

Central College Math & Science Magnet School

Welcome to Third Grade With Mrs. Heath!

I am thrilled to have the opportunity to teach at Central College Magnet School! I hope your child will find third grade to be a year of discovery and inquiry.

This will be my seventeenth year teaching in the Westerville City School District. I substitute taught for one year, taught gifted 4th graders for eight years, and taught in a 4th grade magnet school for two years, and this is my 6th year teaching 3rd grade at Central College.

My years in Westerville date back even earlier- my family moved here in 1980, and I graduated from Westerville North High School in 1989.

After high school, I received a Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education from The Ohio State University in 1995. In 2000, I attained a Masters Degree in Gifted Education K-12 from Ashland University, and most recently, I achieved National Board Certification in Middle Childhood Development in 2003.

I have three daughters, Jessica (freshman at Ohio Northern University), Kylie (freshman at Westerville Central HS), and Rosalie, who is six (first grader at Alcott Elementary).

My husband, Scott, is also an OSU grad, and a Music K-12 Teacher and Assistant Band Director in the Grandview Heights School District.

We enjoy traveling, gardening, and watching Ohio State Football games. We're both OSU grads, and can become a little fanatical at times! Go Bucks!

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Reading

Reading will occur in all areas of the curriculum, and in learning centers with a “guided reading” time two or three times a week. **Accelerated Reader (AR)** will be continued in the third grade. **Students will be expected to earn one point per week.**

I will explain more to them and to you at curriculum night. I will assess reading comprehension, fluency, silent reading habits during SSR (sustained silent reading) time, and related reading projects. STAR reports will also count for a small part of their reading grade.

STAR Reports are computer generated vocabulary comprehension tests that assess what grade equivalence students are at, based on the passage rate of 20 vocabulary questions. A STAR test will be given to each student one time during each quarter.



Technology

Working on computers is one of my passions and hobbies. With the luxurious computer lab right across the hallway, and me being Central College’s technology liaison, I guarantee we will spend quality time creating, researching, typing, and publishing.



Math

Math is my favorite subject to teach. I love challenging the students to solve problems, and then to figure out another way to solve the same problem. I emphasize students to listen to each others’ explanations, so that students think about how to go about solving the problem a different way. Most math done in class is hands-on, but weekly homework will be reinforced with paper and pencil. As well, a weekly computer math test, YPP, will be given. This shows student growth throughout the school year.



Science

In addition to teaching the third grade standards, we will implement much more hands-on scientific discovery and exploration than the standard elementary schools. We also will have contact with math and science professionals who will share their career choices with the students. In fact, if you or someone you know would be willing to speak to our class, we’d love for her/him to visit! Please let me know.



Long Term Projects

Becoming independent learners involves the completion of long-term projects. Several will be given throughout the school year. The main objective for encouraging these is to research deeper into a topic than short term projects. They also promote good organizational skills and planning. Lastly, they encourage creativity.



Language Arts

Writing is also covered in all subjects. We will be using the writing process to publish one piece per grading period. The **PROCESS** of writing is more important than the final **PRODUCT**. Throughout the year, students will be brainstorming ideas and writing multiple drafts for various written works. **DO NOT LET YOUR CHILD THROW THESE AWAY!** When the quarterly full-writing process papers are due, I will expect all steps of the writing process to be stapled to the final drafts.



Social Studies

Our main focus is the City of Westerville, including its history, people, geography, economics, government, and citizenship. We will also cover current events on a weekly basis.

We are teamed with the Junior Achievement League of Central Ohio. If you are interested in volunteering for the planned activities, please let me know. I need your help!



Health

Health will be integrated with science. Body systems, growth & development, safety/injury prevention, and personal health will be the main units covered throughout the year.

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Explore the Unknown



Supply List

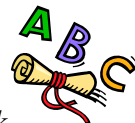


PLEASE LABEL CHILD'S NAME ON ALL SUPPLIES

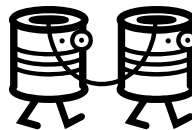
- 12 Pencils (#2) (*wooden - no mechanical*)
- 1 box Crayons (*24-count*)
- 2 Tissues (*large*) (*unscented*)
- 1 12-inch Ruler (*inch & metric scale*)
- 1 School Box Plastic
- 1 set Washable Markers
- 2 Glue Sticks (*large - solid only*)
- 1 Colored Pencils
- 2 Composition Notebook
- 1 Student Scissors (*pointed*)

