

Things to know about Mrs. Tarr's and Mrs. Nemo's 3rd Grade Classes!

Class Family

In our classrooms, we push for respect and manners. We want school to be a place where students can thrive. In order for that to happen, a child needs to feel that his or her classroom is a safe place that he or she would like to attend each day. We have frequent talks about how to talk appropriately to one another, how to show respect for others and ourselves, how to support one another, and more. Throughout the year, our bond becomes so strong we begin to feel like our own little family.

Behavior

In order to have a strong classroom community, students must follow school and class rules. The school rules and main classroom rules are be ready, respectful, responsible, and safe (what we call the Warrior Way). If a student does not follow the Warrior Way, he or she will have consequences that follow.

When students are doing the right thing they will be rewarded by flipping their Roxaboxen card. They will earn money throughout the year through this system. Students will also lose money through Roxaboxen taxes for not following the Warrior Way. Learn more about this in the Roxaboxen section. Students also may earn the opportunity to go out to lunch at McDonald's! This reward is reserved for those who are constantly doing the right thing and are model students. No student is guaranteed to go, but everyone has the opportunity to earn this privilege.

Behavior will be documented throughout the year. Once a student has four instances documented where he or she has not followed the Warrior Way, he or she will have a referral written to the principal. Students will automatically be sent to the principal and have a referral written up for severe behavior infractions.

In the case of a student bringing a toy/item to class that doesn't belong at school, the toy/item will be taken by a teacher and the student will not be able to get it back until the teacher returns it to a child. Rarely, but at times, some items will be collected and a parent/guardian will need to pick them up from school.

Expectations

We have very high expectations for ALL students, families, and ourselves. We are all a team. You can think of us like a three-legged stool. When one leg isn't supporting the stool the stool collapses. For student success, all of us must work together. Below are some general expectations for each group.

Student Expectations

- Work hard, work hard, work hard!!!
- Follow school and classroom rules
- Treat everyone with respect, no matter what!

- Persevere through challenges
- Encourage others
- Do not complain
- Learn from mistakes—we are not perfect!
- Work collaboratively with others
- Take responsibility with academics and actions
- Communicate with us and your family
- Take ownership of your learning
- Have fun!
- Laugh and smile—A LOT!

Family Expectations

- Communicate with us and your child
- Talk positively about education and our classrooms
- Hold your child accountable for his or her actions
- Challenge your child at home—don't just give answers or "rescue" them when they are having difficulties
- Allow your child to make mistakes and talk about what was learned from them
- Read weekly newsletters to stay informed
- Work with your child daily, even if this means you only have time for oral discussions on the way to soccer practice one day
- Provide routines at home that will enable your child to be a responsible student and complete homework
- Have fun!
- Laugh and smile—A LOT!

Teacher Expectations

- Work hard, work hard, work hard!!!
- Provide a safe environment for our students
- Build a loving and caring relationship with each student
- Challenge students to help them grow
- Communicate with students and families frequently
- Make learning relevant that shows students how their learning contributes to the world and student success
- Differentiate instruction to meet the needs of each individual
- Encourage students
- Make each student feel successful
- Have fun!
- Laugh and smile—A LOT!

Reading Workshop (Taught by Mrs. Nemo)

We will have reading workshop in our classroom daily. Reading in third grade focuses more on analyzing texts closely and learning from texts. Instruction will include whole group and small group work to aid in this process, along with individual

conferences as needed. Students will also be expected to independently read and record their thinking.

Students will read a set of texts related to a unit's theme and develop knowledge to answer the overarching question of that unit. Each unit will have a culminating research project that each student will need to complete to demonstrate their learning.

Writing Workshop (Taught by Mrs. Nemo)

Writing workshop will occur daily in our classroom. The day will begin with a mini lesson on a writing technique to help students become better writers. Students will head to their writing spots to write and attempt the technique learned. Writing workshop will end with a share time.

We will publish many writing projects this year including narratives, opinion pieces, poetry, and more. All published projects will stay at school until the end of the year. Students will celebrate and share their work at *Young Authors Night* in May.

Math (Taught by Mrs. Tarr)

We will teach math in many different ways, including games, hands-on activities, group work, problem solving, and stations! Our daily math will be completed using the textbook series *Math in Focus*, which was recently adopted by Lebanon City Schools. *Math in Focus* teaches students multiple ways to approach math problems and fosters a strong number sense. Number sense is essential to students' success in mathematics. As we work through the textbook and example problems, your child will begin by using concrete materials, then pictorial representations, and finally abstract thinking skills for each concept. Problem solving and mathematical thinking will be embedded throughout math work daily.

