

3rd Grade FAQ

WHO WE ARE:

- **Mrs. Craig-Mickel:** This is my 7th year teaching in Tenino and ninth year teaching overall. I live in Olympia and love to run, read, bake and play with my dogs. I live with my husband, two dogs, and chickens. I also run the garden club at our school. I'm looking forward to an adventure-filled year!
- **Mr. Heintz:** This will be my seventh year teaching overall and my fourth year here at TES. I live in Grand Mound with my wonderful partner, Ashley and our 6th grade son, Uriah. I enjoy playing basketball and ultimate frisbee and host a variety of after school clubs at our school. Welcome to TES!
- **Mr. Holmstrom:** This is going to be my third year teaching 3rd grade at Tenino, and I love being a Tiger! I enjoy spending my spare time in the outdoors camping, fishing and hiking. Pretty much anything outdoors and I'm there! Looking forward to a fun year of learning.
- **Mrs. Moldenhauer:** This is my second year teaching 3rd grade at TES. I live in Lacey with my husband, children, and 3 dogs. My favorite things include reading, sewing, traveling, and watching my kids' sporting events. I am excited for the 2020-2021 school year.

OUR CURRICULUM:

- **Reading:** Our reading curriculum is called Wonders. Wonders uses a mix of fiction and non-fiction that exposes students to many genres of writing. Wonders also has an emphasis on writing about texts and using text evidence to support ideas.
- **Writing:** The year-long goal of third grade writing is the development of informational and opinion essays, citing evidence from sources. Students will also write fictional and personal narratives. This is a major jump from second grade, but students can and do rise to the challenge each year.
- **Math:** We use the same curriculum as Parkside, MyMath. We begin the year by building on Addition and Subtraction skills before diving into rounding, measurement & data, and time. We then teach multiplication and division skills before fractions, area & perimeter, and multi-step problem solving.
- **Science:** TES uses Carolina Kits curriculum. We teach three major units: Animal Adaptations, Weather & Climate, and Magnets & Electricity. We also teach general science lessons throughout the year that integrate engineering practices.

COMMUNICATION:

- TES uses ClassDojo as the primary means of communication with families, though email, phone, and meetings are also used as needed.
- Parent-teacher conferences are held in the fall and spring. Other conferences are held as needed or at parent/guardian's request. Conferences are scheduled online through Skyward.

OUR SCHEDULE:

- TES is adopting a new master schedule for the 2020-2021 school year. One of the biggest changes to this schedule is the inclusion of a daily 20 minute social-emotional learning (SEL) block from 8:30-8:50 each morning.
- SEL and Literacy are in the morning, lunch from 10:50-11:20, recess from 11:20-11:50, Math, Science, and Writing are in the afternoon. PM recess from 1:15-1:30.
- Specialists are on a 4-week rotation and include Art, PE, Music, and Library, with a technology class held daily every fourth week.

FIELD TRIPS & ENRICHMENT:

- Third grade has worked hard to provide students with several in-house and out-of-school enrichment activities. In the past two years these have included the following:
 - **Field Trips:** Olympia Junior Programs, Port Blakeley Tree Farm, Museum of Glass, Job Carr Cabin Museum.
 - **In-House Visits:** Wolf Haven, Hands-On Children's Museum: Robotics Coding.

HOMEWORK:

- Third graders are expected to read 20 minutes daily with a signed reading log. The third grade team assigns additional homework on an as-needed basis. Changes to homework routines will be clearly communicated with families. We also occasionally assign unfinished work not completed in class.
 - We do our best to limit homework, as we encourage and value students participating in sports, clubs, and other extracurricular activities, as well as spending quality time with family.

STUDY HALL:

- Students who do not come to school with a signed daily reading log, the signature indicating that they have done their 20 minutes of assigned reading, will spend part of a recess in study hall doing silent reading.
 - We view this as more of a gift of time and accountability coaching rather than a punitive action, as all TES students are held accountable for their daily reading.
- Students do have three 'no-homework passes' that they are given every three months to use at their choosing if they forget their reading log at home, were unable to do the reading, or do not have their reading log signed.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS:

- TES is proud to offer several after school clubs that all TES students can participate in (participation contingent on behavior). In the past two years these have included:
 - Roping Club, Chess Club, Lego Club, Sports Club, Photography Club, Kindness Club, Culinary Club, Speed Stacks Club, and Garden Club.

PREPARING FOR 3RD GRADE:

- Do your best to continue being flexible with all of the changes we have experienced with remote learning while encouraging your incoming third grader to keep developing academically, as we really want to push for summer growth vs. a summer slide. Try some of the following:
 - Keeping a writing journal.
 - Practice math facts (+ & -) for 5-10 minutes a day.
 - Get into a new book series and continue reading daily.
 - Check out online virtual field trips and other virtual learning.

We can't wait to begin this new adventure with you.
Hope to see you in August!