

Miss Dunbar's ABCs of 3rd Grade

ABSENCES: Much of our learning takes place together in class. We do lots of hands-on activities and group work. Please plan to attend school every day, except in cases of illness or emergencies. If your child will be absent, please send in a note within 2 days of the absence. All notes must be sent in to school. No verbal excuses will be accepted. Please try to avoid email excuses. I have to print all email excuses.

AIG: The AIG teacher works in partnership with 3rd grade classroom teachers to provide a variety of in-class experiences designed to elicit high academic performance. Students who demonstrate potential in the activities will receive enrichment/extension activities in language arts and/or math under the guidance of the AIG teacher. AIG identification process in third grade consists of both formal and informal indicators. Informal Indicators are Student Learning Behaviors, Student Performance on Language Arts and Math Grades as well as Student Portfolios and work samples. Formal Indicators are the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) and the Iowa Assessments (ITBS).

ARRIVAL: School begins at 8:00 am, although the bell does not ring until 8:30 am. I prefer that arrival take place no later than 8:15 am, as it takes most students 10-15 minutes to get organized for the day.

AGENDAS: This year we have beautiful new agendas for the students to write their homework down daily. We use your homework agenda every day!! We write down our homework and Miss Dunbar stamps it when we write it down correctly. Parents, please sign agenda and check homework nightly!!

BIRTHDAYS: If you would like to send a treat with your child on or near his/her birthday, please feel free to do so. These treats will be eaten during our lunch. If you are sending in treats, please make sure that they are easily distributable. Please do not send anything that needs to be cut or eaten with a utensil. Please send in snacks with your child at arrival so they can be distributed when time allows, or bring in the treats to lunch and help your child pass them out during the lunch period. Please make sure all treats are store bought. We have many allergies at school and this provides the safest situation.

BOG: We are taking the Beginning of Grade (BOG). Please look in the newsletters for dates. The purpose of the test is to provide a baseline score. We will use this to show how much students grow in reading this year. This is not a test to be studied for, but a good night sleep and a good breakfast are needed. Please make sure that your child is on time. I will discuss the scores with you when we meet at our first conference.

BOOK ORDER FORMS: I will send home for you and your child to look over every month or two. Book clubs offer fantastic deals! Checks should be made payable to SCHOLASTIC. Please see the 'book orders' tab on the website for additional information.

CONFERENCES: These are held during of the first and third quarter. Please check the report card envelope to There will be a sign up. I am also available to conference as needed, however, we will need to schedule a time convenient for both of us.

COMMUNICATIONS FOLDERS: This Friday folder houses our weekly newsletter, student work, and other important information that assists with communication between home and school. They should be taken home on Friday and returned to school on Monday.

COMMUNICATION: Please email me whenever you need to communicate anything. My email address is edunbar please remember that all teachers ending of email is @wcpss.net . The reason that I do not write my whole email on the website, is to avoid spam emails.

CROC SHOP: They are open on Tuesdays from 8-8:30 in the PTA room. Kids need to go to their classrooms first and then come down. We sell mostly school supplies such as pencils, pens, erasers, notebooks, glue sticks, etc. We also sell spirit wear. Currently we have sweatshirts, sweat pants, long sleeve shirts, tote bags, drawstring bags and magnets

DISMISSAL: Students are dismissed at 3:00. If students are going home a different way than specified on the student information sheet, a note from home is required.

DRESS FOR THE WEATHER: Please make sure your child arrives to school dressed for the predicted weather for that day. Also, please note that the temperature in our classroom does not stay consistent. It can be warm some moments and then quickly become cold. I will encourage your child to bring an extra sweater or sweatshirt for these occasions - especially during the winter months.

EARLY RELEASE DAYS: On Early Release days students are dismissed at 12:30pm, instead of 3:00pm. Students will not have recess on early release days so we can fit in required subjects.

ENRICHMENT: Students have the opportunity be tested for the Academically and Intellectually Gifted Program in the third grade. There are two rounds of testing for this program. Please look for information about this during first quarter.

EOG: The EOG is a statewide test we will take in June. It assesses reading comprehension and math concepts.

FIELD TRIPS: We will be taking several field trips this year. I will send home one permission slip that will cover all field trips. When it comes home, please fill in both sides. Details will be announced in our Weekly Newsletter.

FIELD TRIP LUNCH: I will also send home lunch forms for the entire year with the permission slip. Please fill these out promptly. I will send reminders before field trips denoting who ordered school lunches. If you bring a lunch from home, please bring it in a disposable bag. We do not have room in the coolers and on the bus for reusable bags, reusable water bottles or reusable containers.

GRADING: Students will be assessed using standards based grades (1, 2, 3 and 4) based on their performance in academic, as well as the special areas (music, art, and PE).

