

Class Syllabus/Information

Mrs. Pass, Third Grade

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Third Grade! I am excited about a wonderful year with your child and you! Here are some very important bits of information that will help you and your child grow and learn throughout the year.

Curriculum:

Your child will receive third grade instruction as required by the Alabama State Department of Education. A complete listing of objectives is included in your curriculum guide (Sent home on the first day of school.) Additional enrichment lessons will be taught throughout the year. Please direct questions on this matter to me or to our EES curriculum coaches, Ms. Allbright and Mrs. Boozer.

Class Rules:

The class rules are listed in the Monday Folder conduct report. Please sign the report and make sure the student has the folder to return it on Tuesday morning. I will have instructed the students it is their responsibility to ask you to sign the folder, and remember to return it. Several may say, "My mom forgot to sign it", but I remind them they are the ones ultimately responsible for the folder getting signed. Please encourage your child to take this responsibility. Also, I encourage independence. I expect students to follow routines and to be prepared to learn. You can help by assigning tasks at home or "chores" that enable students to practice acting responsible. Simple routines such as carrying out the trash, sweeping the floor, or clearing the table are good starting points. Reward them with praise and make them feel they are part of the family work efforts to keep things going smoothly at home.

Homework:

Please look for the weekly homework schedule in each Monday Folder. It will also be posted on our class website. Most of the time, students will only have what they did not finish in class. Several students are learning to keep up the pace, and are getting use to the workload of our day. Please give them a time frame in which to finish. This will keep them on task and avoid long hours of homework. Offer help as much as you feel necessary, especially this time of the year.

Let me know through notes or visits if I can be of further assistance in this area. If you are experiencing frustration with homework or your child is spending more than one hour on homework, contact me immediately! Let's work together to keep homework in a positive perspective.

Test Schedule:

The following schedule will be followed MOST of the time:

- Mondays - No Tests
- Tuesdays – Usually No Tests
- Wednesdays - Math Quiz or Test, occasional Social Studies or Science Quiz or Test
- Thursdays - Spelling Test, Grammar Test
- Friday - Reading Test, Vocabulary Test

Class Schedule:

Please see the accompanying class schedule. There may be some changes made through the year. If so, I will let you know and the updated version will be sent home in the Monday folder. The class schedule is also posted on our class website.

Birthdays:

Feel free to organize a birthday party in the classroom for your child's birthday. I want each child to celebrate their special day! For those who have summer birthdays, we will celebrate their HALF-BIRTHDAY- the date that is 6 months earlier than their actual birthday. Just send me a note telling me what you would like to bring and when.

Grades:

Here is our grading scale. Please address all questions to me. Different teachers will use different grading scales. This will be a challenging year. Expect to see differences in progress as we go. Third grade is full of new concepts to be taught. We will work together to make this new experience fair and valid. For most students it will be the first time they will receive Bs or Cs in some subject areas. I am very concerned about their attitudes on grades, and I will teach them many strategies to help maintain good grades and study habits.

Homework, Home Reading Log 10%
Class work, Readers Notebook 10%
Quizzes 20%
Projects 20%
Tests 40%

Handwriting will be graded with an “S” satisfactory or “N” needs improving. Please initial and send all graded papers back in the folder each week. Keep all the papers with smiley faces or no marks. Keep all announcements and flyers that give information about local activities.

Accelerated Reader:

There will be NO GRADES for AR reading. AR is a process of reading for *enjoyment* and to encourage students *to read*. As a student reads and takes AR reading quizzes, the following rewards are given:

- Pass a test, making 80 or above = a small prize.
- Each trimester, students with 25 or more points will get a special prize.
- At the end of the year, the student with the highest points will receive a larger prize.

AR Certification – Students will receive certificates each grading period showing their progress. This is a classroom event, not all teachers give certificates. Please address any questions to me directly on this matter.

Please make sure your child is reading at home for at least 20 minutes or more (in addition to homework.) There are several ways to accomplish this. Choose a variety so you and your child continue to enjoy reading. Some suggestions are:

1. Individual Silent Reading
2. Reading Aloud
3. Shared Reading- You read one page, they read the next, so on...
4. You or someone else can read to them.
5. Listening to an audio book while reading along. (The public library has a nice selection of audio books ☺)

These strategies allow students to get familiar with reading higher-level books. For more suggestions, please contact me.

A weekly reading log will be located in the reading pocket of the take-home folder. Be sure to sign this each night and return it each day.

Snacks and Water:

Students may bring a nutritious snack and a bottle of water. No other beverages are allowed in the classroom, including flavored water (except for parties.) Snack is around 9:30 while we continue working. When we start studying money, we will open a little snack store, which will make snacks available to students for a cheap price. Students will be responsible for counting change and running the store. I will send more information about this at a later time.

Jackets/Sweaters:

Students may want to keep a jacket or a sweater in the classroom. The temperature in our room is extreme- extremely warm or extremely cool.

Book Clubs:

I will occasionally send home book club forms. I will try to include a list of the books that are AR books on the form. If you would like to buy books to donate to the class, I would be glad to help you choose what we need. We have very active readers, and I am always going through the library selections, but I have found we are in need of certain levels and topics in my class and in the school.

PTO:

Don't forget to join! The PTO here is SUPER- I have never before worked with such generous and kind people who really care about kids and teachers the way this group does! Your children benefit greatly from the work PTO does. Also, PTO dues are lower this year, and each class gets a prize (teacher, too) for 100% participation.

Volunteers:

I would like help in the following areas:

- Book Club Coordinator
- Folder Mom or Dad, Mondays at 1:30
- Computer/Science Mom or Dad
- Copy Mom or Dad – Thursdays or Fridays

Pick Up and Drop Off:

Please follow school procedures for dropping children off at school in the morning. Students will not be allowed in the hallways before 7:45 am. They must go to the gym where they will be supervised until the morning bell rings. In the afternoon, unless I receive a note from you, my class will walk together down the steps by my room and out to the corner next to the cafeteria entrance.

Parents should wait outside by the corner to meet their children.

Always use the crosswalks when crossing the street. Students are watching you to set an example to them for safety!

During the school day, please do not enter the building unless you have signed in at the office. I want to ensure each child's safety first. Please help us by following these rules. If your child needs to ride home with someone else, please let me know by writing a note. Please try not to call the office unless it is absolutely necessary to change your pick up plans. If your child is not picked up by 3:10, they will be taken immediately to the afterschool program, and you will be charged a fee.

Ball Practice, Ball Games, Church, After-School Activities:

Please keep me informed of late-night practices and schedules that sometimes interfere with normal reading and study time after school. Let me know of special events- I would love to see your child performing outside of school, too!

Parent Communication:

I will send a weekly parent letter home each Monday. If you need to see me, please send a note asking for a time to meet. You can reach me best through email. Please try to come at a time other than first thing in the morning. We start at 7:45 with instruction, and I need to give my full attention to the class. Also, please let your third graders walk into the room by themselves. I really want to encourage them to become confident self-starters.

Thanks again for your cooperation and support. Please let me know how I can better serve you and your child.

Sincerely,
Cindy Pass

School- 734-2232, Home – 747-8838, Cell – 338-4404

Please call before 8:30 p.m.☺ Email: cpass@cullmancats.net