Ms. Williamson’s 3rd Grade Class

Parent Welcome Packet

2017-2018



Fairglen Elementary School Room 315

(321) 631-1993 Ext. 5315

 Williamson.megan@brevardschools.org

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Family Members,

 Welcome to third grade! My name is Megan Williamson and I would love to welcome your child to our 3rd grade class! I am looking forward to getting to know both you and your child during the 2017-2018 school year at Fairglen Elementary!

 This is my 3rd year teaching Elementary Education. My approach to teaching is to provide a safe, encouraging, engaging, standards based, and individualized educational experience to every child in my classroom. I feel that each child is unique with unique needs and I need to be adaptable to these needs. I will ensure that each of my students receive the tools and inspiration they need to succeed. I believe in using a positive reinforcement and encouragement based classroom management system.

 I am super excited about the upcoming year! Fairglen Elementary is considered a Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) school and you should hear this lingo all around campus. I mix this with the Responsive Classroom method which is to essentially create a positive and collaborative classroom environment. If you would like more information on either program, or more information on how this looks in the classroom environment, please feel free to contact me.

 The most important thing to remember is that our classroom becomes family. I encourage your input and value your opinion. I also stress this to the students. I look forward to working with your children to give them a year to remember!

Thank You,

Ms. Megan Williamson

Room # 315

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***Our Class Schedule***

7:30 a.m. Cafeteria Opens for Breakfast

7:45 a.m. Classroom Door Opens

7:45 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Welcome/Unpack/Morning Work/Planner

8:00 a.m. – 8:20 a.m. Announcements/Morning Meeting

8:20 a.m. – 10:10 a.m. Reading/English Language Arts

10:10 a.m. – 10:17 a.m. Snack/Bathroom/Water Break

10:18 a.m. – 10:58 a.m. Activity (Wednesday 10:45 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.)

11:00 a.m. – 12:05 p.m. Math

12:08 p.m. – 12:38 p.m. Lunch/Walk and Talk

12:40 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Recess/Water/Bathroom

1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Science/Social Studies

1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Writing

2:00 p.m. – 2:10 p.m. Afternoon Meeting/Wrap-Up

2:10 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. IDR (Independent Daily Reading)/Dismissal

 ***\*2:20 Cars \*2:25 Bus \*2:30 Aftercare/Educare \*2:30 Walkers/Bike Riders***

**Parent/Teacher Communication**

***Take Home Folder/Planner***

 Each student receives a take home folder and planner at the beginning of the year. Please check these every night. On Monday (or Tuesday sometimes) you will receive a weekly newsletter from me in the Folder. It is very important that you read this every week for important information! Folders will go home Monday – Thursday, but will remain in the classroom on Friday over the weekend. Please check the planner daily for behavior comments, notes from me, and any suggested homework as well as upcoming events.

 Open communication is essential to a happy and successful experience for your child. In addition to our four progress reports, interims, and conferences, I am available to meet or speak with you. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please write me a note, email me or call me at school and leave a message. I will tell you the best way to reach me is through my school email as I am able to look at this a few times a day. Please be aware that during arrival and dismissal my main concern is getting students ready to have a successful days and therefore cannot get into lengthy conversations during this time. I am able to meet earlier in the morning should we schedule a meeting though.

**Classroom Rules and Expectations-**

 There will be 3-4 guidelines that the students will develop and agree on as a class. These guidelines are what we will live by throughout each day. They will be specific in helping us to achieve our hopes and dreams in this class. The specific guidelines will be sent home to you once the students and I learn and agree on them in order for you to practice them and support this at home.

***Logical Consequences***

 We will be using a Responsive Classroom method of Logical Consequences in our class. Logical consequences are ones that relate to the behavior, reflect the behavior, and are relevant to the behavior. The three main logical consequence types that we will utilize are reparation, loss of privilege, and taking a break. These will be introduced to the students after we have compiled our class guidelines.

 **Reparation** is the “you break it, you fix it” consequence. This shows students the need of taking responsibility for actions, mistake or not. An example is if you mess up another student’s art project, then you need to help them to fix it.

 **Loss of privilege** will occur when students mistreat their privileges given. For example, students are often able to work in groups or teams, but if they get off task they will lose this privilege and be told to work independently for that activity.

 **Take a break** will be a short time out for the child to calm down and regain control of their body and actions. They are still in the vicinity of the teacher and are able to rejoin the group or activity when they are in control of their behavior.

**Severity Clause –**

 A student will be sent to the office immediately if he or she commits any of the following acts:

1. Physical aggression towards staff, other students, or student’s self.
2. Verbal aggression towards staff, other students, or student’s self.
3. Destruction of school property, classroom materials, or other students’ property.
4. Stealing of ANY form.

