

The SWEET LIFE of 3rd grade



Ms. Sloan, Mrs. Harvey, Ms. Kasperski

Welcome, in this newsletter you will find important information about 3rd grade this year. We hope this packet is useful for you throughout the year! Please do not hesitate to contact one of us for more specific information!

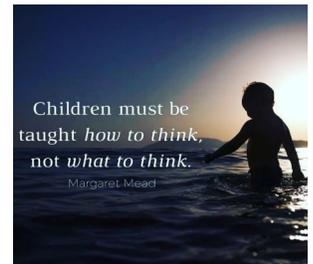
Our 3rd Grade Teaching Team

Mrs. Heather Harvey — Math and Science

Ms. Krista Sloan — English Language Arts

Ms. Amanda Kasperski — Special Education Teacher

Title I and Paraprofessionals also support our classroom at various times!



- For math and science questions contact

Mrs. Harvey: heatherharvey@propelschools.org or ext. 1148

- For ELA (reading, writing, language arts) questions contact

Ms. Sloan: Kristasloan@propelschools.org or ext. 1258

- For special education questions contact

Ms. Kasperski: Amandakasperski@propelschools.org or ext 1398

3rd GRADE

Some noticeable changes from 2nd-to 3rd for you and your student:

- **More teachers:** Your student will now have a teacher for ELA and a teacher for Math and Science
- **More Transitions:** Students will now move between two classrooms to switch for math/science & ELA
- **New floor:** Students will not be on the same floor of the building as they have been for K through 2nd
- **Sharing Desks:** For the first time your student does not have his or her own desk. All personal items must be kept in a student's locker, or at home! No book bags, pencil boxes, binders, or purses will be allowed in class. Students can get these items at dismissal to prepare to take items home from school.
- **More testing:** Unlike in grades K-2, students will now take the MAPS, 4sights, PSSAs, and more classroom tests (such as a science test each trimester), and more reading progress monitoring assessments:

Math Assessments: Student progress will be monitored daily through classwork, participation, and exit slips. Formally student progress will be measured on the following benchmark assessments: MAPS, 4sights, Module Tests. You can check student progress on classwork via Skyward, and benchmark test scores will be sent home and discussed at conferences.

Science Tests: Students will generally be tested at the end of each trimester on the unit content. Students will have a chance to review and prepare both in class and at home before the test.

ELA Assessments: Student progress will be monitored through class assignments, discussions and participation each day. Student Reading levels will be tracked through an IRLA toolkit. Formal assessments for English Language Arts include Performance Tasks, MAPS, 4sights and DRAS. There will NOT be word study tests each week!



Our Schedule:

- **Creative Arts:** 3rd grade will have the Music, Theater, Art, and Physical Education for Trimester I. Students MUST wear tennis shoes to participate in Mr. Weaver's physical education class. This is a safety concern and students will have to sit out of class, and miss points for the day without shoes so please make sure they have them on the following days:

Homeroom 3A— FRIDAYS (D DAYS) Homeroom 3B— THURSDAYS (C DAYS)

****Mondays are rotating Creative Arts days, we will have your child write in their agenda if GYM falls on a Monday so they remember to wear their tennis shoes!****

- **Lunch and Recess:** Is from 11:17 to 11:37 and recess follows from 11:40 to 11:57. We will rotate between outside/gym and classroom recess because we share recess times with the other 3rd grade and both 2nd grade classrooms. Students are NOT permitted to take food out of the cafeteria that they did not finish unless they have a lunchbox from home. Also, students are NOT permitted to bring balls from home or technology for recess. Dolls, hot wheel cars, and similar items are okay but we are NOT responsible for damaged or lost toys from home, so please send at your own discretion.
- **Agendas and Thursday Folders:** Students MUST bring their agenda to school every single day! In addition, Thursday folders will be used again to send home important papers every week. Thursday Red Folders MUST be returned to school EVERY FRIDAY!



Social and Emotional Education

This year we have partnered with Penn State to pilot a new social and emotional health program called Project Team. Using the Project Team program all Northside teachers, therapists, culture coach, guidance counselors, and administrators will work with students and families to foster a positive culture, that will allow for academic success to thrive. Class DOJO will be used to track, and reward, individual and whole class behavior on a daily basis.



