

Welcome to Nelson Prairie's Expectation Night!! I am pleased to be your child's third grade teacher, and I am looking forward to working with you to guide your child toward a successful year of learning. My goal is to create a safe, secure, and positive learning environment where your child can achieve his or her full potential!

Please feel free to contact me anytime with questions or concerns. The best way to reach me is via email. My email is aballerini@nlsd122.org. You may also reach my voicemail by calling the office at **462-2874**. I will return your call as soon as possible. Please be aware that I generally check my messages after school. If it is something that needs to be addressed immediately, please send a note or call the office.

This year, I will have a website where you can find my weekly newsletter (posted on Mondays), the daily/weekly schedule, and spelling/vocabulary words for the year. You can find my website at nlsd122.org/c/ to access this information. (I will not be sending home paper copies of my newsletter, but it will also be sent via Seesaw each week.)

This letter will explain the subject areas, as well as procedures that we will be following throughout the year. I hope that your child is sharing their learning experiences with you. The children are adjusting well to our daily routine and learning environment. School has a new meaning for your child, and I know that by working together we can make this a successful year!

Third Grade Schedule:

9:10 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. - Homeroom
12:45p.m. - 1:20 p.m. - Lunch/Recess
1:20 p.m. - 3:40 p.m. - Homeroom

Snack: 10:25a.m.

Special Schedule:

(11:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.)
Blue Days - P.E.
Green Days - Music/Art

Library: Thursday

12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Grading Scale

B = Beginning
D = Developing
S = Secure

Subjects

Reading and Language Arts- Our district has adopted a new ELA curriculum this year, ReadyGEN by Pearson. ReadyGEN is an integrated literacy curriculum which engages students by utilizing authentic, rigorous texts. It fosters the connection between reading and writing to help your child develop into a lifelong learner, thinker, and communicator. The ReadyGEN curriculum incorporates a variety of reading genres, foundational skills, informative/narrative/opinion writing, spelling/phonics, grammar, and vocabulary into a comprehensive literacy program. This program will be used in conjunction with the Daily Five centers to cultivate your child's ELA proficiency.

Additional Reading at Home

Reading at home has been shown to help students in overall school performance, assisting in the development of comprehension, and higher order thinking skills. *Therefore, I highly encourage my students to read at home.* Throughout the week, they should be reading books at their own interest level, when time permits.

In October, we will begin the Book-It program. Monthly calendars will be sent home with your child for use in tracking reading minutes. If you choose to participate, your child must read for 20 minutes on 20 different days in order to receive the Book-It Pizza Hut coupon.

Phonics- Phonics is integrated within the reading program. Short focused lessons on letter sound correspondence are taught during phonics. During flexible grouping students are given more individualized phonics instruction. Your child will be taught phonics rules and strategies as they apply to reading words.

Spelling- The spelling lists can be found on my website, and the spelling tests will be on Friday. Students have additional opportunities for practice that include: workbook pages, creating sentences, word work center, word patterns and writing. These words should be practiced at home nightly.

Writing- Students in third grade will work extensively on writing. They work with a varied blend of writing types, focusing mostly on narrative, persuasive, and expository writing. The writing process (including prewriting, rough draft, revising, editing, and publishing) is also a major aspect of this part of the curriculum.

Grammar- Throughout the year, students will be studying different parts of speech. We will cover nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections. Our class will also work on additional grammar skills such as possessive nouns and the correct use of punctuation.

Math-This year will be using the math series called Everyday Math. With this program, strategies may look different than when you were in third grade. Everyday Math focuses on understanding the concepts of mathematics. The students have the following books and tools for math:

~Math Journal: A workbook the students use during school.

~Home Links: Nightly reviews of the day's lesson. These should be completed nightly to aid in retention of the new material.

~Parent Letter: A letter sent home at the beginning of each unit that explains the unit, gives tips, and has the answers to all the Home Links for the unit.

Social Studies- Our district is now utilizing the TCI series. This program teaches students about the world around them and how our cultures were created through interesting and engaging activities and lessons. Social Studies Alive! My Community teaches students the basics of geography, economics, and citizenship in the context of learning about their local community.

Science- TCI is also now being used for our science curriculum. It is designed to drive student engagement and to teach students to consider, question, collaborate and to create. This hands-on curriculum promotes data

interpretation and analysis through the study of habitats, weather systems, life cycles and traits, and forces and motion.

Handwriting and Keyboarding - we use “Handwriting Without Tears” method for teaching cursive handwriting. The students will learn how to form the lowercase and capital letters. They will also practice keyboarding skills this year on typing.com.

Other Notes

Assignment Notebooks- These will be used daily. The students are to copy the teacher’s assignment notebook and bring home each evening. The notebook will include any unfinished work, test dates, projects due, and other important information. Please sign or initial every night.

Homework- Homework is valuable in that it helps your child establish independent study habits and self- discipline. Generally, homework is due the next school day. Occasionally, there will be special long-term projects that are to be done at home. You will be notified well in advance and due dates will be clearly noted. If your child has no homework, he or she could practice math facts, spelling words, vocabulary or read a book. Reading fifteen minutes each evening is a year-long homework assignment! If your child does not have their homework completed and turned in on time, he or she will have one letter taken away from their SUCCESS card, and need to finish the assignment as soon as possible.

“SUCCESS” Party- If a child doesn’t turn in their homework on time, the day it is due, it will cost them one “SUCCESS” letter. Students who have lost ALL of their letters will not be able to attend the once a trimester celebration for children who were successful at completing their homework on time. Each trimester, each child starts with a clean slate.

Behavior-In our classroom we use the behavior management system of turning cards. Everyday the students begin their day with a clean slate on a white card. Behavior is a choice. Therefore, if a student chooses to make inappropriate decisions, there are consequences. If a student makes a poor behavior choice (after verbal warnings), he/she will be warned to “check his/her behavior” and will be moved to green. After another infraction, the student moves to yellow and will

receive an appropriate consequence, such as removal from an activity, or a change in the student's seat assignment. After the next infraction, the student will move to blue. Any student ending the day with a blue card will be sent home with an "I had a blue day" slip. *The blue slip must be signed by the student's parent/guardian and returned to me.* Any student who continues to disrupt the class and his/her own learning will be moved from blue to red. In the unfortunate event that this move occurs, the student will be sent to the principal's office, and a call home will be made to the child's parent/guardian to discuss ways to help the child to make good choices in the future. The student will also be asked to complete a reflection log to address his/her poor behavior choices.

****Please Note: If a student chooses to severely or repeatedly disrupt the classroom, he or she will be sent directly to the principal's office. ****

The rules of our classroom are:

Work quietly.

Listen when others are talking.

Raise your hand before speaking.

Treat classmates with respect.

Always do your best!

In general, I expect my students to be kind, caring, and respectful at all times!