\*\*\*Please note that the teacher reserves the right to change this at anytime.\*\*\*

**Responsibilities and Important Information**

***Homework-***

 Students will NOT be receiving specific homework in my class this year. Students will receive a list of spelling words and vocabulary words and be responsible for the knowledge of these words. Students should also be reading EVERY night. However, I will not be making this mandatory. Should you wish to require your child to complete extra practice you may do so. The purpose is to teach students responsibility and autonomy for their own learning.

 I will be requiring quite a bit of work done in class in order supplement the lack of homework. Therefore, if work is not completed, it will be sent home and expected back the next day! There will also be the occasional project to be completed or parts to be completed at home.

 Comprehension is an important part of third grade. When your child is reading, please encourage them to read aloud to you and ask them questions about what they read. This will help develop comprehension and fluency skills.

 Multiplication is a VERY important part of our math curriculum this year. Our math program is very fast paced and does not leave much review room. Please be practicing multiplication times tables with your students. Times tables for 0-10 are required in third grade, but please encourage students to learn 0-12 if possible. It will help them greatly. Also, our math program, Eureka Engage NY Math, is often times extremely confusing and obscure. Please talk with me if you are experiencing troubles. This is a great program for students, but it teaches many ways to do the same thing. Unless a problem asks students to use a specific strategy, I will always accept any strategy used as long as work is shown. There is a handout that will go home at the beginning of the new unit that is a parent newsletter put out from the math program. I highly encourage you to read it and ask questions if you have any.

***Grading-***

 Students will be given assignments and assessments each week in all subjects. Anything a student does is graded.

***Grading Scale***

***A = 90-100 B= 80-89 C= 70-79 D= 60-69 F= 0-59***

***NO NOs-***

 Please keep TOYS, CANDY, GUM, ELECTRONICS, WEAPONS, TRADING CARDS, FIDGET SPINNERS, and anything of great value at home. This will help prevent theft, distraction, destruction, and harm. Students who willing bring these items to school will have them taken away. Parents WILL need to come collect the items. Games and Electronics MAY be allowed if a game/electronics day is earned for FUN FRIDAY, in which case a notice will be sent home with my signature or an email will be sent out.

***Transportation –***

 Transportation information should be given to the teacher at the beginning of the school year. Any changes need to be in a handwritten note in the take home folder as well as given to the front office. Transportation changes CANNOT and WILL NOT be accepted over the phone. If you transportation changes every day and no set schedule is made, I will need a note each day. If you need to check-out your student during the school day, check-out time ends at 1:45 p.m. this year. You may not check-out after this time. Early dismissal is every Wednesday this year at 1:15 p.m. Please ensure that your child has a set way to go home and that the teacher is aware on this day. Latest check-out time for Wednesday is 1:00 p.m. this year.

***Absences-***

 Nine unexcused absences per semester may be grounds for retention. Third grade is fast-paced and filled with many new experiences each day. It is in your child’s best interest to be in school as much as possible.

***Parties/Celebrations-***

 If you would like to celebrate your child’s birthday, please arrange for the celebrations to take place between 12:08 – 12:38 in the cafeteria during our lunch time so we are not interrupting our instructional time. If other arrangements need to be made, please do not hesitate to contact me.

***Snacks-***

 Please send a healthy snack each day with your student. Our lunch is rather late this year and I want to make sure that students are at a healthy and optimal performance level every day. Students are allowed to bring in closed thermos or tumblers or cups of water only. Do not send in plastic water bottles the crinkle. Should this become a distraction, alternative arrangements may need to be made. Below are some healthy snack options in order to keep your child performing optimally throughout the day.

Some Snack Ideas:

Granola Bars Fresh Fruit Fruit Gummies Cut-up Veggies

Crackers Carrot Sticks Celery Sticks Bags of Chips

***Medications –***

 All medications (including cough drops) need to be brought to and remain in the front office/clinic.

***Volunteers –***

 There are many opportunities for parents/guardians to be involved, but you must be registered through Brevard County Schools. If you’re not sure just how to do that, contact the office and they can assist you. If you would like to volunteer in the classroom, please contact me so that I can have something prepared for you to do.

***Genius Hour-***

 Just a quick note, in Ms. Williamson’s class we will be participating in what is called Genius Hour this year. Each week on Tuesday we will be setting aside one hour (tentatively 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.) in order for students to work on an individual project. This is to be completely student directed and driven. More information will come on this, but be prepared for students to work on this at home as well.

Once again, communication between teacher and parents/guardians is paramount in order for a successful school year! Please feel free to contact me anytime by email and phone. I will be glad to meet with you regarding your student. Thank you in advance for your support! Please sign and date the last page and return to school.

Parent Welcome Packet Acknowledgement

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, acknowledge that I have read and understand the Parent Welcome Packet from my child’s teacher. I also understand that due to the flexibility needed in this age group, the teacher reserves the right to make any changes at the teacher’s discretion.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_