



Third Grade Weekly Plans

January 2, 2017

**TEACHER: Ms. Verheeck
ASSISTANT: Mrs. Smith**

Virtue: Courage

Saying: "The Last Straw"

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope this weekly finds you well rested after being away for two weeks. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mrs. Smith back to third grade! Today was her first day in our classroom and both the students and I are happy to have her. If for some reason you need to reach her, Mrs. Smith's email is:

patricia.carlesmith@crossroadsacademy.org.

Before we went on break, I sent home login information for Xtra Math. I am pleased to see that many of the students have taken advantage of the program and seem to be enjoying the practice. Please take note that while this was optional over break, it will be a weekly homework assignment for your child. I will remind the students by making note of it on their weekly homework sheet.

As we approach the second portion of your child's third grade school year, you will notice that I will be expecting more from them as students. I've been asking the students to write a heading on their assignments as well as making sure that they have a name and date on their work. From this day forward, the students will lose points for not having the proper heading on their paper. By now the students should be focused on handing in neat and thorough work, especially as we prepare them for fourth grade and beyond. In the weeks to come, I will require that all final drafts are written in cursive handwriting. Cursive will take more time and will cause pushback, however it is a requirement in the older grades. Therefore, it is important that the students get into a routine now.

As you know, Mrs. Doyle is teaching first grade which means that she will no longer be teaching writer's workshop. I will continue with her plan for the rest of the year as well as continue hosting "Sacred Writing Time." This week we will focus on three things in writing: (1) Sacred Writing Time (15 minutes), (2) Paragraph of the Week, and (3) Saga writing. I have had multiple requests from parents regarding writing assignments for homework and I will work those in to our weekly homework plans as well.

This week I will be ordering the cow eyes for the eye dissection and will finalize a date for the dissection. I will be in contact with those of you who are signed up to confirm both a date and time for the dissection.

I would like to close by thanking each and every one of you for the holiday gifts and kind cards and comments. I enjoyed starting the holiday season by meeting with many of you and look forward to meeting with the rest of you in the near future. Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
Heather Verheeck

Curriculum this Week:

Each week I will share the curriculum that is covered. This will allow you to know the various units and content that we will study.

Reading: This week we will finish reading *Viking Adventures* and do another literature circle activity with new groups and jobs. We will continue to practice summarizing and complete the comprehension packets for the novel.

Language Arts: This week we will focus on three things in writing: (1) Sacred Writing Time (15 minutes), (2) Paragraph of the Week, and (3) Saga writing. I have had multiple requests from parents regarding writing assignments for homework and I will work those in to our weekly homework plans as well.

Spelling: This week the students will work off of two lists.

The green list: (Unit 12: Syllable Juncture in VCV and VCCV Patterns) *super, supper, dinner, diner, tiger, happy, later, busy, pretty, paper, penny, even, tiny, over, puppy, rabbit, ruler, kitten, hello, crazy, letter, lesson, summer, open*

The blue list: (Lesson 12: Adjective Suffixes, -ful, -ous, -ious) *delightful, dangerous, envious, humorous, successful, poisonous, studious, rebellious, wasteful, stressful, mountainous, famous, vigorous, wonderful, nervous, glorious, marvelous, shameful, cheerful, scandalous, furious, outrageous, beautiful*

BONUS: *indistinguishable, Alfheim, Norwegian*

Vocabulary: Lesson 3 "Delighted with Questions"

1. Delicacy: fineness in appearance or build.
2. Delicate: easily torn or broken.
3. Delicatessen: a shop that sells prepared foods such as cooked meats, cheeses, salads, and desserts.
4. Delicious: pleasing to the taste.
5. Delightful: enjoyable, very pleasant.
6. Quest: a hunt or search.
7. Questionable: not certain, doubtful, open to question.
8. Questionnaire: a printed list of questions for getting information; a form to write on.

Math: Chapter 9: Using Bar Models: Multiplication and Division

The big idea of chapter 9 is that bar models can be used to solve different kinds of multiplication and division word problems. This week the students will focus on using bar models to solve one-step and two-step multiplication word problems. The goal is that they will be able to explain the meaning of symbols chosen for multiplication, including using the equal sign consistently and appropriately, as well as evaluating the reasonableness of the problem-solving processes of multiplication while attending to the details.

Geography: This week we will begin studying the geography of the United States. In the coming days and weeks your child will be memorizing states and capitals. We will do this through songs, poems, and memorization.

History: The time has come! We will be making Viking longships this week! I have collected enough containers and we will begin constructing our ships in class. We will study sagas and

swords and end the week with the lesson titled, "Saying Goodbye." The students will complete a writing activity about being out at sea and we will wrap this chapter up next week. A study guide will be distributed at the end of this week.

Science: This week we will be exploring Reflection and Mirrors. The students will have the opportunity to tinker with flashlights, mirrors, prisms, etc. The students will work with spoons later in the week to see the difference between convex and concave "mirrors." The main objectives this week are: (a) Identify the sun as the Earth's main source of light and name other light sources, (b) Identify light as a form of energy that travels in waves, (c) Describe how light waves travel in different mediums, (d) explain how shadows are formed, (e) Explain how light is absorbed, reflected, or transmitted, (f) Describe the three types of mirrors: plane, convex, and concave, and (g) Compare and contrast the terms concave and convex.

Spanish: During our two-week cycle, the 3rd graders learned parts of the face and the body. They created silly plate faces and creative body pictures and added Spanish labels. The students also learned basic parts of the house and decorated paper gingerbread houses. Finally, the students enjoyed a read aloud in Spanish and English (The Gingerbread Man) with their 1st grade buddies. After the story, the students decorated 'muñecos de jengibre' together. If you would like to practice your Spanish over the break, please visit my teacher page. You'll find games and songs. Felices Vacaciones!!