

Thank You For Helping Us Grow



Mrs. Rhoda's Third Grade
Chenoa Elementary
Prairie Central School District
2008-2009

Dear Families,

Welcome to third grade at Chenoa Elementary. Third Grade is an important and valuable year in your student's education. New experiences and opportunities will make this a special year for your child and your family.

There is some key information about my third grade program in this handout. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me by e-mail. My address is drhoda@prairiecentral.org. You may also call the school at 945-2971, extension 222 and leave a message.

Mrs. Rhoda

School Arrival and Departure Information

The school day begins at 7:55 am at Chenoa Elementary and ends at 3:11. Those students who will arrive on the busses before the start of school will be supervised in the multipurpose room. Breakfast will be offered during this time as well. This will not be a time for students to play in the gym. Students will be expected to sit in designated areas until the bell rings to leave for the classrooms. Students will not be allowed to wait on the playground. Students will enter the building through the main doors by the office when they arrive at school. You may drop your child off at the main doors. Fuller St. is a ONE-WAY street when students are present. Please pay attention to the street signs. If you prefer, you may also use the Division St. entrance. Please remind your child of the morning procedures.

At the end of the day, students will be dismissed to ride busses, walk, or be picked up by a parent, guardian, or other person as designated by the parent. Please pick your child up at the east doors along Division Street. Please park diagonally in the parking spots along Division and wait for your child to come out. It is very important to park this way to ensure the safety of all students. Bus riders will be dismissed by the same routine as in years past. ***If there is a change in your child's usual after school routine, please send a note to myself as well as the bus driver if he/she rides the bus.*** This will alleviate any confusion and ensure that your child arrives safely where he/she needs to be. Children will not be able to change their daily dismissal routine without a note from his/her parent or phone notification to the office as stated in the district handbook. This is for the safety of all children at Chenoa Elementary.

Visitor Policy

All visitors must sign in at the Chenoa Elementary office. A visitor's nametag will be given to you that must be worn in the building at any time during the school day. This includes picking up your child at any time before 3:11. If you wish to visit our classroom, please let me know in advance so I can make plans to accommodate your visit.

Lunch Money

If your child is eating hot lunch, please send the money/check in an envelope with his/her name on it, the amount included, and the days he/she will be eating hot lunch. This routine makes accounting much easier and ensures that the money will go into your child's account.

Book Orders

We will be participating in the Scholastic Book Order Program this year. If you wish to order books, please send the order form back with your child's name on it. **Please make out checks to *Scholastic Book Club*.** Cash may be sent if it is in the exact amount. If you wish to order a book as a gift for your child (great Christmas and birthday presents), please let me know and I can make arrangements to get the book back to you without your child finding out.

****Please note:** Shipping and handling are free if the total book order for the class is more than \$20. **If the total book order for the class is less than \$20, there will be no book order** and I will return the order form and money to you.

Classroom Celebrations

Third Grade will be celebrating the special holidays with parties this year. If any parent is interested in helping, it would be greatly appreciated by the students and me. We need parents to send in treats, drinks, and treat bags—as well as parents to be in charge of games and activities for the party. I will be posting a party sign-up sheet at the Open House for volunteers.

****Please note:** These treats need to follow the snack guidelines outlined in the student handbook. The approved list is available online at our school website.

Lockers

Students will have the use of lockers again this year. These lockers will **not** be locked. Because of this, students may not bring toys, Gameboys, CD players, etc. to school. If any of these items are lost or stolen, it is not the responsibility of the school.

Birthdays

Birthdays are a special day in the life of a child. To help make this a special day, students may bring in special treats to share on the day of their birthday or any day designated to celebrate his/her special day. I will also be sending home a "Student of the Week" assignment as close to your child's birthday as possible for him/her to complete with you. These will be displayed in the hallway to help your child celebrate his/her special day.

****Please note:** These treats need to follow the snack guidelines outlined in the student handbook. The approved list is available online at our school website.

Schedules

As soon as a schedule is finalized for my classroom, I will send a copy home to you. Mrs. Frambes will be responsible for teaching the entire social studies curriculum in third grade, and I will be teaching the science curriculum. Any social studies concerns or questions will need to be directed to Mrs. Frambes.

Parent Volunteers

I am always very excited about the experiences and opportunities that parents have to offer my classroom. I encourage parents coming into my classroom to speak, demonstrate, or share any ideas and experiences that support our curriculum. If you would be interested in sharing with our students as it relates to the curriculum, please let me know. You are the most valuable partner in the classroom for your child's education.

