

Dear Parents,

August 2009

It is my experience, teaching third and fourth grade, that many students struggle as they transition from second grade into third grade. The state has requirements, or standards, for all California students. Because of the high standards, there is quite a leap in the quality and quantity of the work required from students in third grade from what was expected in second grade.

Please help me to help your child learn organization. Being organized is a key skill to being successful in school from now on. This is why I require all students to use the Weekly Homework Sheet, and the Weekly Progress Note, with no exceptions. These forms are to help you monitor your child's classroom requirements and behavior, and allow you to communicate any questions or concerns you may have while your child is transitioning into third grade.

Students are no longer **learning to read**. They are expected to come into third grade reading fluently with comprehension. This is because students are now required to **read to learn**. Reading to learn new ideas is employed in all areas of the curriculum: science, social studies, reading, and even math. Another new concept is that now they are accountable for this information – they are tested on the new information they read. This is a big change for your student.

Third graders have to memorize the times tables, 0 -- 12, by October. **A goal easily met if the students practice nightly as is their daily homework assignment.** California standards require students to multiply two and three digit numbers, learn about fractions, and compute long division. If your child has not mastered their times tables, they will struggle with the more complicated, multistep math concepts we will be learning. **This is a fact.** Please make it a priority, of number one importance to help your child learn and memorize their multiplication facts, 0 – 12.

I run a fun class with lots of praise and rewards for hard work. I am here to help each student reach their learning goals set by the California standards. I will work with each family as needed, but the expectation to meet California standards remains the same for all students. I am looking forward to a great year and to working with you and your child.

Mrs. Jones