#BTFAB

Propel Northside's School Wide Expectations

- B—Believe in yourself.
- T— Treat others the way you want to be treated
- F— Follow directions quickly.
- A— Ask for help.
- B—Be Propel Proud
- Staying on expected voice level, in assigned area, and safe with your body.

Class Dojo

Students can earn points for demonstrating behaviors that align with #BTFAB. They can also lose points for not meeting expectations. ClassDOJO creates an easy way for you to see how your student is doing in school all day!

ALL PARENTS/GAURDIANS ARE EXPECTED TO SIGN UP FOR CLASSDOJO BY TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH.

There is an app for Android and Iphones, or you can access it via computer.

4 step plan at Propel Northside: The 4 –Step plan is a behavior management plan designed by our principals and utilizes common language and consequences for all students, across all grades, at Propel Northside.

After 1-2 verbal warnings any student not following expectations will be placed on the 4-step Plan. **THE 4 STEP PLAN DOES NOT START OVER EVERY DAY.** Students will be held accountable for their day to day behavior, from class to class, area to area. Only after a student reaches step 4 do they have a fresh start.

Steps:

**** After 1 to 2 Verbal Warnings occur a student will be placed on the 4 step plan, the steps are:**

Step 1: Parent contact and time at the reflection center (calm down, complete a think sheet, read a book, other items to help get back on track)

Step 2: Parent contact and 10 minute detention (before school, after school, lunch/recess) that must be served within one week or loss of privilege (teacher will decide).

Step 3: Parent contact and 30 minute before school, after school, lunch/recess detention (guardians and teachers will work together to decide on a time and this must be served within one week.)

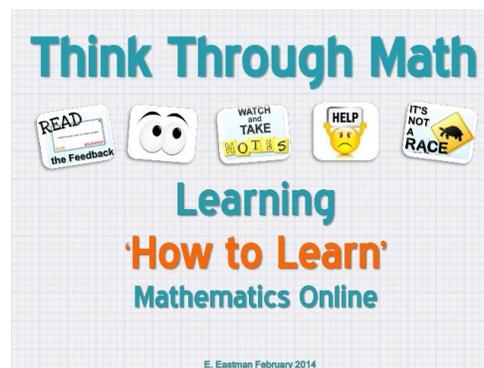
Step 4: Parent contact and Office Referral..

HOMework

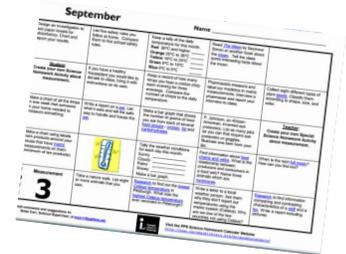


- Homework is sent home weekly on every Monday and due every Friday (or the last day of that week if there is a shorter week). There will be no homework over the weekend.
- Students will earn #BTFAB tickets for turning in their homework, in addition to earning a DOJO point!
- Students can turn in late homework for credit, but it must be turned in within two weeks of the assigned date.
- Homework is graded for effort not accuracy (students do not have to get every question right to receive credit, but they do have to demonstrate effort).

Math Homework: Students will be assigned two pages a week. **They must show their work for each problem.** Even if they can do the work in their head, they must show it on paper too! This is imperative for Mrs. Harvey, as it is the most valuable tool in understanding how a child thinks math! **Math homework can be worked on throughout the week, and it must be turned in every Friday.** **There will be two options for your child this year: 2 traditional pages of problems or completing 2 lessons using our new online math program starting in October!!!** We are waiting until October so that students have time to use the program in class and become familiar with how to use all parts of the program, as well as know what is expected of them! A letter will be sent home at the end of September with information so you can decide what you and your student prefer!



Science Homework: Students will be required to complete one science project at home each month. I will provide students with a monthly calendar with suggestions, but they will also be allowed to create their own project. The calendars were created in partnership with The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh! Work will be graded using a rubric that assess their neatness, completion, and presentation. The on the back of each calendar so your student knows what is expected.