Optional Items:

Folder for Homework
Notebook Paper
Antibacterial Wipes
Paper Towels



Progress and Communication



1. Please feel free to **contact me** with questions and/or concerns. The best way is via email or notes to school.
2. **Interim reports** are sent home half-way through the grading period to students who are not performing at grade level.
3. I try to update my webpage to let you know upcoming events and what was covered during the week.
4. Flyers and other district or school information will usually be sent home **once a week** on Fridays.
5. **Book orders** are sent home monthly. Please make checks payable to Scholastic.
6. Please **sign in** at the office if your child is arriving to school late (after 9am). Visitors need to sign in whenever they enter the building.
7. If your child needs **medications** during school hours, we must have written permission from your doctor before any medication can be dispensed at school.
8. **Academic content standards** for 3rd grade can be found online through the district website or the Ohio Department of Education's website.



Review of Homework

- **An average of 30 minutes per night should be spent on homework.**
- Spelling packet- due Fridays
- Math packet- due Mondays
- Writing assignment- due Mondays
- Finished? There's **always** time to **READ!!!** Remember: one AR point per week needs to be earned!
- There will be a few assignments given that will be due the following day
- Please let me know if your child is exceeding 40 minutes a night on homework.

Generic Daily Schedule

- 9:00-9:30 Morning Warm-Ups
9:30-10:10 Math
10:15-10:55 Specials
11:00-11:40 Reading/Language Arts
11:40-12:00 Silent Reading
12:00-12:30 Recess
12:30-1:00 Lunch
1:00-1:30 Read Aloud
1:30-2:25 Science / Social Studies
2:35-3:10 Lab / Science / S.Studies
3:10-3:20 Reflection Log
3:20-3:25 Clean-up, Jobs, Pack-up

Student Expectations

My job as a teacher is to facilitate a learning environment that encourages independent thinkers. In order for this to happen, rules must be set in place. They are as follows:

1. Be **prepared** (homework, supplies, etc.)
2. **Listen** attentively (use eyes and ears, do not interrupt)
3. **Respect** each other and each others' possessions (students and teachers)
4. **Follow directions**
5. **Be responsible and dependable**

In addition to these rules, we will also have Weekly Student Jobs for the entire year. Please ask your child if he/she is doing his/her job on a daily basis.



Classroom Management



In order to monitor your child's daily progress, a **1-2-3 system** will be established the first week of school. This form of management is taken from the 1-2-3 Magic books written by Dr. Thomas Phelan. It allows your child to self-correct the misbehavior before getting to a "3." If the misbehavior is not corrected, your child will need to move their name up the traffic light for each offense. Getting to the red light means consequences for his/her actions, such as a time out, loss of recess, note home, etc. Consequences will elevate should misbehaviors continue. I also reward students for their achievements towards good and helpful citizens in our classroom by letting them choose a prize from the treasure chest every Friday– if they make sure to have their planner stamped every day.

The students will keep a daily homework folder both at school and bring it home nightly. Students will write a sentence daily in their "Reflection Log," reflecting on something they liked or learned that day. Should your child get to a "3" on our traffic light, I will note it on their reflection log. **I ask that you initial their reflections daily**, so that you can see how they are doing on a daily basis. A stamp for the day means that they had a great day. A number with a circle around it is the number of times their name was placed on the red light. If students get a time out any day, they lose their right to the next prize from the treasure chest.

Homework Policy



"I like a teacher who gives you something to take home to think about besides homework." -Lily Tomlin

Although I value Ms. Tomlin's quote, I also see the importance of students extending their learned knowledge in the form of homework. It reinforces what has been covered in class, and helps them develop better study habits. **Homework should take no longer than 30 minutes each night.** If you notice that your child is spending much more time than this, ask them how they are spending their free time at school. The students will have study hall time to work on their homework for the week and to ask for clarification on the assignments.

Students will know about all **tests** in advance. It will be written in their planners. Tests are very infrequent in 3rd grade, with the exception of the weekly computer math YPP tests and spelling tests on Fridays.

Students will be asked to complete **missing assignments** during their free time and/or recess of the day that it was due. They will be given a homework pass each month that can be used on one assignment of their choice.

Parents are encouraged to help with homework, but only if the student has really tried and is still having trouble. It is always a good idea to check over all homework, to see if it has been completed.