****Mrs. Miller’s Third Grade

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Welcome to third grade at Tonganoxie Elementary! I am excited that your child is in my class for the 2016-2017 school year. This letter will inform you of what you can expect in my classroom. I will cover all areas from classroom routines, homework, daily schedule, and communication. First, let me introduce myself.

I was born in South Carolina, but lived a majority of my life in Gardner, KS. I graduated from Gardner Edgerton High School in 1989 and attended Emporia State University, graduating in December of 1992 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary Education. I met my husband at ESU and have now been married for 23 years. We have two beautiful children; Courtney and Jacob. We have lived in Tonganoxie for 17 years and we love the community.

This will be my 14th year of teaching. I have taught a variety of grade levels from kindergarten to third grade, and one year of 8th grade. I’m thrilled to be teaching third grade again and feel very blessed to be teaching at my hometown elementary school. I have many exciting plans for the upcoming school year!

**Daily Subjects**

**Grading Scale:**

A = 90 – 100%

 B = 80 – 89%

 C = 70 – 79%

 D = 60 – 69%

 F = 0 – 59%

You can keep track of your child’s grades, lunch account, and attendance through Skyward. Remember, Skyward is updated weekly – biweekly, not daily. All tests will be weighted double.

* Missing and late work will be entered as a zero and the missing box on Skyward will be checked.
* Students will have one week to turn in late work or the score will remain a zero.
* Planners will reflect assigned or missing work.

**Language Arts:** This area includes many disciplines from reading, language, and writing. I will be teaching in a variety of ways to meet the individual needs of my students. Students may be given reading logs to track what they read in school and at home. They will need to be returned the last day of the month.

**Spelling:** Third grade spelling will focus on spelling patterns, phonics development, and vocabulary. Students will need to complete 3-4 spelling activities either during word work in class or at home during the week.

**Math:** Third grade is a busy year expanding concepts already learned in second grade like adding and subtracting multiple digits with and without regrouping, but we will also be introducing many new concepts like multiplication and division. It is vital as we move into more complex math concepts that each student has a strong grasp of basic facts. The expectation is that all students will have mastered the multiplication facts through 12 by the end of the year. We will work on basic facts daily with games, practice, or timed tests during the week. However, your support in having your child practice at home is greatly appreciated!

**Science & Social Studies:** I love these academic areas and will make them as exciting as possible for the students. We will learn through inquiry learning which gets the students thinking critically about the world around them. Third grade teaches social studies the first semester and science the second semester.

**Handwriting:** We will be learning cursive this year. For some students this is exciting news and for others they dread even the thought! I will be teaching individual letters and how to connect letters to write words. I will be asking the kiddos to refrain from writing full time cursive until all the letters have been learned.

**Homework**

In third grade your child should expect to spend about 30 minutes a night completing homework. Homework will consist of work not finished in class, spelling word practice, math facts, or reading a great book! Occasionally, your child will need to complete special projects outside of class; book reports, research projects, etc. There may also be times when your child will need to complete assignments I assign for extra practice if they are struggling with a specific skill.

### **Student Planners – VERY IMPORTANT!!!**

Each student has a binder that will include their planner to record daily work and homework folder. We will fill these out together daily. The planners should be taken home and brought back each day (responsibility). I feel that this is a vital link in communication between home and school. It teaches students to organize and be accountable for their schoolwork. Please ask your child to share their planner with you each day. All assignments are written in these planners with homework noted. **I ask that parents initial each day that they have seen the planner.** You are also encouraged to write a note to me as I check these daily. **Your child is responsible for removing and placing homework back into their folders nightly.**

**Classroom Rules and Consequences**

Our classroom rules are simple and cover most behaviors that a teacher might see in the classroom. I will break these down into a more visual manner for the kids to understand (examples in the parenthesis).

1. Braves are responsible (complete classwork, prepared for class, honest, trustworthy)
2. Braves are respectful (kind, caring, encouraging, thoughtful)
3. Braves are safe (walk in the halls, using equipment appropriately)

There will be a school wide program where students can earn tickets for exhibiting these behaviors. These tickets can be redeemed for prizes.

**State Assessments**

Third graders will be taking the state assessment in the spring. We participate in the reading and math. I will send out further information as we approach our testing window.

**Birthday Parties**

Birthday snacks are welcome in class. Please let me know at least a day before so I can make plans. We will plan on celebrating at 2:45. **Send in only store bought, single serving, ready to serve treats since we will have only 10 minutes to enjoy the snack.**

**Classroom Parties and Field Trips**

Through the year I will need parents to help out in a variety of areas from classroom parties to field trips. Please check out the parent signup sheets at Back to School Night.

**Communication**

The best way to reach me during the day is by email, mmiller@tong464.org. You may also call the office 913-416-1480 to leave a message or to be connected with my voice mail. My first priority during the day is teaching your children, but I will return calls and email as soon as I can, usually at the end of the day or during my planning time.

**Remind101:** I will be sending home a sheet that you can sign up for text or email reminders via Remind 101. This is a great app for communication for quick updates and reminders.

**Classroom Webpage:** All my newsletters and updates will be posted on my classroom webpage [www.tesmillersminutes.weebly.com](http://www.tesmillersminutes.weebly.com).