



August 22, 2017

Dear Third Graders and Parents,

I hope you've been enjoying your summer and having lots of fun. I'm excited to hear about what you did this summer. Make the most of every remaining vacation day, because our first day of school, September 5th, is right around the corner!

I'm busy organizing a classroom that you'll be happy to come to each day. I'm also sure you've made that exciting annual shopping trip to Wal-Mart and have bought your school supplies. Be sure to put your name on *everything*- pencils included, but to make it simple, write your initials on your pencils, with a permanent marker, near the eraser end. Basically, you'll need lots of pencils, a pack or two of wide-lined loose-leaf paper, erasers, and a box of Kleenex (for our class supply). Plan on replenishing paper and pencils through the school year as needed; third graders go through *oodles* of pencils...! Also, keep a supply of sharp pencils, erasers, and lined paper at home for homework! **Do not bring pens, a trapper-keeper, glue, spiral notebooks, rulers, compasses, or binders- there's not enough room in desks for them.** You *may* wish to have your own box of crayons, a small pair of scissors, and a glue stick. Kids- Please make sure you *always* have 4 or 5 sharp pencils and paper in school- this is *your* responsibility. I have a supply of scissors, Elmer's glue, and crayons for occasions when we need them. In addition, it's necessary to have a backpack for carrying books, folders, sneakers, lunches/snacks, and homework to and from school. This helps a great deal in organization and keeping books and homework clean and dry.

I'll send home a schedule of our special classes once school begins and when I'm pretty sure that it won't change. I do know that our lunch is at 11:20, and since our day begins very early, I plan about a 10-minute snack break each morning because third graders get hungry, and the snack provides a morning energy boost! If you would like to bring a daily **healthy** snack for yourself (**no candy or pop**), that would be fine and I encourage it. Most students do bring a snack. Kids, this can be *your* responsibility, to pack a healthy snack the night before. Fruit, veggies, cheese, crackers, granola bars, and dry cereal are some good ideas. I've also seen cold pizza, yogurt, pop-tarts, baggies of popcorn, and half sandwiches, as well as the enviable bowl of fresh strawberries! (Be sure to bring a spoon if you need one, and be aware that we have no way of heating something up.)

I will be sending home regular monthly letters detailing the activities and topics that we are studying. Each student has a classroom mailbox where any and all mail from the office or me is placed; it is the student's responsibility (with reminders from me) to empty their mailboxes at the end of each day and to take the mail home to give to Mom or Dad. (Parents do like to know what's going on in school- I'm a parent too!) We will also have DAILY ASSIGNMENT BOOKS, which you (the students) will write in *very neatly and completely* every day, and I will ask your parents to sign it every night, simply letting me know that they: 1) have seen the assignment book, 2) know *you* had homework to do, and 3) know what we're learning about in school. I will check everyone's assignment book each morning to see that you've shown it to your parents. These assignment books are a way for your parents and your teacher to

communicate, and for you to stay organized, making sure your homework is done *on time*. Timely reminders will be written in your assignment books too.

Parents!

You can expect to see corrected, graded work come home on Fridays, in Friday Folders. Please look through the work and discuss it with your child, hang up the really good stuff in a prominent place, and return it to me (empty) the following Monday. Also, please check your child's backpack daily and help your child keep it from becoming a mess! You may even be surprised to see some mail for you- at the beginning, there will be a lot.

And please, I ask you to reinforce the learning going on in school- encourage your child to read every single day for *at least* 15 minutes, ensure that your child has *the time and a place* to do their homework each day, and help me develop a good work ethic in your child- this will carry over into everything they do in life. My mantra is "to do the best you can, in everything you do." That includes writing neatly, handing in work on time, and spending whatever time is necessary to do that best work. Please support me and our school in our belief in the importance of education. We want our children to be successful.

This is it for now. I'll send another letter home soon, by the end of the first week of classes. If you have any concerns or questions, you can call me at school (965-2742) and leave a message. I'll return your call as soon as possible. However, I have found that The Most Effective Way of Communicating with Parents and Saving Time for Everyone is **by email!** My email address at school is bfaxlanger@forestville.com and I can and do access this at home too. Thank you for your attention, and I'm looking forward to meeting your child in September!

Kids! See if you can squeeze in one more book to read this summer, dig out those addition, subtraction, and multiplication flash cards, and have a "go" at them, to refresh your brains! We'll be plunging right into place value as soon as school begins, and then moving pretty quickly through addition and subtraction. (You should already have addition and subtraction facts pretty much mastered.) Have fun for the last week of summer and come with lots of memories you can share! I'm looking forward to meeting you soon, and beginning our third adventure!



grade

Sincerely,
Mrs. Faxlanger

P.S. I can't wait to meet you!