, informational, and persuasive writing. The units will always conclude with an on-demand writing assessment where students must apply what they have learned during that unit to a writing prompt that is given "on-demand" which must be finished within the time frame of one Writer's Workshop session (about 45-60 minutes).

Language Arts will be taught in conjunction with Writing Workshop. Students will study mentor sentences to look at exemplars of grammatical structures while “noticing” parts of speech and language conventions. The language arts interactive notebooks will house the lessons and mentor sentences. *Words Their Way* will serve as our primary source for looking at spelling patterns and phonics. It offers opportunities for hands-on, developmentally appropriate word work. Students are not required to memorize a word list to then produce on an isolated test. Instead students will apply the word pattern skills in their writing during writing workshop and Word Work during literacy stations. Students work with words throughout the week by doing a variety of activities to help them learn and then apply the patterns of these words in their writing.

For more information on RELA, visit the Third Grade Website and click on the ‘RELA’ tab.

Math:



Our primary resource for learning the math CCGPS will be the *GA Math* textbook. Daily classwork, homework, and instruction will be based upon the use of this text and teacher created materials. Students will also have the opportunity to further their understanding of mathematical concepts and skills through experience with hands-on activities using manipulatives and meeting in small groups. Information about the math units can be found on the third grade website under the 'Math' tab.

The CCGPS clearly establishes that students should be able to provide a deep understanding of the math content and show that understanding by explaining 'how' and 'why' when problem solving.

Multiplication is a big part of math in third grade. Please start reviewing these facts (0-10) now with your child.

Science:

Our GPS science curriculum provides students with the knowledge and skills for proficiency in science. Relationships between science, our environment, and our everyday world are crucial to each student's scientific literacy. Science is a way of knowing through the use of science processes to understand scientific concepts. Hands-on, student-centered, inquiry based approaches are the emphasis of our instruction. Our science resources include the Harcourt School Publishers *Georgia Science* series, teacher created materials, and AIMS activities in earth, life, and physical science.



3rd Grade Science Units: Georgia habitats, Pollution, Rocks and Soils, Fossils, Heat, and Magnets

Social Studies:

Our primary resource for the Social Studies GPS is the Houghton Mifflin *Social Studies* textbook, as well as supplemental materials to support student learning. Students will begin the school year in social studies with a unit on democracy and will continue to study other units on the economy and people in American history. Geography and map skills will also be covered within the Social Studies curriculum.



Students will need to connect the importance of positive character traits to the successes of these important leaders in our history. Students will also need to be able to correlate how democracy and economics played a role in the lives of these people. The units on the important people in American history last approximately one week with a quiz given at the conclusion of the week. Study guides will be provided for all units.

3rd Grade SS Units: Democracy, Economics, Paul Revere, Frederick Douglass, Susan B. Anthony, Mary McLeod Bethune, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt, Thurgood Marshall, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Cesar Chavez.

Homework:

In third grade, homework will be assigned based on the discretion of the individual teacher and may vary week to week. The assigned work will involve RELA, math, or both. It will also include preparing for tests in science and Social Studies.

Some homework assignments may involve a task on a website or app, completing parts of the interactive notebooks, finishing classwork assignments, doing research for a project, or practicing a skill. **Fulton County Board Policy states that homework in third grade should be no longer than 30 minutes a night, so be sure to monitor this and let your child's teacher know if assignments become overwhelming.**

Study Guides & Interactive Notebooks:

The traditional study guides will no longer be used and sent home a week prior to a test date. Students will use their interactive notebooks from each subject as a study tool. Throughout the year, they take notes, add graphic organizers, do practice math problems, and answer questions, etc. in these notebooks, so they are filled with lots of valuable and helpful study material. Students may bring them home whenever they like, but the notebooks MUST return to school each day.

GENERAL CLASSROOM INFORMATION

Binders:

The third grade supply list specified the type of binders for your child to have during the year. Two of the binders will be used for data collection in RELA and Math. The third binder is used to carry your child's agenda and yellow folder. The Data Binders will stay housed in your child's RELA and Math classrooms and may be sent home several times throughout the year for your review. It is crucial that your child keep up with and maintain his/her binders throughout the entire school year. Should the binders be damaged or lost at any time during the year, they will need to be replaced. All papers that go in the binders must stay in the binders unless specified by your child's teacher. Please do not remove any of your child's papers unless instructed to do so.