ELA Homework: Students will be assigned seven problems each night that review parts of speech and grammar skills. There is extra space on the homework for students to show any thinking, and track their homework progress each week. This part of the homework should only take 10 minutes each night. In addition to the practice problems students are required to read independently for 20 minutes and record the book and pages read in their agenda. Skill pages are collected on Friday and agendas will be checked daily.

Propel Schools Grading Scale

93—100% A

85—92 % B

77—84% C

69-76% D



Our Class Website:
www.northsidethird.weebly.com

For up to date
information & announcements!

3rd Grade Grading Policy: In 3rd grade we will be grading ON-GRADE LEVEL WORK so that report card grades are reflective of your child's performance level, the same as benchmark tests do.

- No extra credit
- No student will ever receive less than 50% when effort is applied. Students who refuse work will be expected to make it up that day or else they receive an automatic 50%. It will be entered as a zero until made up. **Students will have 2 weeks to turn in all missing work.**
- Propel's grading scale will be used for all graded work. **See above for grading scale and if you do not know how to see your child's grades on Skyward from home, let us know!**
- Homework, Smart Start, some classwork, center work, participation, and tests/quizzes will be factored into a student's grade.
- We do not send everything home that we grade. We do this mostly for you.... there is a lot of papers!
- We will send home quizzes, but will keep unit tests for progress monitoring. You will be able to see all of these tests at conferences and we will always inform you if something needs immediate attention. We sometimes will send home photocopies too for you to see.
- Students who are absent can make up graded work if applicable (for example, it is not feasible to recreate some of our science experiments. They will not receive a zero, but they also won't be able to do the experiment on their own).
- You should receive frequent progress reports in Thursday folders this year so you are always aware of any work your child is missing. You can also check skyward anytime you want to know. If you need skyward access please contact one of us, or the office.

Making up Classwork:

Students who are missing work may be assigned the work to come home, or they may be required to complete it at recess/lunch time. It depends on the student and the situation. For example, if off-task behavior led to a student not completing center work, then he or she would have to finish it at recess/lunch or as additional homework. If a student was absent, appropriate work would be sent home to complete by the end of the week.

HOW CAN YOU BE ALL IN as a parent or guardian?

We can't do this alone! Teachers, Principals, and Parents have to work as a team. With your support in the follow areas you are helping us help your student be the very best they can be while here at school.

You can be ALL IN this year by:

1. Having open, respectful, and regular communication with any adult whom works with your student.
2. Help to make sure your student completes his or her homework with effort and care.
3. Help your student be ready for tests by reviewing skills with them, ensuring a good nights sleep, and a good breakfast.
4. Limit the amount of absences and tardiness of your student. If they are absent or late, remind them to ask for missing work that they may need to make up.



We truly look forward to working with you this year and thank you for all that you do! You chose Propel Northside and we want it to be the best choice you made for your student's education!

What does English Language Arts (ELA) look like?



During English Language Arts instruction students will learn new skills and enhance their reading, writing, speaking, listening and social studies skills. We will use a variety of instructional strategies to practice each of these skills. Students will read rigorous and engaging texts, research topics, and performance task projects. Below is a breakdown of the ELA instructional block.

40 minutes: Grade Level Expeditionary Reading

For third grade Propel utilizes a common core curriculum called Expeditionary Learning. This branches from the Core Knowledge curriculum students were exposed to in second grade. All resources can be explored on engageNY.org. Expeditionary Learning includes four modules that work on reading skills and strategies through a spiral review. Students will engage in classroom discussions, research practice and text analysis. Students will complete performance tasks to demonstrate their knowledge of the information we study. I make most of the performance tasks hands-on and engaging so keep your ears open for some fun projects happening in Language Arts! Expeditionary Learning also requires students to take mid-unit and unit assessments. These assessments include paper and pencil tests, writing assignments and oral presentations. These are the items that will have the most impact on your student's grade.