Math instruction looks very different now than it used to. A lot of the strategies you'll see your child trying may confuse you or make you wonder why they're doing their problems that way. Please understand that what we teach will deepen their understanding of numbers. Although we know the traditional algorithms we have learned are quick, and usually the quickest, it is very easy for a child to learn/memorize them but have no idea why they do it. When this happens, a child can be masking their true knowledge of numbers/math and therefore doesn't build up as many reasoning skills as his or her peers do who truly have a firm grasp of number sense. If you have any questions about how the class or your child is working through a math problem, please do not hesitate to ask!

The "95 High Club" (Managed by Mrs. Tarr)

Students will take a five minute speed test once a week. Once they receive a score of 95 or higher two times, not necessarily in a row, they enter the "95 High Club" and move to a new focus. For example, if a student receives a 96 and 98 on an addition test, he or she will receive an award and become a member of the Addition Club. He or she will then begin taking tests in subtraction, then multiplication and lastly,

division. Your child will be writing in his or her assignment book each week what math facts to practice. Please be looking for this.

Spelling/Word Study (Taught by Mrs. Nemo)

Word Study—what’s that? Students will be placed in spelling groups, also known as word study groups, based on an assessment of their spelling abilities. During instruction, students will not only be learning about the spelling of their words, but also homophones, homographs, parts of speech, word roots, prefixes, suffixes, and more, depending on the student’s spelling group.

The spelling/word study words your child will bring home are referred to as their **pattern words**. The goal of pattern words is to teach students how to use patterns in words to help them spell. They will sort their words by specific patterns and/or sounds each week. Your child will also bring home **high frequency words** (words that are frequently written in the English language). These will be hand written by the students in their assignment books each week.

Students’ words will come home every **Monday** and have a test on Friday. Words are given on Monday so the students can learn about their words with the teacher. They are not given ahead of time, unlike homework.

The test will be composed of 5 pattern words (chosen at random from their list of about 24 words), 5 **surprise words** (words that follow the same pattern students are learning that week but are not on their spelling lists), and 5 high frequency words. Students may also have to explain what they learned about their words from the week on their tests. Students receive 5 surprise words to see if they are able to apply the new skills they have been learning about all week. **If you want to practice giving your child surprise words at home, that would be a great way for them to practice using what they know.** The spelling/word study test grades only account for 20% of the overall writing grade.

Social Studies/Science (Taught by Mrs. Tarr)

Science will focus on the Ohio Model Curriculum for 3rd Grade. The topics this year will include earth science, life science, and physical science. Instruction in the scientific processes occurs throughout the year. This will help students understand how to observe, collect and record data, and to make conclusions about the world around them.

Social Studies will explore our home of Lebanon, Ohio. Through learning about government, citizenship, and geography, students will develop a strong understanding of people and societies. Roxaboxen lessons and activities will be an important vehicle for mastering social studies concepts.

Lockers

Each student receives a locker this year ☺ Students may need a few days to practice, but will get the hang of it quickly! Combinations should not be shared with anyone!

Birthday Treats

Birthdays are special for young children. Feel free to send in a treat to help celebrate. We will typically celebrate either at lunch or at the end of the day. Please let your homeroom teacher know prior to when you are bringing in the snack so we can plan for this special occasion during the day. Planning for a few extra treats is always a good idea. (You never know when one may get dropped!) Also, **please contact your homeroom teacher for any food allergies**. Please **do not** send party invitations to school unless the entire class is invited, per school policy. We appreciate your sensitivity.

Roxaboxen

Roxaboxen is a 3rd grade program designed to authentically teach students about economics, government, and citizenship. Roxaboxen is also our classroom behavior system. Students flip their cards for good behavior. For every card flip, students earn money towards their shopping day which occurs once a month. At the end of the year there is an auction. The more money students save throughout the year, the more buying power they have at the auction!

SAFARI Binders

All papers from school will come home in students' SAFARI binders. Please place signed papers, notes, and lunch money in students' *Money and Important Notes* binder sleeve. There will be a sleeve for students' homework and a class list and schedule as well. Please check this every night to be sure you are keeping up with any communication sent home as well as any updates in the assignment book.

Assignment books

Students will write weekly reminders and upcoming events in their assignment books, which are a part of the SAFARI binder. These should be signed by a parent or guardian **every Monday night or the first night of the week if there was no school on Monday**. We will be checking the students' binders on Mondays for completion of the week's assignments/activities and on Tuesdays for a parent/guardian signature. This is a place you can write quick notes to us if necessary.

Your child is responsible for adding any other assignments/activities in their assignment book as they may come up throughout the week. It is also their responsibility to have a parent/guardian look at it to keep them updated on any possible changes.

Homework

Each Friday homework will come home and will be due the following Friday. Students should be spending 30 minutes a night on homework. They are expected to:

- Read 15 minutes five times a week.
- Practice math facts for 10 minutes five times a week.

