

Hello Third Grade Families!

Welcome to a new school year...I am so thrilled to be a part of your child's life. This packet is designed as a quick "go-to" source for you. But, if you have any questions that are not found here, please email me or call the school office at 407-656-7904 and leave a message for me. My email address is: laurieharmsfcs@gmail.com.

I am excited to start my fifth year here at FCS. I have always taught 3rd grade (it's my very favorite age!) and I look forward to getting to know you, and your child as our year begins. Getting involved is one of the best ways to find out about our school, make new friends and become engaged with your child's education.

Some fun ways to volunteer at school include: room parent, library helper, PE coaches, field trip chaperones, party parents, PTO, after school coaches / sponsors, fundraisers and much more.

Our school is a much richer environment with your help. We could not make it without you! Thank you for taking such good care of our kids and staff!

I look forward to our 3rd grade year and all it has to offer!

Communication:

To ensure a successful year for both you and your student, I believe communication is the key. If you ever have any questions, please let me know. My goal is for your child to have a thriving 3rd grade year. Communication from the classroom will be one of the following:

- You will receive email updates throughout the week from me (hopefully no more than one-two).
- A weekly newsletter with homework reminders, spelling words, our Bible verse and important dates, etc.
- Occasional phone calls or notes (when necessary).
- Parent / Teacher conferences

I do ask for you to keep me informed as well when things are going on at home which will affect your child (traveling, family visiting, change of routine...) or if your child is having trouble with something at school. I am more than happy to help. Together, we can prepare your child for their future.

Classroom Management:

A positive reward system will be used throughout our day. Each student will have colored sticks. As they set excellent examples, they will be rewarded by turning in a colored stick. Each stick will earn them a certain reward.

Green Stick = Freebie Reward Card

Blue Stick = Jolly Rancher

Yellow Stick = Win-A-Spin

Red Stick = Treasure Box

A behavior chart will also help keep students on track if they are having a difficult day. A student will be asked to move his or her clip if their choices have not been corrected after several verbal warnings (3). Parents will be notified if behaviors do not improve or if the day was just an "off" day.

Green = Warning (*behavior binder)

Blue = Lose 5 Minutes (student/teacher conference, behavior binder)

Yellow = Note Home (parent signature, behavior binder)

Red = Parent / Teacher Conference (phone call or meeting, behavior binder)

*The student takes the responsibility of recording what they were doing (or not doing) in the Behavior Binder. If you ever have a question about your child's behavior, you may ask to check the Behavior Binder.

Progress Reports and Grade Cards:

You will receive 4 Progress Reports and 4 Report Cards during 3rd grade. You may keep these reports, but I will need to envelope signed and returned each grading period.

If you have any questions or concerns after receiving a Progress Report or Report Card, please either email me or call the office to schedule a conference with me. You will always be informed of your students' progress throughout the year. I will notify you if your student has dropped a grade in a subject (ex: an A to a B or a B to a C...and so on). Please check weekly assignments and tests to monitor your child's work habits.

Parent Teacher Conferences:

I am running Homework Help again this year. If you would like to make an appointment for a conference, I can arrange my schedule to meet with you. I am also available most Wednesday or Friday mornings.

Feel free to bring any of your questions or concerns about your child and their 3rd grade experience. It is our school policy to have Mrs. Schneberger present with our time together.

Classroom Routines:

Students perform well with a routine. The following is a guideline as to how our daily and weekly routine will look throughout the school year (with an occasional variation).

Homework (HW):

As school begins, a homework packet and an assignment sheet will come home every Thursday. You can also find our HW posted in our weekly Harms' Headlines Newsletter. The HW will be due on various days of the following week. Please make sure your child uses his/her MOOSE binder to keep track of HW. Projects will be assigned as well. The students will have 2-4 weeks' notice on all projects due. Late assignments will receive points deducted per academic day.

Attendance/Morning Routine:

Attendance is taken each morning when the National Anthem starts. If your child is not in our classroom, they will be counted tardy or absent. Class starts at 8:00 AM on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. On Wednesday and Friday school starts at 10:00 AM. Your child may enter the classroom 10 minutes early Monday—Friday to read quietly, work on HW or take care of any morning work we may have. Morning Care is provided on Wednesday and Friday from 8:00 – 9:45.

Bible:

Our school-wide Bible curriculum includes monthly memory verses and a monthly family Bible activity. Information will be sent home in the HW packet. A routine for practicing the verses at home or on the go will help supplement our study at school.

Book Adventure:

Beginning in August, each student will be given a login and password for Book Adventure, www.bookadventure.com. Each student needs to read and successfully quiz on 4 chapter books (min. 80 pages) each quarter. BA allows only 1 quiz to be taken per book. A student may read and test on another BA book to replace an unsatisfactory score. I will accept one written book report form per quarter if this helps. If your child would like to write a book report, I have forms to use, they just need to ask for a copy. If there is a question as to whether or not the book is a Book Adventure book, please check the Book Adventure web site before reading. Please make sure your student is reading books at least at the 3rd grade level. I will not record a score if the quiz is not at our reading level (3rd grade). This will be part of their Reading grade.

My child's username:

My child's password:

Tests / Quizzes:

Students and parents will be given a 1 week notice of tests / quizzes via the Homework Assignment sheet, Newsletter and emails in order to help prepare. Occasionally there will be "pop-quizzes." Students will prepare in class for upcoming tests / quizzes through in class reviews, games and class work.