HOMEWORK: Students have homework four times a week, Monday through Thursday. They will write down homework agenda each day. Miss Dunbar stamps it daily to ensure that students write their homework down correctly. Each student's agenda is kept inside their class binder. This binder will come home every day, and **it needs to come back to school the next day.** In addition, the homework note in the agenda needs to be initialed or signed by a parent daily. This is important as it teaches students to be responsible for their assignments and it is also our daily communication with parents.

INCENTIVES: Class Reward: Put 1 marble in this jar when we earn a compliment. When the jar is full, we will celebrate! Small Group Reward: Put 1 table point on the board when I catch your table working or being ready to work. The table with the most points at the end of the week will go to the treasure box. Individual Reward: When I catch you exceeding expectations, I will give you a card for the blue chart. At the end of the week, we will pick one spot from the blue chart to go to the treasure box.

INDEPENDENCE is a goal for students because it builds self-esteem and self-confidence. Third graders are very capable of doing many things on their own and I encourage them to do as much as they can for themselves in the classroom. Please encourage them to think through and problem-solve in everyday situations.

JOURNALS (or composition books) are used in every subject area. They may be taken home as needed for the purposes of studying or sharing, however, they should be brought back to school as they are used frequently.

KEEP INFORMED by reading our newsletter every week and checking the Folder weekly for notes and information. Also, please check out my website. I plan to update it regularly to share events, lessons, and photos from our classroom activities.

LUNCH takes place at 11:30 am. You are more than welcome to join your child and their friends for lunch in the cafeteria. Students who bring lunch money to add to their account should do so before 8:30.

NEWSLETTERS will be sent home every week in the Communications Folder to inform you of our focus of the week. It will also be available on the website. Important information is always included, so please read carefully. In addition, our school-wide newsletter (the Wakefield Wire) is now sent in folders frequently.

OPEN HOUSE will take place on August 6th. Be on the lookout for invitations with more information.

PE: Note from Mr. Miller Tennis shoes are a requirement to participate in PE classes at Sycamore Creek. It is important that students are able to perform safely and at their best during a physically active lesson. It is recommended that students have athletic shoes each day for safety during Structured Play, as well. Students are encouraged to develop a habit of putting their tennis shoes on their feet or in their bookbag each day to be prepared for an active day at Sycamore Creek. Flip Flops, Crocs, Toms, and Athletic Sandals are comfortable and convenient, but are not acceptable in PE classes. Also, in order for your child's class to earn a compliment in PE, everyone must be Prepared to learn by wearing tennis shoes.

QUESTIONS: Instead of asking your child, "What did you do in school today?" ask, "What book did you read during independent reading?" or "What did you learn in math?" or "Tell me what you wrote about during Writing Workshop!" Show that you're interested, and ask specific questions. Most likely, your child will respond positively and more openly.

REMIND: Please sign up for Remind text messaging. Text @dunbar1516 to 81010 to sign up

REPORT CARDS will be sent home every nine weeks on trackout days. Please see the district calendar for specific dates. Please return report card envelopes on trackin days.

SNACK: Kids need snacks! When healthy snack choices are made, they provide the nutrients and calories kids need for growth, good health and energy to get through the day. Please pack your child a healthy snack to enjoy on a daily basis.

SUPPLIES: A supply list was sent home at the end of last year to indicate the items your child needs in class. Please make sure your child is prepared for school every day with those essential items. Your child should also have supplies at home (as well as a quiet place to work) to complete at-home assignments.

TARDIES: If your child arrives at school after the bell rings at 8:30 am, they need to go to the office to get a tardy slip.

TWITTER: Follow SCES on Twitter Parents, if you follow @sycamorecreekes not only will you get school news, but you will also know when busses are leaving campus and if there are any delays with transportation. Follow @MissDunbar3 to find out amazing things about our class.

UNIQUE: Each student in my classroom is unique. I will do my best to differentiate instruction to ensure that all children get what they need to be successful in third grade.

VOLUNTEERS and VISITORS are welcome! There are many opportunities for you to be involved in the classroom this year. Be on the lookout for upcoming info. When you arrive at school to volunteer or visit, please register in the office and pick up a badge instead of coming directly to the classroom. This policy is for the safety of your children. Please remember that if you would like to volunteer in the class or on field trips, you must be a cleared school visitor. You can fill out the online form for clearance anytime in the library.

WATER BOTTLES: Please feel free to have your child bring a water bottle to class. I prefer the reusable water bottles with tight fitting lids (fewer spills). Please encourage your child to bring their water bottle home nightly to wash it. They may keep them on their desks to drink throughout the day so they don't have to miss instructional time to get a drink.