

Welcome to Third Grade

Silver Creek Elementary School



Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to third grade at Silver Creek Elementary School! This year promises to be an exciting and productive time for all of us. Third grade is an adventure that we are sure your child will enjoy. We will work closely together and strive to provide a variety of opportunities that will enrich learning for your child.

Let us introduce the third grade team!

Meet the Teachers



Sue Burnett is thrilled to be teaching third grade and is passionate about teaching. She has been teaching at Silver Creek since its opening. Her degree in Elementary Education is from Regis University, and she enjoys continuing her education each year. Sue has four wonderful children - two girls and two boys, and a sweet granddaughter named Stella. She loves culture, music, theater, reading, and gardening in her free time.



Carrie McMahan enjoys teaching third grade. This is Carrie's 9th year of teaching and her 2nd year at Silver Creek. She has taught in various different grades and settings, including, 1st, 4th, and 6th, in rural, very urban, and internationally. She earned a B.A. and a M.A in Teaching from Biola University in Southern California. She completed her Principal License in 2021. She is married with three children (ages 8, 6, 2). Together they enjoy just about anything outside, playing games, crafting, and watching movies.



Trisha Quint loves teaching third grade. She is starting her 22nd year in Adams Twelve and has taught all of those years in third grade. Trisha attended the University of Northern Colorado where she received her Bachelor of Arts Degree. Trisha earned her Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Colorado-Boulder and also holds an Administrative Certificate from the University of Denver. When she's not at school, Trisha enjoys spending time with her family, her pets, finding creative and crafty projects to complete, and volunteering in the community.



Amber St. Onge loves teaching; this is her 20th year of teaching. She has taught both second grade and third grade. Amber has her Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Phoenix. She has a daughter in high school. Amber enjoys reading, going to the movies, cooking and enjoying life.

As third grade teachers, we thoroughly love our jobs, and feel lucky to be working at a school that fosters professional development and collaboration. Of course our favorite part of teaching is working with the kids. We receive so much joy from students' curiosity and excitement about learning and from helping them achieve success in school. We strive to develop positive attitudes and habits about learning that will last a lifetime. We believe in developing classrooms based on respect and support, where every student feels valued and cared for. We are committed to making sure your child is successful and happy at school.

Third grade is a year of transition for students as they move toward the intermediate level in their elementary education. We expect students to learn to be responsible, independent learners. This is reflected in our curriculum, instruction, homework policies, and classroom expectations.

We value your input and insight as parents, and know you are a key link to your child's educational success. We look forward to working with your child this year at Silver Creek Elementary School. Please feel free to share any questions or concerns as we go through the year together.

Sincerely,
The 3rd Grade Teachers
Sue Burnett, Trisha Quint, Carrie McMahan, & Amber St. Onge

**** FYI - Please also refer to our frequently asked questions link on our 3rd grade website.**

THIRD GRADE HOMEWORK GUIDELINES

We believe that homework is an extension of things the students are learning in the classroom. Our purpose for homework is to give the students an opportunity for extra practice, not for students to have to spend the bulk of their evening finishing their homework, or for the parents to have to do the teaching. If you find that your student does not appear to understand the concept in the homework, and you are spending the majority of your time teaching rather than clarifying directions or reviewing a skill, please write us a note. We don't want the students or their parents to be frustrated with the work that is sent home.

The third grade teachers believe that homework should be purposeful and meaningful, therefore reading 20 minutes every day and extra math practice will be assigned. On occasion you might find that students will have a task (ex. worksheet) they will bring home to complete to enhance their learning from that day.

Daily Planners & Homework Folders

Planners will be used to communicate homework assignments, work to be finished, and reminders. These planners will be sent home on a daily basis. Students are responsible for bringing these planners back to school **each day**. **The expectation is that the planners are initialed by the parents each evening. The planners will be checked for parent initials each morning at school.** Please do not initial if your child has not met the expectations of completing the assignment. Feel free to jot a note in your child's planner if you have any questions or concerns.

All homework will be sent home in a designated folder. Assignments must be completed and returned the following day. We want to develop responsible third graders, and ask that you do NOT bring your child's homework to school if they have forgotten it. Please allow them to accept the consequences. Students might have to spend their time during recess completing unfinished homework.

The third grade teachers understand that you have busy lives, and we try to be very flexible. We appreciate it when parents come directly to us with their concerns. This enables us to work out solutions that benefit each child's education.