M.O.O.S.E. is an acronym for: management of organizational skills everyday. Your child's M.O.O.S.E. Binder will contain a divider for each subject. **The papers in the M.O.O.S.E need to stay in the binder.** We will clean out the binders periodically at school. Homework papers will come home in your child's M.O.O.S.E binder. Papers for "home" and "return" are the student's responsibility. Review papers for tests, Bible verses, spelling words...etc. will all be kept in the M.O.O.S.E. binder. Please help encourage your child to be responsible for his / her binder so they are well prepared each day. This binder needs to come to school each day.

Book Reports:

In 3rd grade there will be 4 book reports, one per quarter. Parents and students will be given the directions as well as a rubric for the book reports well in advance (3-4 weeks before due date). Below you will find a quick reference as

to our book reports and approximate due dates for the year. You will receive a more detailed list of instructions, rubric and due dates as time draws closer to each report. (Hint: if your book report book is a book adventure book, your child may quiz and report on this book).

Mystery Book	October
Fiction Book	November
Biography Book	February
New Berry Award Book	April

Room Parent:

Room parents are important to our class. He / She will be coordinating our parent volunteer list for P.E. Fridays, Field Trip Chaperones, Class Parties and any email updates. Most of the communication from our Room Parent will be via email so be sure to check your email regularly.

Third Grade Room Parent:

Name: Cell: Email:

~Thank you Room Parent!!

We couldn't do this without you!! ~

Class Parties, Incentives, Birthdays & Snack:

Class Parties: We will celebrate the following holidays in our classroom with a small classroom party: Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter. The parties are planned by "Party Parents" from the class volunteer list. Our Room Mom will coordinate with the party parents and get the party money from Mr. Schneberger. Please note: we will have a small Valentine's Day party, but it will be with our class only—no parents are needed for this party. The End of Year party is Water Day—we will watch a movie/play games after our water time.

Incentives: Throughout the school year we will have small incentives as classroom rewards. These may be in the form of a class party. Others may include a day to wear something special or an earned treat.

Birthday: Everyone loves to celebrate birthdays. If you would like to send in a

treat to celebrate your child's birthday, let me know in advance (1-2 days). The treats you send in will be served during our snack time. Please make the treat easy to serve.

Snack: Please provide a healthy snack everyday (limit sugary foods). Please only send in water so we can take care of our floors. Snack items are sold daily. Most items are \$.50. Because of food allergies, I ask that students bring their own snack and not share. Our school has several kids with peanut/tree nut allergies, please do not send in food with peanuts or tree nuts. Thank you.

FROG Friend: Each child will have a chance to be our FROG Friend for a week. Each day they will get to share something about themselves. I try to schedule close to their birthday so it is a special week.

M—Pictures to share – these can be digital pictures or prints

T—All About Me information sheet

W – Sit anywhere in the room

TH - Estimation jar

Dress Code:

Follow the official FCS Dress Code exactly as listed in the FCS Handbook.

Occasionally, your child will be given a Casual Day (CD) pass for different rewards. In order to redeem a CD pass, check the list of FCS approved CD dates. Make sure your child brings his / her pass to school on the day they wish to use it.

Lost and Found:

On a regular basis, student's items are left behind, in the classroom, playground or just on the school grounds. Any found items are placed in the School Office in the Lost and Found bins. Please make sure you label all of your child's belongings to help reduce the Lost and Found items.

Medications & Allergies:

Medications: All medication needs to be administered by parents.

Allergies: If your child has any type of allergies, please let me know before the start of the school year in writing. I will need a detailed list of foods or environments your child should avoid. In addition, discuss the allergy with your student so they are well informed and aware of what they are allergic to, or if

they feel like they are having a reaction. It will help me and others if your child is aware and able to explain their allergies.

Beginning and End of the School Day Procedures:

Drop Off: For your child's safety and the safety of others, as well as for your convenience, **please drop off your child in the car line.** Close call situations have occurred in car line. Please do not pull out of line after your child is loaded into or out of your car unless you are first in line. Using the teacher lot to drop off your child is also dangerous. Please use the car line for drop off and pick up. A teacher and patrol(s) will be there to greet you and your child. Classrooms open at 7:45 on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Early care is available in Rice building on Wednesday and Friday mornings starting at 8:00 AM. Pick up is at 1:00 every day.

Going Home Sick, Going Home with a Friend or Appointments:

Sick: if your child is ill, the office will call you to come and pick up your sick child. Please do not send your child to school with a fever. We want your child to feel better and return to school when they are fever free.

Friend: Please send a signed note in with your child or call the school office if they are going home with someone other than a parent. Send the note in with your child to give to me upon arrival. If no note is sent, we will not be able to send your child home with anyone else.

Appointments: if you need to schedule appointments during the school day, please let me know at your earliest convenience. I will send any missed work home at that time. Visit the office to sign your child out before coming to the classroom.

Absences: If your child is absent I will place his/her work on their desk. If you or a sibling would like to pick it up at the **end** of the school day, you may. It will be ready each day at dismissal. Please note, excessive absences will result in conferences and possible retention.

Important Contact Information:

FCS: 407-656-7904

Mrs. Harms: 407-701-2890 c. / laurieharmsfcs@gmail.com

Web Site: www.familychristianschool.org

Notes:

