

Welcome to Third Grade!!

My name is Erika Rodriguez and I will be your child's third grade teacher this year at school #4! I have worked in the district for the past 3 years but this is my first year at school 4. I will follow the third grade common core curriculum and all students will be expected to meet the standards set by New York State and the Rochester City School District. I will ensure all students receive the support and encouragement they need to reach their full potential and have a great third grade year!

Classroom Behavior Plan

I encourage all students to follow classroom and school wide behavioral expectations in order to foster a respectful learning community. Each day students will "Strive to be their best self, and ROAR!" (Respectful, On-Task, Accountable, Responsible). Their behavior will be assessed using the classdojo online program. Students will be able to earn a point each time they are caught being good, and similarly will lose a point for behaviors that do not follow the classroom and school wide behavior expectations. Points will be tracked for a week so if a student has a bad day, they are penalized for the whole week. At the end of the week they will be able to choose from a variety of prizes depending on how many points they earned for the week. Prize Box 1 will be for 20 points; prize box 2 for 21-30 points; prize box 3 for 31-40 points and prize box 4 for 41-60 points. We will also be using classdojo as a whole class positive behavior system. Each time the class receives a compliment or accolade from another adult in the building, they will earn a point. Once they get to 100 points, they will get a reward from a list of choices that they will vote on as a class. This behavior program also is an app where parents can track their student's daily behavior and contact the teacher via the app. Please download the app and sign up using the invite that will come home with your child!

Homework

Third graders get homework! Students will receive homework Monday-Friday. Homework is meant to be a review of skills learned in school. It should not be too difficult or stressful. Students may need your help to complete the work. If your child has a particular problem with a homework assignment, please write a note to let me know so that I can help your child at school. Reading will also be mandatory each night. Please read with your child each and every night for at least 20 minutes (or more!). It is the best way to help them become independent readers. Reading time should be a fun, relaxed time to spend with your child. Let your child pick stories that he or she enjoys and read them aloud. You can model great reading behavior by pointing to words and discussing the plot and the pictures. It is OK to read the same book over and over again...this is a great way to help students recognize words and build upon their fluency. In third grade students are beginning to read chapter books. Pick a book and buddy read with your child-you read a page and they read a page and talk about the book to ensure understanding!

Specials

Students will attend specials daily. They will attend Physical Education (PE) on A and C days. Third graders do NOT need to change their clothes, but please make sure they wear sneakers on those days. Students will also attend Art or Library on B days and Music on D Days.

Meals and Snacks

Breakfast is served in the cafeteria every morning from 8:45-9:15. It is not mandatory that your child eats breakfast at school, but if they choose not to, please make sure they have a nutritious breakfast at home. Students eat lunch in the cafeteria from 1:30 to 2:00. Due to the late hour for lunch, students may bring in a snack from home, but please help your child make nutritious choices. Healthy foods help keep your child's body fueled and ready to learn. You may send in a store bought treat for your child's birthday. Please give me at least a day's notice if you are planning on bringing in a treat so I can allow time in the schedule to celebrate! (Birthday celebrations will always take place at the end of the school day (3:00) as not to disrupt our core subjects.) We often have small treats at school (small pieces of candies, etc). Please let me know what your child should not eat.

Dismissal

School #4 dismisses at 3:30 every day. Bus riders will always be placed on their bus unless you call or send a note. Please let me know if your child will be leaving with an older sibling; we need your permission to let them do this! Be prepared to show your ID when you pick up for security purposes. Please be prompt at dismissal time.

Contact Me

I encourage open communication! Feel free to write me a note whenever you have a question or concern. You can always call me here at school (235-7848 room 215). I may not answer the phone because I am busy with the students, but please leave a message and I will return your call. You can also email me (probably the fastest way to get a response) at Erika.rodriguez@rcsdk12.org . You can also contact me via the classdojo app once you have signed up. Since this is an app, it will be sent directly to my phone so I will be able to respond much quicker.

I look forward to a terrific school year and am excited to get to know your child!

Thank You,