Curriculum

Our district is very conscientious of the Illinois State Learning Standards. We use these standards as a basis for our curriculum. General goals for the subject areas in the third grade follow.

Math

- Add multiple digit numbers, including carrying
- Subtract multiple digit numbers, including regrouping and borrowing
- Multiply single-digit numbers & start to multiply double-digit numbers
- Divide single-digit numbers
- Tell time on standard and digital clocks
- Count, add and subtract money
- Know basic fractions
- Know how to find the perimeter of an area
- Know symmetry
- Know basic geometric shapes
- Know congruent
- Be able to read and write numbers
- Round to the nearest ten, hundred, thousand, and ten thousand

Writing

The students should be able to write five paragraph essays by the end of the year. These should include introductions, conclusions, details of examples and/or explanations, transitions between sentences and paragraphs, and be organized in a logical order. Your student should be able to write for a variety of audiences—such as fellow students, teachers, parents, and other adults. Your student should also be able to write for a variety of purposes using two of the three main types of writing—expository and narrative.

Reading

Students will be able to read with understanding and fluency using context clues, prior knowledge, predictions, inference, phonics, word patterns, and other resources to aid comprehension. The students will be able to read a variety of genre both fiction and non-fiction. They will be able to answer comprehension questions, compare and contrast various components of the reading, and summarize what they have read. They will understand the basic elements of literary work—plot, setting, problem, characters, resolution, and theme.

Science

Plants :

What plants need to grow

Growth process of plants

Methods of reproduction

How people depend on plants

Animals:

Needs

Adaptations

Classify animals into five main groups

Ecosystems

Weathering/Erosion

Sedimentary, Metamorphic, and Igneous Rock

Fossils

Physical properties of matter—solids, liquids, and gases

Measurement of matter

Forces that cause motion

Work/Simple machines

Natural resources/conservation

Weather Instruments/Measurement

Seasons

Scientific Method

Safety Measures in the lab

Social Studies

Community

City of Chenoa Past and Present

Geography

Cultures

Native Americans

Immigration

Exploration

Early American History

Inventions

Consumer Skills

Holidays

Landforms

Homework

As students enter the upper grades at Chenoa Elementary, they will be expected to complete assignments and projects as determined by the classroom teacher. Homework becomes more independent as children become older. Third grade students can expect between 20-30 minutes of homework. Sometimes the homework will be an assignment for the child to complete independently, while others may involve the student reading the anthology (reading book) selection aloud to the parent, or studying flashcards for a test. If a student does not have homework for the evening, or the homework does not take the full 20-30 minutes, I would like your student to spend 15-20 minutes reading. Students should be encouraged to begin to establish good study habits that will help them grow and develop as students.

Your child will fill out an "Agenda" every day. This will list any homework assignments that he/she may have for that night. It will also list any upcoming tests. I will stamp it each day to make sure that your child has filled it out correctly. I would greatly appreciate it if you would sign the agenda nightly so I can be sure that your student is communicating his/her homework to you at home. I will check the agenda in the morning for your signature and any other communications you may have for me. Every time your child gets your signature, I give the student another stamp. This has proven a very effective procedure in the past for other third grade classes.

Homework assignments will be graded and sent home (unless it is posted on the A+ Board). Sometimes the work will have a letter grade, sometimes simply a stamp or star. It will depend on the assignment, how difficult it was, how well the class may have done on the assignment, or the purpose of the assignment.

It is very important that your child establish good homework routines. If your student does not turn in his/her homework on time, he/she will move a pocket for each assignment. (See 3R Consequences described later.)

Grading Policy

Homework, quizzes, tests, special projects, and other factors will be used to determine your student's grade. As you will see, I grade a lot. I have always held a firm belief that if I require students to do any type of work, they should have feedback on how well they met the expectations of that assignment—no matter how large or small. This information can be used to give me, and the student, a better understanding of where he/she is, and what he/she needs to do.

I then record all of these scores in my grade book. I use homework, group work, rough drafts, final products, classroom questions/discussions, tests, quizzes, projects, and so on to determine my grades and assessments. Quite often the guidelines (rubric) for these assignments have been made in class with the students to ensure they know what the expectations are. I have a strong base upon which to build my reasons for the grade I give a student. I want to be sure that the grade I give your child is accurate and fair. I want grades to be a positive, motivating learning tool for the students.

