



Mr. Huyck's Third Grade Classroom
Classroom and School Information
September 3, 2021



Dear families,

Welcome to the new school year and to our third grade class! I hope that your summer was wonderful and that you are excited to be back to school. I am excited about our return to school and I anticipate a great year.

Third grade is an exciting and pivotal grade as your child transitions to the upper elementary grades. Third graders love to learn. They are cooperative and fun to work with. Third graders are much more capable of deeper thinking, enabling us to engage in deeper, more interesting and lively discussions. It is amazing to view the children mature and progress through the year. I am excited for the opportunity to work with you and your child.



I believe that you will find the following information about our classroom and school to be especially helpful as we begin the new school year together. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about your child's classroom and school life.

Reminder: Please send Student Information: I've truly appreciated the student information that I've received so far. If not done yet, please send me a brief note that helps me get to know your student better (via email or in a sealed envelope; huyck@aaps.k12.mi.us). Pass on information that would help me better understand and learn more about your child. I would especially like to hear how you believe your child learns best, areas of strengths or in which to grow (such as goals; can be academic or other), or maybe current concerns. In the past I have always found this information to be highly valuable.

Masks: We suggest that you send at least two masks each day with your student. Sometimes masks are misplaced or might need to be changed in the afternoon.

Dismissal Plans: Thank you for entering your child's dismissal plans. Please remember to use the following link to make needed updates. If you do make changes please also email me so that I can be aware as well. LINK: [Dismissal Plans](#)

Water Bottles: Please send a refillable water bottle to school with your child each day. We have a water bottle refill station in our hallway (but no water fountain).

Backpacks: Students should bring backpacks to school each day. We use them to transport papers, homework, Friday Folders, and other misc. items. Most papers & homework will arrive home on Fridays in the Friday Folder. However, there are unexpected papers or occasional homework items from time to time, so please check your child's backpack daily.

Snacks: Healthy snacks are encouraged and expected. Please send in vegetable or fruit snacks. We will be creating moments for students to snack in healthy and safe ways. While the weather is still nice we will snack outside as much as possible. If snack time needs to take place in class, we will have special places to snack and take turns.

To help us properly assess food allergies for ALL students, we are strongly encouraging parents to send in fruit and vegetable snacks during the initial weeks of school. Keep in mind that as we properly assess food allergies our classroom snack expectations may need to be altered for the safety of all students.

In addition, please remember that if your child wishes to recognize a birthday, in order to keep our classroom healthy and the needs of all students in mind, we are supporting only non-food treats. A few quick ideas are: special stickers, small notebooks, fun pencils or erasers. Additional ideas can be researched on the Internet, or you could discuss with a fellow parent. Please talk to me in advance if you wish to send in treats.

Recess: Most days we enjoy three recesses. We have a short recess in the morning, longer lunch recess, and then another short recess in the afternoon. We snack outside during recess.

Curriculum Night: Please plan to join us at our VIRTUAL Curriculum Night, Tuesday, September 14. This is a great opportunity to meet Mr. Huyck, engage in discussion, hear vital information about our classroom/school, and discover our goals and expectations. The timing and Zoom link will be sent out soon.

Classroom Student Materials: All basic student materials are provided (such as: glue, crayons, markers, scissors, rulers, pencils, colored pencils, staplers, folders, tape, pens, etc.). Please avoid sending in additional materials unless your child desires to have special items. Our storage space is limited. Our desire is to have less clutter and to be more organized (less is better). *One item that might be helpful to have, and is not included in our standard list of supplies, would be a small pencil/materials box.*

Headphones: For use with certain computer activities and our classroom keyboard, please send in a pair of headphones for your child. Place them in a plastic bag and label both the bag and the headphones with your child's name. I do have several extra headphones that I can loan for the year, if needed. Please let me know.

Suggested Donations: If able, it would be helpful for each family to send in a box of facial tissues. Occasionally, we'll need cleaning wipes as well (I'll let you know when those are needed). Please let me know if you can provide child friendly cleaning wipes to start our year.

Contacting and communicating with Mr. Huyck: Communication between us is essential. Out of respect to our class schedule, and your child's instructional time (and also so that I can focus upon your message), please remember that it's best to contact me at the following suggested (non-instructional) times during the school day.

**Email (huyck@aaps.k12.mi.us). This is great for simple, quick matters, such as a quick question or to schedule an appointment.

**Phone (school office: 734-994-1940). The best time to call is shortly after the final bell rings, roughly between 4:00 & 4:30, before the office staff leave for the day. You can also call during our special classes. It would be best *to avoid* calling before school, as that time is short and needed for preparing activities and getting organized for the day. You can also call and leave a message.

If you anticipate that you'll need a longer discussion period, please contact me in advance to set up an appointment.

Special Classes Schedule & Important Times: Our list of important times and Special Classes Schedule is on the last page of this document (and attached to the email message).