25 minutes: Grammar/Spelling

Every week students will learn a new word study pattern. For example prefixes and suffixes. On Mondays they will receive a direct instruction lesson on the word study pattern and practice with a list of words throughout the week. Students will also practice a Grammar skill during this time. We will focus on one grammar skill for two weeks. For example verb tenses. Students will receive a direct instruction lesson on the skill, complete an interactive notebook page along with other activities using the focus skill during that two week period.

25 minutes: Writing

The writing expectations in third grade are a large jump from second grade. Students will be able to write a five paragraph essay by the end of the school year! We will focus on mode writing during this time. Students will be given a writing prompt and create an informational, opinion or narrative essay. Students will also work on reading a text and answering a short answer question about the text. Writing in third grade is challenging at first, but students always grow to love it when they see how creative they can be!

30 minutes: Reading Plus

Reading plus is a new program at Propel this year. It is an amazing computer program that offers students online reading at their academic level. Reading plus improves student fluency, comprehension and stamina! Keep your eye open for more information on this program and a parent log-in and password! During this time students will also have "teacher time." They will work with myself or Ms. Kasperski at guided reading.

20 minutes: Reading at an independent level

Students will be assessed to determine the level at which they can read independently. This means they can read the words in a book with 99-100% accuracy. These books should be quick, easy and fun for the child to read. Students have a free choice of the book they read during this time as long as it is in their independent reading level. The goal is to build silent reading stamina and make reading fun for the kids! This is also a time where students will practice reading "power words." Power words are words that they are working on in the level above their independent level. These words are in the books they read as well as on power word cards in the classroom.



What does math and science look like?



Math Block— 80 Minutes

Mental Math Warm-up: 10 minutes: Review of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts to improve fluency.

Math Lesson: 40 minutes of direct instruction of 3rd grade PA Core content using Engage NY Curriculum.

Math Centers: 30 minutes for differentiated instruction and individual practice based on individual student needs.

In Grade 3, instructional time should focus on five critical areas through 7 math modules

- (1) developing understanding of multiplication and division and strategies for multiplication and division within 100
- (2) developing understanding of fractions, especially unit fractions (fractions with numerator 1)
- (3) developing understanding of the structure of rectangular arrays and of area
- (4) describing and analyzing two-dimensional shapes
- (5) solving problems involving measurement and estimation of intervals of time, money, liquid volumes, masses, and lengths of objects

PA Core and Common Core will drive my daily lessons. I use a variety of curriculum resources along side Eureka Math, the math curriculum. Center time will be used to expand on these topics, as well as provide students with one-on-one interventions/re-teaching. This is the time where myself, and several support staff members provide specific instruction designed for each individual student, every day!

Differentiated Block: During this time students will be expected to complete one assigned task a day. They will track their progress on a chart each week. Students will be graded on their efforts and whether or not they completed their assigned work. Since this time is for practice and enrichment I will not be grading students on accuracy, but I do expect best efforts at all time.

Each student will rotate amongst the following centers:

- **Think Through Math**—Online math program
- **Teacher Time** — one-on-one or small group work
- **Spiral Review**— A chance to practice a previously taught skill
- **Game/Project**— A fun chance to acquire and demonstrate mastery of a specific math concept
- **Math Task**— One question that involves several steps, and includes showing and presenting work

IF students complete their work they may earn math choice time with items such as games, apps, or projects.

Science Block— 30 Minutes

Science will be structured a lot like math. Students will be expected to complete four centers throughout the week. Students will track their progress on a chart that will be turned in at the end of the week.

- **Center 1 and Center 2:** ASSET Science— science curriculum (see below for more information). Students will work with Mrs. Harvey in small groups to conduct experiments, watch video clips, work with SAS questions (PSSA Test Prep). Journal in their science notebooks, and discuss findings or connections. In addition, we will read and discuss Non-fiction science texts that align with our ASSET curriculum.
- **Center 3:** S.T.E.A.M—Students will complete a S.T.E.A.M project that may take just one class period or several.
- **Center 4:** Current Events—science newspaper articles or web quests (ex. Scholastic Super Science, Science Studies weekly, Dogonews.com).

In Grade 3, instructional time will focus on three main units, one per trimester.

