

August 19, 2018

Dear 3rd Grade Families,

I hope everyone is having a joyful summer! My summer has been full of reading, gardening, travelling, spending time with loved ones and preparing for 3rd grade. I plan to squeeze in another adventure before the new school year begins. I hope you can too!

Third grade is an exciting year, filled with activity. The hands-on experience of our curriculum includes cooking, building, working with fibers, preparing the soil, planting, tending and harvesting. Each has the purpose of connecting the child in a very concrete way to the material world. In a sense, the world is “demystified” with a growing knowledge of the “how-tos” of life. This knowledge is then augmented by the development of those archetypal skills that are most necessary for humanity’s survival on the earth, those having to do with insuring food, clothing and shelter.

As their perception of the world becomes ever more objective, 3rd graders have a natural desire to quantify and measure. Measurement is introduced as an outgrowth of human activity and the parts of the body, i.e. cubit (arm and hand), fathom (both arms stretched out), uncia or inch (thumb) and span (hand). Together we will measure the size of Noah’s ark (they’ll be quite surprised to find how far across our field it would have stretched). In fact, in all of our practical work, we will continually come back to measurement; from cooking to building to digging to working with money to time telling to moving through the seasons of the garden. We will measure our classroom, our school, our own individual bedrooms and ourselves.

We will also begin our journey of geography with our study of shelters and how the environment around them lent to their design. The children will build mini-shelters, visit different types of buildings and learn what it takes to build a house.

Over the course of the year we will review and extend arithmetic skills. We will continue to work with the 4 processes: “carrying” in addition, “borrowing” for subtraction, multiplication and division. We will also be extending our knowledge of place value and begin working with double-digit multiplication.

In our grammar work the simple parts of speech: verbs, nouns, pronouns, adjectives and adverbs will be introduced. Simple punctuation, paragraphing and capitalization will be practiced along with the different types of sentences. We will continue to work with phonics; long and short vowels, plurals and compound words, as well as begin to learn basic spelling rules. Vocabulary words will be drawn from the story content and reflected in the students’ main lesson books. The students will compose some of their own stories in their own words. In this way spelling correctly will gain further importance.

Reading will be a major focus of the year. As well as reading from our main lesson books and other texts, the class will have reading groups and or individual reading time on a daily basis.

This year promises to be very busy and lots of fun. I will need lots of helping adult hands, so get ready! Please email me at jlhorn@eugenevillageschool.org if you are able make it to the potluck and/or help in the classroom. (*See dates below*)

Important Dates

~Our first parent evening will take place on **Tuesday, August 28th** from 6:00-7:30 in the third grade classroom. Please RSVP and indicate if childcare is needed.

~You are all invited to a **dessert and fruit potluck on Monday, September 3rd**, Labor Day, from 7:00-8:00PM at Tugman Park. Please bring a dessert or fruit to share, as well as your own plates and utensils. I will provide cups and drinks. *(Please rsvp)*

~I would also like to invite you, along with your child, to visit and help me in the classroom on **Friday, August 31st**, any time between 10:00-4:00PM. *(Please rsvp)*

~The first day of school is **Wednesday, September 5th**. It will be a half day, 8:25-11:45.

Important Information to start the year

School Supplies: The Village School asks every family to contribute \$80 toward their child's school supplies. See the office for more details and to make payment arrangements. Please do not have your child bring any supplies to school. I order enough materials so that every student has exactly what he/she needs in the classroom for the entire year.

Supplies for home: In 3rd grade there will be weekly homework. It's essential to build good homework habits right from the start. I suggest you create a quiet, well-lit, tidy space for your child to do homework. Graphite pencils, colored pencils, crayons and a ruler with both inches and centimeters will be useful to have at home. Also, consider purchasing an analog clock to hang in a common area of your home if you do not already have one.

Clothing for school: I do not require indoor shoes. When the weather becomes wet and muddy I will require boots, hats and raincoats. Providing layers for your child to dress in is essential in our climate. In the fall the classroom may be cool in the morning and quite warm in the afternoon. If possible, consider leaving a hoodie or sweater at school for your child to wear in the classroom. Also, please bring a full change of clothes that can stay at school. ***Please label all items with child's name.***

Snack: Provide a healthy snack for your child every day. Please save treats, chocolate and gummy snacks of any kind for home. These foods tend to be distracting. I do not take a break for an afternoon snack. You may want to bring a quick snack to give your child at pick up.

Lunch: The Village School serves a freshly made lunch every day. Please refer to the menu on the VS website. If you do not wish to purchase a lunch, please pack a healthy balanced meal for your child. Again, save treats for home.

I look forward to the honor of teaching your children. Enjoy the last weeks of summer!

With warmest regards,

Jennifer Horn