Again, students will record whether they are focusing on addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division in their assignment book each week, so that is how you'll know what to practice with your child.

You can practice math facts through computer games (many are listed on our class website), card games, flash cards, or worksheets.

- Practice spelling for 5 minutes four times a week. (Remember: spelling comes home on Monday ☺.)

- Complete a math worksheet, reading response, and written word sort. Time spent on this work can be counted toward the reading, math, and spelling times listed above.

All work should be recorded on the log on the front of the homework. Students will also earn Roxaboxen money for turning in their homework. The homework will need to be **completed and turned in on time**. If a student does not turn in homework, no money will be earned. Students may have to pay a "Roxaboxen tax" if the problem persists. Homework is not counted towards a student's grade in any subject area, but is counted online in the grade book as complete or not.

Homework is a child's responsibility to complete. Please do not complete your child's homework or aid too much in the process. It is valuable for students to learn to do this independently as well as figure out how to complete challenges. Homework may be more difficult in the beginning, as it is a new routine. The best thing you can do as a parent/guardian is to provide a reliable routine and expectations for homework at home.

Sometimes parents/guardians observe that their child takes longer than 30 minutes to complete their homework. Please note that 30 minutes is a **guideline**. Some students *like* to read longer or practice math facts for extra time to get better. This is a wonderful thing! Encourage this! However, sometimes students take longer for other reasons. These can include getting distracted at home or the work is too difficult. Homework can become challenging at home because the child could be struggling in school, trying to get out of homework, or not paying attention in class in order to complete work correctly and efficiently at home. Again, if we all work together, homework can be completed in a sufficient amount of time.

Late Policy

Throughout different times during the year students will have to complete various projects that have due dates. If a project is not turned in by the due date they will automatically lose a letter grade and cannot receive anything higher than an 89% B at that point. For each day after that, students will continue to lose 5 percentage points for each day their project is not turned in. If the project is not turned in within one week after the due date, students will receive a 0.

This policy does not hold true for daily work and homework.

Communication

We will send weekly newsletters through e-mail. Should you need a paper version because you do not have e-mail or internet access, we will send you a paper version. We will also communicate by phone when necessary. Edline is another great resource because you can check on your child's grades and find important information about our school. You have been given a paper with your ID and password. Should you need it again, please contact your child's homeroom teacher.

E-mail is probably the best way to contact us. Mrs. Nemo's address is nemo.krystle@lebanon.k12.oh.us and Mrs. Tarr's address is tarr.lauren@lebanon.k12.oh.us. For urgent matters please call Mrs. Nemo at 513-934-5442 and Mrs. Tarr at 513-934-5414. We will usually respond to a contact within one to two days. If you have information that needs to be communicated to your son or daughter the day of, please contact the office and they will pass us along the information. **Sometimes we do not get the chance to check e-mail or voicemail during the day.** Also, if you have any questions or concerns, contact us immediately! The sooner we all can work together should any confusion or concerns arise, the better the student will be. We will do the same if we see any concerns.

We also encourage you to visit Mrs. Nemo's class website at www.mrsnemo.weebly.com. **Make sure you spell Mrs. without the period or you won't get to our site.** Classroom information, newsletters, resources, and pictures and videos of class activities will be posted here throughout the year. This website has a wealth of information and is the first spot you should go to if you have a question. Please bookmark this website and check it frequently.

If there is a concern we have with your child whether it is with academics, behavior, or something else, we will contact you. We will not contact you for minor issues that are a part of growing up (recess arguments, friendships dissolving, a small school rule being broken, etc.) We will not report to you the consequences that occur at school due to these minor issues. If there are repeated infractions, a severe behavior, or your child is showing signs of confusion/difficulties with academics we will be in contact with you then.

Grades

This year your child will be receiving grades instead of numbers on his or her report card. This can be quite an adjustment to some and to others it is exactly what you've wanted.

Below you will find the grading scale our school is using. Please be aware of the percentages and corresponding letter grades, but **PLEASE** do not make them a focus on your child's progress and success. While grades do show some aspect of your child's learning in school, it is not the only measure to document success.

All too often children become very hung up on a "grade" and soon forget about the learning that should be taking place and focus on what they can do to achieve a higher letter. This drive for success is admirable, but what is the drive towards? A letter, or stronger learning? When the focus turns to learning and understanding the grades will follow. When students can focus more on how they learn best, what they need to

know and what they need to work on, they are much more likely to achieve greater success.

We will continue to focus all students' attention on the learning that will take place this year and take the pressure of grades off of them as much as possible. To aid in this stance, we will **NOT** place letter grades or percentages on their papers. we will only put points earned out of points possible.

Grading Scale:

A	=	90 - 100
B	=	80 - 89
C	=	70 - 79
D	=	60 - 69
F	=	Below 60

We are looking forward to a great year!

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