GRADING SCALE

Third grade academic performance will be scored using the standards based grading model. A letter will be sent home further explaining this grading model. On many occasions, class work and homework are checked as an entire class and won't be scored in this manner. The rubric below explains what each mark means:

"A/4" Advanced (Exceeds Standard)

• The work may not be perfect, but it includes complexity, sophistication, originality, depth, synthesis, and/or application that clearly exceeds what would be expected to meet the standard

"P/3" Proficient (Meets Standard)

• The student has shown competent work that demonstrates the essential skills and knowledge of that standard.

"PP/2" Partially Proficient (Making Progress Towards Standard)

• The student has demonstrated a substantive attempt to meet the standard of a given assessment, but needs more time to achieve competency.

"U/1" Unsatisfactory (Making Limited Progress)

• The student does not demonstrate substantive progress toward meeting the standard associated with a particular assessment.

FRIDAY FOLDERS

At the end of each week, your child will bring home his/her Friday Folder. In this folder, you will find completed work, important newsletters and information from the school. Please clean this folder out each weekend and return an EMPTY folder on Monday.

CURRICULUM

- Literacy - Balanced literacy approach following the Common Core standards
- Math - Everyday Mathematics
- Reading Foundations - Learning about word parts and sounds, with spelling.
- Science - Life Cycles, States of Matter, Erosions of Earth's Materials
- Social Studies - Our Democratic Community, Regions of Our World, Investigating Geographic Problems, Economics and You, Personal Financial Literacy

REWARDS/DISCIPLINE

We believe that focusing on positive behavior, rather than negative behavior, can prevent most discipline problems. Therefore, we will reinforce positive behavior whenever possible, and reward students for cooperation and good choices. Silver Creek uses "eagle bucks" that students can earn for SOARing* to Excellence. The Eagle's Nest store will open later in the year and students will be able to spend their eagle bucks.

We will be using a SOARing behavior system in our classrooms where students will be recognized for positive choices or poor choices each day. All students begin the day "soaring" and will have the opportunity to move up on the SOAR-board for positive choices or down for undesirable choices.

* (S=Safety, O=Organized, A=Attitude, R=Respect)

RECESS/STUDY HALL

Third grade students have an additional recess where supervision is provided by the third grade teachers. This recess is beyond the district expectation. It is an earned privilege. During this time, we provide students who need more time to finish assignments, or have incomplete work from the previous days to get caught up on their work. The goal is that students finish their work for that day and are able

to join their peers at recess the next day. This will allow the students to keep up with the work in the classroom and not miss out on any important learning needed for the next day's lesson.

SNACKS/WATER BOTTLES

There will be a daily snack break. Students will be allowed, but not required, to bring a **HEALTHY** snack from home. Teachers will not be providing snacks for the students. Please be mindful that we do have students with severe food allergies. **Silver Creek Elementary is not a peanut-free nor are we an allergen-free zone.** Here is a list of "safe snack" ideas: fruit chews, pretzels, pudding, yogurt, grapes, apples, bananas, carrot sticks, fruit cups, applesauce, raisins, popcorn, Cheez-It's, and Goldfish.

Water bottles will also be allowed and **HIGHLY ENCOURAGED**. However, there are drinking fountains in the classroom. Please review the following guidelines to understand appropriate use of water bottles in the classroom:

1. A bottle with re-closable lid
2. **Water only (NO other beverages)**
3. Do not freeze water, as it will "sweat" on materials and supplies
4. Water Bottles should be carried outside of the backpack so books are not damaged

BIRTHDAYS

We are always excited to acknowledge the students' birthdays. This year, if your child wants to bring in something to share with his/her classmates, we are asking parents to send **small items that can be passed out quickly** (pencils, stickers, bouncy balls, wrapped brownies, etc.). This will help minimize distractions during instruction time and will respect others with sensitive food needs. Students will have the opportunity to hand out their non-food items during the last ten minutes of the day.

COMMUNICATION

Communication with parents and guardians is vital for each child to be successful! We'd like you to think of your child's teacher as your partner, working together to help your child thrive. We plan to communicate with you through notes, Friday Folders, Daily Planners, Parent/Teacher Conferences, Mid-Term Progress Reports, e-mail, phone calls, and Remind. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns. We will respond to parent phone calls and e-mails generally within 24-48 hours. If you send a message after school hours, we may not be able to respond until the next. **You are our partners in learning and we cannot do this job well without you!**

Amber St.Onge
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