Homework

Homework is due at the beginning of the day. I already try to take into account other assignments, 4-H, church, holidays, etc. when I assign homework. I also try to make daily assignments (not special projects) fairly simple. Daily assignments are another tool for learning the material. I want to know, and I want your student to know, if he/she has learned the lesson taught for the day. Therefore, if homework is not turned in at the beginning of the day, it is considered late, and your child will move a pocket for each assignment. (See 3R Consequences described later.)

Quizzes

I will be giving quizzes often. Quizzes may be formal, informal, or may even look like a classroom assignment. These are another way for me to determine what your student is learning from the lessons. I will know to reteach a concept or lesson before the test by how your student does on the quizzes.

Tests

There will be a test at the end of a unit or section. These will cover all the information your student will have learned over that unit or section. Tests will be tough, but fair. I am not trying to trick your student; I am trying to teach him/her.

Special Projects

There will be special projects throughout the year. These will be used to help your student apply all of the knowledge and skills he/she has learned into one project. Your student will be given plenty of time to get these done, both inside and outside of class. Your student will also be given the guidelines and shown examples of what I may or may not expect from your students on these projects.

Other Factors

I will give grades from time to time on other areas of student achievement such as attitude, effort, group work, and class participation. These areas of student achievement are much more subjective than other areas. Therefore, I do not give a grade in these areas as often. However, by giving the students a grade—they can see how well they have met expectations and determine where improvements are needed, if any.

Grading Scale

Third grade students will receive letter grades at Chenoa Elementary. The Chenoa Elementary Grading Scale, which is district-wide, is as follows:

100	A+
93-99	A
92	A-
91	B+
84-90	B
83	B-
82	C+
75-81	C
74	C-
73	D+
66-72	D
65	D-
64 & Below	F

Progress reports will be sent home half way through the nine weeks. These will let you know how your student is doing. Report cards will go home every nine weeks.

Classroom Management

Every year, each new class will make its own set of "Classroom Rules". These expectations will be sent home to the parents to go over with their student. This will need to be signed by the parent, student, and teacher. The "Classroom Rules" will be posted in the room as well to be used as a reminder of appropriate behavior when necessary. Following is a list of the rewards and consequences for these expectations.

3R Rewards

- 😊 Praise and encouragement
- 😊 Daily stickers
- 😊 Small, weekly rewards
- 😊 "Happy" phone calls or notes to parents
- 😊 "Positively Cool" (PC) Party—class celebration once every other week for students who have not gotten into POCKET THREE
- 😊 Homework Party—class movie or other activity every other week for students who have completed and turned in homework appropriately

3R Consequences

1. First Offense: Verbal Warning
2. Second Offense: Student will move his/her stick to POCKET ONE. This is the student's final warning.
3. Third Offense: Student will move his/her stick to POCKET TWO. The student will miss 10 minutes of recess.
4. Final Offense: Student will move his/her stick to POCKET THREE. Student will write a letter to his/her parents explaining his/her behavior. This must be signed by the parent and returned to me. Student will miss the next planned "Positively Cool" (PC) Party.
5. Further problems will be sent to the office to be handled by Mr. Groce.
6. Student, parent, and Mrs. Rhoda will meet to discuss student behavior.

3R Rights and Responsibilities

Students have the right to a safe environment.
Students have the responsibility to follow safety rules.

Students have the right to voice their opinion.
Students have the responsibility to respect the opinions of others.

Students have the right to use schoolbooks, materials, and equipment.
Students have the responsibility to take care of all school materials.

Students have the right to fair treatment.
Students have the responsibility to treat others fairly.

Students have the right to a good education.
Students have the responsibility to do their best.

My Mission

My mission is to lead each student to reach his/her own potential. I will provide each student with the opportunities, experiences, and support needed to develop the skills and habits necessary to becoming well-rounded, responsible decision makers. I will establish high expectations of each student academically, emotionally, and socially. This will empower each student to meet the challenges of our ever-changing world.

I look forward to spending the year with your child and your family as a partner in education. Each child in this class is special, unique, and **IMPORTANT!** It is my hope to foster a love of learning in your child so that he/she will become a lifelong learner. I will be working very diligently on academic skills, but will address social skills as well when necessary. It is very important for every child to feel welcome and part of the classroom. Experience has shown that the better everyone works together, the more learning that can take place. I look forward to working with you to make this a successful and fun year!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Rhoda