Welcome Third Grade Families!

We would like to take this time to welcome you and your child to third grade. We are excited to begin the school year together and look forward to celebrating your child’s success!

As you are well-aware, this year will be quite different from any previous school year. While we still do not have many answers, we are here to support you and your family throughout this journey. As we become aware of more details about the upcoming year, we will begin sharing them with you in a timely manner.

### Teachers

Third graders will begin departmentalizing instruction this year, your child will have two teachers: Mrs. Dominick and Mrs. Keppeler work together as a pair, while Mrs. Evans and Mrs. Sferlazza work together as a pair.

Mrs. Dominick or Mrs. Evans will teach your child reading, word study, and writing. Mrs. Keppeler or Mrs. Sferlazza will teach your child math, science, social studies, and health.

### Expectations

We strive to create a learner centered environment in third grade. Students will have opportunities to make choices in their own tasks to demonstrate learning, assess their own understanding of concepts, and work collaboratively with others.

As we begin the school year virtually, we would like to focus on whole body listening expectations: Listen with your brain, eyes, ears, hands, and mouth. Students will learn about these expectations during class.

### Language Arts

Students will work in flexible groups within our mixed ability classrooms. They will participate in meaningful independent activities, such as developing research skills, to extend learning throughout each unit.

Fountas and Pinnell Guided Reading Levels follow alphabetical order. The third-grade range is N, O, P. Throughout virtual learning, students will have opportunities to join Book Clubs led by their teachers.

### Writing and Word Study

We will follow the writing workshop model to focus on grammar and writing skills. Paragraph (essay) writing and response logs will correlate with our ELA lessons and students will be taught to use RACE! Structure for essay organization.

Word study will utilize the Open Court curriculum. Students will focus on both phonics/spelling instruction and vocabulary/word meaning.

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<th>Math</th>
<th>Our math curriculum utilizes the Bridges math curriculum and digital tools. Each unit will begin with a pre-assessment and parent information letter. Students will complete seven units of math and cover the eight mathematical practices. Our big focus is on understanding concepts, applying strategies, and explaining your thinking. Students will learn to solve two-step word problems, understand multiplication and division, fractions, and more!</th>
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| Science | Our science concepts focus on learning about interactions in the world around us. Students will learn about:
- Electricity and magnets
- Ecosystems and our impacts on their survival
- Force and motion
- Weather and climate |
| Social Studies | Students learn about government, geography, and cultures as we explore continents and countries. We will also apply concepts of civics in action as students learn about civic responsibilities and local government.

If time permits, students will develop personal financial literacy skills by understanding savings plans, goods and services, and types of markets. |
| Health | Our lessons focus on giving students the knowledge necessary for a healthy lifestyle. Our units will focus on:
- Goal setting, personal responsibility, and communication
- Healthy relationships and conflict resolution
- Nutrients, healthy food choices, and fitness
- Safety and injury prevention |
| Grading | We utilize the digital gradebook available on Schoology, students and parents have access to grades entered in the gradebook through personal Schoology accounts. For more information, please visit [http://www.bcps.org/parents/schoology/](http://www.bcps.org/parents/schoology/)

Students and parents are encouraged to check grades weekly. Any missing or incomplete work will be noted in the digital gradebook. |
| Contact | As we work throughout the school day, email is often the easiest way to contact us:
- Mrs. Megan Dominick: mdominick@bcps.org
- Mrs. Corinne Keppeler: ckeppeler@bcps.org
- Mrs. Robyn Evans: revans5@bcps.org
- Mrs. Heather Sferlazza: hsferlazza@bcps.org |