

**Steindorf STEAM School**  
**Back-To-School-Night**  
**Third Grade**  
**Mrs. Horn - [horns@cambriansd.com](mailto:horns@cambriansd.com)**  
**Mrs. Karayannis - [karayannis1@cambriansd.com](mailto:karayannis1@cambriansd.com)**

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the third grade! Your child has been working hard to get the first couple of weeks off to a great start. It is very exciting to watch them make new friends and begin their third grade learning adventures. We hope that the following gives you a good snapshot of what to expect for the upcoming year.

**Project Based Learning**

We will be using the teaching method of Project Based Learning, or PBL, to help students learn better. Project Based Learning is a teaching method in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to an authentic, engaging and complex question, problem, or challenge. Projects give students the chance to apply the skills they learn in school to personally relevant and real-world situations. Your child also learns skills in PBL such as how to think critically, solve problems, work in teams, and make presentations. These skills will help students succeed in the future, both in school and in today's work world.

**Reading/Language Arts/Writing**

In reading, the classroom structure we will use is called Daily 5. It is a literacy structure that teaches independence and gives children the skills needed to create a lifetime love of reading and writing.

Students select from five authentic reading and writing choices:

1. Read to Self (DRA)
2. Work on Writing (Lucy Calkins)
3. Read to Someone
4. Listen to Reading (Reading A to Z)
5. Word Work (Practice Spelling Pattern, Individual HFW, and ScootPad)

As the students are working independently toward personalized goals, we meet individual needs through whole-group and small-group instruction, as well as one-on-one conferring. Along with the writing during Daily 5 we will also use Lucy Calkin's Units of study to guide our teaching of the Common Core Standards in writing. These units will develop and refine strategies for independence and fluency through writer's workshop. The program focuses on children using their own "voice," to discover and refine their own personal writing style as they compose "stories that matter" using material from their own lives.

**Spelling:**

- We will focus on the third grade spelling pattern expectations.

- A spelling pretest, which is corrected by your child, is administered and sent home on Monday. This pre-assessment will be used to determine their spelling words for the week. There are two lists – the “regular list” and a “challenge list”. If your child gets all the 10 words correct, they will study the challenge words. If they miss 1 or more words, they will study the regular list. The weekly spelling test is on Friday.
- High Frequency Words (HFW) - These words do not have a specific spelling pattern. Each student is tested to identify their individual words. They will have five personal words that they will study along with the 10 spelling words.

### **Handwriting:**

Students will learn how to write in cursive this year. We will teach lowercase letters first to help children learn the skills in the easiest, most efficient way and then transition to capital letters.

### **Math**

Investigations 3 is an inquiry-based approach to teaching mathematics. Students actively explore mathematical ideas to develop understanding and fluency. They collaborate, investigate, and take part in problem-based learning. The third grade curriculum includes:

- Unit 1 - Understanding Equal Groups,
- Unit 2 - Graphs and Line Plots,
- Unit 3 - Travel Stories and Collections,
- Unit 4 - Perimeter, Area, and Polygons,
- Unit 5 - Cube Patterns, Arrays, and Multiples of 10,
- Unit 6 - Fair Shares and Fractions on Number Lines,
- Unit 7 - How Many Miles?
- Unit 8 - Larger Numbers and Multi-Step Problems.

ScotPad will also be used to differentiate instruction as a reteach and a challenge resource.

### **Science/Social Studies**

- Science and Social Studies will be taught using Guided Language Acquisition by Design (GLAD) an instructional model that incorporates many research-based and highly effective instructional strategies. The academic content and language will be delivered while using integrated, balanced literacy approach.
- We will also be using the Full Option Science Foss Science System (FOSS) program that will allow student to actively engage in hands on science experiment.
- We will also use the Science Lab for various experiments.
- Science Topics:
  - Inheritance and Variations of Traits: Life Cycles and Traits
  - Interdependent Relations in Ecosystems
  - Weather and Climate
  - Forces and Interactions
  - Engineering Design

- Social Studies Topics:
  - American Indian Nation in our local region
  - Local Historical events and how each period of settlement left its mark on our land
  - Basic structure of U.S. Government
  - Heroes
  - Economics

### **Technology**

- We will integrate technology as a tool to make learning accessible and fun. Technology does not replace learning.
  - We will teach 21st Century Skills in our Classroom:
  - Focus on Digital Citizenship: Common Sense Media
  - Typing Skills
  - Citing Sources
  - Fresh Grade / Edmodo / Google Classroom
- 1-1 iPads and hope to get a class set of Chromebooks via Donor's Choose
- Tech Savvy? Come in and give a demo to our class!

### **Fine Arts**

Our fine arts program includes weekly art project, music, and dramatic play which will be integrated within the 3rd grade curriculum. The Makers Lab will be used on a regular basis. Students will attend music class weekly. This year they will learn to play the recorder. It will be issued to them and they will be responsible for bringing it to school every Thursday.

### **Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)**

It is a proactive approach to establishing the behavioral supports and social culture and needed for all students in a school to achieve social, emotional and academic success.

#### **Steindorf PBIS Expectations:**

- We are caring and respectful
- We are responsible decision makers
- We are Problem Solvers

### **Classroom Management**

- Our primary focus of classroom management is rewarding students who are making good choices with their behavior and actions. Students will receive positive recognition in the form of praise, positive phone calls, notes home, awards, Class Dojo points, and special privileges.

#### **Behavior Chart:**

- Each student has a clothespin with their name on it and they are clipped to the left and right edges of the Ready to Learn level of the chart. During the course of the day, the clothespins move up and down the chart based upon the behavioral choices each student makes. Positive

behavior causes the clothespin to move up one level. Conversely, inappropriate behavior will cause the clothespin to move down one level.

- At the end of the day we will reflect via ClassDojo where your child's clip was at the end of the day. Before contacting us for an explanation of what your child did. Please ask your child. They will be asked to explain why they are moving their clips up or down before doing so. These are the behavior levels and corresponding rewards and consequences.
- If a pattern persists, parents will be called to schedule a meeting to discuss.

Behavior Level	Reward or Consequence
On Teacher	Receive 5 Class Dojo points
Outstanding	Receive 3 Class Dojo points
Great Day	Receive 2 Class Dojo points
Ready to Learn	Receive 1 Class Dojo point
Think About It	Lose 1 Class Dojo point
Teacher's Choice	Lose 2 Class Dojo points
On Teacher's Desk	Lose 3 Class Dojo points - Teacher will phone home

### **Homework**

- The purpose is to practice the skills learned in class, to communicate the third grade curriculum with parents and to develop responsibility, solid study skills and habits.
- Homework will be assigned daily. It should be completed neatly and be done in regular pencil (or with crayons when drawing). Occasionally, work that is not completed in class will be sent home to complete as homework. Please return the completed homework each day. We will indicate any missing items with a circle.
- Please sign the Agenda nightly.
- Please write a note in the Agenda or send me an email if your child has difficulty with a concept.
- Any homework sent home in the Thursday envelope that has questions for your child about what they wrote, please have them answer the questions and return the work to school as soon as possible so we may address any possible concerns and avoid any possible misconceptions.

### **Physical Education (P.E.) and Music**

	P.E. (Wednesday)	Music (Thursday)
Mrs. Horn	9:35 - 10:10	9:05 - 9:35
Mrs. Karayannis	9:00 - 9: 35	8:30 - 9:00

- Please make sure your child wears tennis shoes and socks, as well as loose, comfortable clothing so they can safely enjoy their time.

**Birthday:** At Steindorf, we have a consistent policy on birthday celebrations that we ask you all to respect. We LOVE birthdays, but want to keep our students healthy and happy. Please do not bring any edible OR non-edible goodies to celebrate your student's birthday. As an alternative, we suggest you or your child pick out a favorite book. You could wrap the book and after we sing, the birthday child will open the present for the whole class.

**Thursday Folders:**

- School notices and information, as well as your child's work will come home on Thursday.
- Please send back any notes or signed slips in the envelope.

**Water/Bathroom Breaks:**

- Students are encouraged to go to the bathroom before school, during recess, and during lunch to avoid using class instruction time for bathroom breaks. To encourage students to be responsible we ask students not to go to the bathroom within the first 20 minutes of a school bell. We encourage students to bring water bottles for easy access to water and less class disruption.

**Snacks:**

- During our morning recess children are encouraged to bring a snack to help them last until lunch at 12:30. We would like to request that only healthy snack be sent (fruit, cheese, crackers, yogurt, etc.). Our morning is long and some energy mid-morning is helpful. Please keep the snack simple so that your child can eat quickly and get out for some playtime.

**Classroom Website:**

- Our intention is to each have a classroom website. There you and your child will be able to find most of the notices that we send home. More importantly, you can find weekly spelling words, monthly newsletters, and links to many various resources. We will send notice when our websites are accessible.

**Contact Hours:** can be reached Monday - Friday from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm. We are also happy to schedule an appointment with you at other times. The best way to reach us is to stop by, call and leave a message, send a note, or write an email. We'll get back to you as soon as possible.

- Please let us know if your child is ever experiencing a hard time at school or has a change at home, so that we can make sure to be sensitive to his or her needs at school.

We hope this gives you a good picture of life in third grade! We looking forward to working with you and your child this year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Horn and Mrs. Karayannis