Yellow Folder:

Each day, your child will bring home a yellow folder containing any announcements, hand-outs, graded papers, and any other miscellaneous items. Papers found on the right side will be any papers that must be returned to school ("*Right* back to school"). Papers on the left side are to stay at home ("*Left* at home"). Please check it nightly for papers to be signed or notes for you. These folders must be returned to school every day.

Agendas:

The students will be responsible for copying down homework assignments and test dates in their agendas. Test dates are always announced a week in advance to provide your child with ample time to study.

Agendas are not being used as a primary communication source between parents and teachers. Please directly contact your child's teacher through email or written note when needed. Due to time constraints, teachers are not checking and initialing student agendas.

Snack:

Students may bring a healthy mid-morning snack (fruit, crackers, veggies, pretzels, rice cakes, granola bars, yogurt, etc). Please discourage candy, cookies, or other items that contain an abundant amount of sugar. The only drink permitted for snack is water—no juice boxes, milk, soda, tea, etc. Water bottles are always permitted and encouraged in the classroom. Please do not send flavor packets for your child's water.

Homework & Classwork:

All homework should be promptly turned in per your child's teacher's instructions each day. Not all classwork will be collected. Any assignments taking place over several days will be kept in your child's classwork folder that will remain at school.

Media Center & Clinic:

Any student wishing to visit the Media Center may be permitted to go per your child's teacher's instructions. Each child must take a media pass with him/her. Appropriate behavior is expected at all times, and Media Center trips may be limited or revoked due to repeated, unacceptable behavior.

Any child requesting to visit the clinic will be sent at the teacher's discretion. Minor cuts and scrapes will be handled in the classroom. In the event that your child is ill or sustains a serious injury, s/he will be given a pass and sent to the clinic immediately. All head injuries, regardless of how minor, will always be inspected by the nurse.

Please be mindful of others if your child is sick. The best way to prevent illnesses is to keep germs from spreading. Preventions at school are put in place to reduce the spread of germs as much as possible (hand washing, wiping down tables and surfaces daily, etc.). However, if a child is sick and comes to school, the likeliness of others getting sick increases. The same applies to head lice. Please do not send your child to school until the lice has been treated. You need to contact your child's teacher and the school nurse if your child has lice so that cautionary measures may be put in place for other students.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

PBIS

This year, NPE is implementing a PBIS behavior plan to make behavior expectations consistent school-wide. PBIS stands for Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports. We are focusing on using the acronym PAWS which stands for Pride, Attitude, Wise

Choices, & Safety. All rules and expectations in the school fall under one of those categories. The "School Behavior Matrix," (found on the website and attached to the back of this packet) breaks down the expectations for different areas in the school.

Students will be required to complete the "Student Tracking Form" when violations of the expectations have occurred despite a teacher's attempts to positively reinforce behavior or implement a behavior intervention.

Conduct Grade

A "grade" summarizing your child's behavior will be included with his/her report card. The S, N, and U system will be utilized and based on teacher discretion and the number of disciplinary actions needed.

SCHOOL POLICIES

Birthdays & Lunch Visitors:

Birthdays will be recognized during morning announcements, and students will be sent to the front office when their name is called to pick up a small birthday token. ***Children are permitted to bring special treats, but please be aware of any allergies that any student in your child's class may have.*** The following actions need to take place prior to bringing in a birthday treat:



1. Notify your child's teacher at least 24 hours in advance. The teachers are the only ones permitted to pass out treats at lunch.
2. Make sure you provide enough treats for every student in the class.
3. Be mindful of allergies. It is sad when a child with allergies is never able to participate in the celebration of a birthday due to an allergy.
4. Any cakes need to be pre-sliced.

School policy states that party invitations may NOT be given out at school. If a child brings in party invitations, the teacher will collect them and return them home with the student at the end of the day.

If you are coming to join your child for lunch, please remember that per Fulton County policy, fast food is not permitted in the cafeteria.

Classroom Parties:

Two class parties will be held during the year: a winter holiday party and an end-of-the-year party. There will be no parties for Valentine's Day (cards can be passed out), Halloween (no costumes), birthdays, etc.