- Trimester 1:
Rocks and Minerals
- Trimester 2: Sound
- Trimester 3: Plants



Throughout each unit, and in-between units, I will supplement the big ideas with teacher created projects and mini-lessons, field trips, guest speakers, etc. We will then be taking a field trip to explore and make connections to what we learn in class! There will also be increase in STEM education this year for your student, as it is one of my newest professional developments! Two years ago I was awarded a \$5000.00 grant to purchase materials that we will again use this year! In addition, there will be several weeks where Science and ELA connect, providing students with an amazing opportunity to see how learning in one room, connects with another! We will also end the year with an entire course on coding from Code.Org's computer programming curriculum.



Meet Mrs. Harvey

Let me introduce myself first by telling you how I got started teaching. I received my Bachelors Degree from Chatham University in Elementary Education. Throughout college I worked as a pre-school teacher for 3 years. I also helped run an after-school program. At the end of my studies I taught second grade during my internship, and completed a year long research study that focused on Multicultural Education. After graduation, I spent my first two school years with the Pittsburgh Public School District teaching Kindergarten and Fifth Grade at Weil ALA. Within this time I earned a Masters Degree in Special Education K-12 from Edinboro University. I completed my internship at the Pace School in a 2nd-4th grade Autistic Support classroom. I also spent the summer working at the Pace Schools' Extended School Year Summer Program. I joined the Propel team in 2012 and taught 3rd grade math, science, ELA, and writing! Since then I have stayed in 3rd grade! I am still just as excited to be a part of the Propel team, and call Propel Northside my home! I know the 3rd grade curriculum very well, and am excited to present it to your student. I have such high hopes for every one of my students and expect the best at all times! I have worked with many grade levels, and have come across a rainbow of students whom needs have all been unique. While I teach math and science now, I work closely with my partner teacher to collaborate and co-plan alongside ELA topics so you will find several times throughout the year where our focus overlaps. In addition, I am very passionate about educating the whole child. What this means is that I care about the child's emotional and social well being, just as much as their academic. I work closely with our guidance team to support our students, I plan for team-building activities throughout the entire year, and embrace high expectations for a positive class culture. I have attended trainings outside of Propel on topics such as "Growth Mindset" and bring those experiences into the classroom. You may hear your student talking about "stretching their brain" and "growing from mistakes", this attitude stems from *Growth Mindset* thinking. Outside of the classroom I have been fortunate enough to hold other roles and responsibilities within Propel that have bettered me as an educator. I love supporting new teachers, and last year worked closely with the Northside staff on using student data to impact their teaching in a meaningful way! This year I am taking a break from outside roles and responsibilities, but will continue to educate myself and collaborate with fellow Propel teachers.

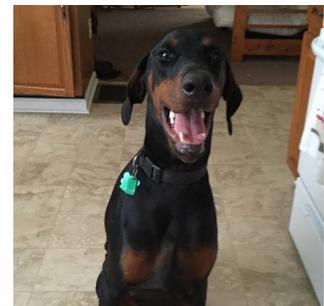
My life outside of the classroom is so important to me. I often share so much of my life with the students that I want to let you get to know me a bit too! Some of you may know me as Ms. Uebele, and the kiddos often call me that enough! However, two summers ago I married my best friend, whom I was fortunate enough to meet in high school, Brandon...and thus I became Mrs. Harvey. After the wedding, we got a new puppy and my entire summer was spent training him (and myself) since I had never had a dog before! We named him Vegas.. We have a nephew whom I will share stories about with my students all the time. He is almost 7 years old and is one my favorite people in the world! His name is Sebastian. I come from a very large family and so does my husband. I personally have 2 sisters and 1 brother, and my husband is an only child. Last Halloween, Brandon and I will welcomed our first child, a baby boy, whom we named Brandon Alexander. We had an amazing summer together! He is everything a boy should be and has made my life the best yet! I love to cook, bake, read, and spend the weekends with friends and family. I also enjoying traveling when we can. Any other free time I have is usually spent cleaning (I like to be organized!) or catching up on what other teachers in the world are doing! I have many professional and personal goals to achieve, and am excited to bring the students along on my "quest to be the best"!



My nephew, Sebastian, who is very excited to start First grade this year!



