



## Kido's Connection

### Introduction to Third Grade

May 2021

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the third grade!! Third grade is an amazing year of growth. We share about our independent reading in weekly letters that we will write, we continue mastering our multiplication facts and bar models, and we learn all about the geography of our land. We have our "Be About It" time where we practice having a growth mindset, perseverance, conquering our fears, and many other Social and Emotional Learning topics. We start understanding our character strengths through the Periodic Table of Character Strengths, and we practice social responsibility through our just behavior. Two of my favorite parts of third grade are learning about the Tropical Rain Forest and spending the night at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, Nebraska. We get to tour the rain forest when the zoo is closed!!

I have been a third grade teacher for 18 years. (Wow!) I love this age because they are learning to become independent, they get so excited to share, and of course, their sense of humor is just beginning. I live in Osage City with my husband, and our 20-year-old son is living in Lawrence, Kansas. I enjoy running, yoga, podcasts, and learning about whole food, plant based nutrition.

Summer reading, math, and writing guidelines are coming home with this letter. Please encourage your child to have fun with academics this summer! Books can take us to amazing places; writing can be a creative outlet; and when we practice math, our confidence in our problem solving skills gets stronger. There are also some terrific children podcasts that often peak our curiosity.

I hope I get to meet each family in person soon! Have an amazing summer.

Ms. Kido

## Summer Math Practice for Students Entering Third Grade

In second grade, students learn multiplication facts 0 through 5. Please master these facts over the summer. In third grade, we start learning multiplication facts 6, 7, 8, and 9. I would also encourage students to keep mastering their addition and subtraction.

Please choose four days a week to spend 20 minutes - or more 😊 - completing some sort of math activity. Below you will find some suggested activities as well as some math websites. As you try these activities with your child, remember to have fun.

There are many games that you probably already have at home that encourage development in math: Yahtzee, Connect Four, Puzzles, Monopoly, Battleship, and most games that have dice and spaces to count. Most sports involve some sort of math. Whether your child is a participant or spectator, learning how to keep track of scores is fun.

Notice the clock. Tell your child that he/she can play a game or begin an activity at a certain time. Begin with times on the hour, and then move to half hours, quarter til or past.

Bake with your child. Have your child read the instructions in the recipe and allow him/her to measure the ingredients.

Anytime you have a chance to estimate or round numbers, please get your child in on the action. When you are shopping, ask your child to round the cost of items to the closest whole dollar amount and estimate the total spent.

Below are some fun websites to practice your math skills this summer.

[www.4kids.org](http://www.4kids.org)

[www.coolmath.com](http://www.coolmath.com)

[www.figurethis.org](http://www.figurethis.org)

[www.gregtangmath.com](http://www.gregtangmath.com)

[www.funbrain.com/numbers.html](http://www.funbrain.com/numbers.html)

## Summer Writing for Students Entering Third Grade

I would encourage each student to get his/her own journal. It can be anything from a three ring binder to a spiral notebook. Have fun writing about activities over the summer or the books you are reading. Some great starters can be writing about silly pet antics, awesome scoring in a game, book reviews, or places you have visited this summer. Your journal would also be a great place to keep your list of books read over the summer. Students will be welcome to bring in their journals to share a fun story or two at the beginning of the school year.

## Summer Reading for Students Entering the Third Grade

Hello!! As you prepare to enter the third grade at Topeka Collegiate, I hope that you are reading lots of good books. The purpose of reading over the summer is to not only maintain and build on your reading skills, but to also go places that only books can take you! Be sure to read by yourself, read with someone, read to someone, and find someone who will read to you. To get you started on your summer reading adventure, I have listed some special reading assignments. Please choose four days a week to read for at least twenty minutes. Have fun!!

**Special Reading Assignment (one):** Read *Frindle* by Andrew Clements. After you have read the story, please write a friendly letter to your teacher and class. We will share our friendly letters at the beginning of the school year.

Friendly Letter Format:

Please date your letter (top right of paper)

Greeting (Dear Class and Ms. Kido,)

Body of letter (Please write three paragraphs)

Paragraph one: Please write the title of your story in your first sentence. Write about two parts of the story that you really enjoyed.

Paragraph two: Please tell me in this paragraph if you think Nick is a trouble maker. Please use parts of the story to explain why he is a trouble maker or why he is not a trouble maker.

Paragraph three: If you could create a new word, what would it be? How would you get the class started on your new word? This is also the paragraph that you can ask any questions that you might have over the book.

Closing (Sincerely, your name)

**Special Reading Assignment (two):** Please read at least one book from the below list of popular authors, or you can choose a book, or two, from your own favorite author(s).

Beverly Cleary, Judy Blume, Sharon Creech, Roald Dahl, Gary Paulsen, Louis Sacher, Jerry Spinelli, Jon Scieszka, Jeff Kinney, Kate DiCamillo, Patricia Polacco, Patricia McKissak, Emily Jenkins, Raina Telgemeier, Gordon Korman, Carl Hiaasen, Andrew Clements, and Cynthia Rylant.

**Reading List:** Have fun keeping a running list of books and authors read online or on paper.