Textbooks:

Students are responsible for lost or damaged textbooks. If a book has been lost or damaged, the CST will consult on the price for replacement. Replacement books are not issued until fees have been paid. Second sets of textbooks will not be granted for student use at home. There are no reading textbooks with the *Good Habits, Great Readers* program.

Visitors & Volunteers:

All visitors must sign-in at the front office and receive a visitor's pass. Anyone seen in the building without said pass will be asked to visit the office for one. If you plan to volunteer with our students in any capacity whether it's through the school day, during a field trip, or at an after school program, there is a state mandate that you must register online prior to volunteering **EACH SCHOOL YEAR**. To register, visit the Fulton County website, click on "Community" and then click on "Partners & Volunteers." Any questions, please contact the Assistant Principal.

Attendance:

When your child leaves early or is absent, ***please send in a written excuse or email your child's teacher.*** Try to limit absences and early dismissals as much as possible. When a student is absent or leaves early, he/she is expected to complete all work missed due to absences so that he/she does not fall behind.

If you are going out of town, you must notify your child's teacher in writing in advance. The trip will not be marked as excused unless prior approval is given from Mrs. Robson. Any work that a child misses during a trip will be given to the student to make up upon his/her return. No work will be given ahead of time unless of extenuating circumstances.

Any student not in his/her classroom by the 7:40 bell will be marked tardy. This includes students who are loitering in the halls.

Money

Any money sent in to the school must be clearly labeled with your child's name, who/what the money is for, and your child's teacher's name. Teachers are not allowed to store money in their classrooms, so please do not send picture money in advance until the actual day. If your child brings in money for something, s/he is responsible for walking that money to where it needs to be taken (cafeteria, office, PTA, etc.).

TESTING

ITBS:

In October, the ITBS will be given to students in grades 3 and 5. There is no studying or test preparation that can be done prior to this test. The ITBS assesses where our



students are compared to other students across the country. It is an evaluative tool for teachers and schools only and is not used for level or grade placement.

GMAS:

The GMAS, Georgia Milestone Assessment System, is the summative test that will replace the CRCT. The test will be given in April. Students in third grade are expected to pass the reading portion; failing scores will factor into retention decisions. Please visit the following Georgia Department of Education website for more information regarding this test:

- <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/Georgia-Milestones-Assessment-System.aspx>

GRADING

Grading Scale:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
0-69%	F

Grading Policy:

The following is Third Grade’s grading policy regarding the weights of assignments:

- Assessments & Tests—50%
- Quizzes—30%
- Classwork—20%

Recovery & Test Retakes

Each grade has their own recovery and retake policy. The following is third grade’s policy:

Any child earning a 69 or below on any major assessment will be provided with a recovery session two days after the test has been graded and sent home. The retake will be the day after recovery. Recovery will be given to students during small group instruction in whatever subject needed. The highest grade that students may earn on a test retake is a 70. Our focus with recovery and test retakes is not on grades; it is on student mastery and understanding of the standards. Retakes are only given for major unit assessments.

COMMUNICATION

Third Grade Website & Teacher Blogs:

Please utilize this website as it contains pertinent information about school policies and general third grade information. Teachers will update a blog weekly with specific

classroom and content information. Be sure to check your child's teachers' blog each week for updates. For math content, make sure you are checking your child's math teacher's blog. The third grade website is <http://thirdgradenpes.weebly.com>. All teacher blogs can be found from this site.

NPES & PTA Websites:

The NPES website has valuable information regarding the school, county, School Governance Council business, links to teacher blogs, etc. www.npepanthers.org is the school website.

PTA volunteer opportunities, such as the Science Lab, will be done through the PTA website. The PTA website is <http://nppta.ch2v.com>.

Changes in transportation:

Please send an email or a note if your child is to be dismissed in a different way than normal. If no note is sent in or the office is not notified, your child will be dismissed like usual. You can also email your change of transportation to Amy Batley, our office secretary (batley@fultonschools.org).

Parent/Guardian Signature Sheet

My signature below confirms that I have received the Third Grade Handbook, thoroughly read its content, and understand and acknowledge all of its information.

Parent/Guardian signature:

Date:

Please sign, tear off, and return this page to
your child's teacher by
Thursday, September 24, 2015