My little family



Our crazy but loyal Doberman, Vegas, who just turned 2 years old!

Meet Ms. Sloan



Let me start by telling you about myself! My dream of teaching started way back in first grade and my passion continues to grow with each year. My teaching experience started when I earned my Bachelor's Degree from California University of Pennsylvania. I completed an internship with second grade and worked with third grade during a student teaching experience. After college I taught preschool for a little over a year then decided to change directions from early childhood to primary. My experience with Propel began as a substitute, and I am overjoyed to start another year as Northside's third grade ELA teacher. This is an eventful year for me outside of Propel as well. Over the summer Mr. Smith and I bought a new house in Baldwin Township. It has been a lot of work, but we are settled in and very happy with the new home. In addition to the new house, we are expecting a new baby boy at the beginning of November! We are very excited for our family to grow!

This will be my third year as the third grade English Language Arts teacher. I am extremely passionate about the power of reading and can't wait to instill that power in my third graders! English Language Arts, ELA, includes much more than reading. Students will work to improve writing, speaking, listening and research skills. The ELA curriculum provides many opportunities for science and social studies instruction as well. This allows me to work together with my partner and very close friend, Mrs. Harvey to give students an incredible cross-curricular experience. In my classroom I believe in everyone working together to establish a comfortable, respectful, productive learning environment which promotes team work every day! This team includes students, myself, other staff in the building and families too. By working together it is our job to create life-long learners. In order to reach my goal of educating well rounded, worldly scholars students will participate in activities and read stories that encourage a positive classroom culture and build social and emotional skills throughout the school year.

Outside the wonderful world of teaching I have many important parts of my life. On the weekends I work on projects in the new house and I am starting to prepare for the arrival of my new baby boy! I love to spend my time with my growing family. I have two brothers and one niece, Liliana who will be turning three in September. I also like to spend time outside. This summer I went on a few camping and hiking trips. I like to walk my golden retriever, Ruby. Ruby loves to go to the park to play fetch and swim. I enjoy running/exercising, making crafts, watching scary movies and working in my garden! I also love to read, specially Harry Potter!



Meet Ms. Kasperski



Hi! My I am Ms. Kasperski! Let me tell you a little about myself! I grew up knowing I wanted to be a teacher. It all started in Kindergarten when we were assigned a "When I Grow Up" project. I drew a picture of myself writing on a chalkboard. My passion for teaching has grown every year into my college years. I completed my education at Slippery Rock University where I received my degrees in Early Childhood Education PreK-4 and Special Education PreK-8. I completed student teaching in Kindergarten at Pine Richland School District and 7th Grade Special Education at Chartiers Valley School District. After college I substitute taught at various schools and was the Head Teacher at the Goddard School. My adventure at Propel began as a Long Term Substitute and turned into a full time Special Education Teacher!

I am very happy to say that Propel has taught me a lot about what it takes and means to be a teacher. This will be my second year as a Special Education Teacher at Propel! I am very passionate about Special Education. My role in the classroom is to help close the gaps that might be present in your child's education. This will look different in ELA and Math/Science. I will be co-teaching with both Mrs. Harvey and Ms. Sloan. I might be co-teaching with either of them at the same time, I may be teaching a small group, or working 1-1 with individual students. I worked with both of them last year. I am very happy to say that they are very good friends of mine and I am VERY excited to be working along side two amazing teachers. I have worked with both of the curriculums last year and have worked in many ways to adapt and modify activities and assignments for individual students to be successful in the classroom!

Outside of education and Propel, I have an amazing fiancé, Michael. We met at Slippery Rock! We have an ADORABLE two year old chocolate lab named Thor. We are super busy planning our wedding!!! Throughout the week, we love to cook together and take Thor for walks! I love spending time with my nieces, nephews and family! I have a brother that lives in Texas and a sister that is still working on her Physical Therapy degree at Slippery Rock! And of course, I love to spend my free time researching about education and fun ways to teach different skills to my students! I am very excited to co-teach with both Mrs. Harvey and Ms. Sloan!! I look forward to meeting all of you and teaching your amazing children!! :)