Star Student: As a way to highlight each child as a unique and special person, create a sense of belonging, and to aid in classroom management and organization, each child will have numerous opportunities throughout the year to be our *Star Student* (our extra special person) for the day.

We will be rotating daily, with each child taking on the role as our Star Student for one day at a time. Once all students have enjoyed their first opportunity as Star Student (round one) we will then rotate through our second round (and then continue subsequent rounds until the end of the year).

Here are some of the typical jobs/roles that Star Students assist with each day: teacher helper, reading the daily message and schedule, line leader, whiteboard eraser, and lights.

In case you would like to know when it's your child's first turn as Star Student, I've attached our schedule to the email message. For the first round students will also share their "All About Me" webs we've already completed in class. For the second round students will bring in a few representative items to share with classmates (similar to the Bag/Box sharing we did the second day of school).

Information for parents (website and email notes): There are a couple forms of communication that will be utilized to keep you informed. We have a class website. The address is: <http://www.a2schools.org/Domain/1628>). In time it will include informational letters, a calendar of upcoming important dates and activities, and other misc. items.

One of our best forms of communication is the use of a brief newsletter send out via email. Towards the beginning of each week, or as needed, I will send out the most pertinent information about what's been happening in our classroom and items connected to the upcoming week and beyond. I trust you find it a helpful resource in which to learn more details about your child's classroom and school life. Many parents use the emailed notes as a tool to help probe their students for additional information.

Friday Folders: Each Friday your child will bring home a folder with teacher & school notes, checked and returned student work, and a small amount of homework to complete. There are two sides: Homework & Misc. When the folder arrives home on Friday, remove all items and discuss them with your child. The folder should be returned to our classroom, with your child's completed homework, so that it can then be reused again on the following Friday.

Homework: *After the first two or three weeks of school*, a small amount of homework items will be sent home on most Fridays in the Friday Folder. It will be grouped together so that it is predictable and can be completed throughout the week. I do it this way to provide you and your child flexibility and choice. It should be spread out and completed **throughout the week** and returned on the following Thursday or Friday. It's best to spread out the work through the week so that at least part of the homework is completed each night. **Remember, the rule is generally Friday-to-Friday.**

Homework may be assigned in a variety of forms, and for a variety of purposes, such as: Math (Homelinks and math fact practice expectations), weekly reading expectations, incomplete or missing class work, discussions to have with parents, or other activities/projects that go along with our studies. There will be a checklist provided to help you and your child stay focused and remember what's expected for the week. It should also be completed and returned the following Thursday/Friday.

Please support and assist your child as necessary with homework. It is important that you be available. Please take a few minutes and check your child's work for errors. Have your child correct the mistakes before sending the homework back to school.

The amount of homework that arrives home varies and generally follows the recommendations of our Ann Arbor Public Schools third grade homework policy: approximately 30 minutes per child per evening. Of course, as all children are different, what might take one third grader 20 minutes to complete, could possibly take another third grader 40 minutes to complete. Plan to be a little flexible.

Also, keep in mind the amount of homework that parents prefer varies from family to family. Some parents prefer no homework (or very little). Other parents lean in the opposite direction, preferring heavy loads of homework. As the teacher's most important focus is to plan for the activities that place within the classroom, I will not have time to alter homework for individual students, or plan large homework events. Thus, the homework that arrives home will be balanced and will reasonably support our classroom learning and help bridge the gap between school and home.

Lastly, I believe students should have minimal homework expectations, allowing more time at home to relax, play, pursue extra-curricular activities, and exercise. They should be allowed to rest and recharge for the next school day. This would be similar to how typical adults function, as we

Special Class Schedule & Important Times

Mr. Huyck's Third Grade 2021/2022

Revised: 9/3/21

Below is our Special Class Schedule and list of important times. Please keep in mind that changes may occur and revisions will be forwarded to you. On gym days send your child to school with gym/running shoes. Return library books on or by library (ILT) day. Library class is combined with computers & technology and is referred to as *Information Literacy, and Technology* (ILT).

List of important times:

8:38 (children line up outside or enter the building for breakfast)

8:45 (instruction begins; we enter our building). It's very important to be on time to school. Our Entry/Bell Work activities are an important part of the day. At 8:45 your child should enter the classroom and begin diligently working on the Bell Work & start-up expectations. Students are marked tardy if they arrive after 8:45.

Lunch and recess: 12:35-1:23 p.m.

Dismissal Bell 3:48 p.m. (we begin the dismissal procedure much earlier than 3:48)

Special Class Schedule:

Mondays:

11:00-12:00 Art

Tuesdays:

2:30-3:00 Vocal Music

3:00-3:30 World Language-Chinese (Mandarin)

Wednesdays:

9:00-10:00 ILT-Information Literacy, and Technology (Library)

Thursdays:

10:00-10:30 Vocal Music

10:30-11:00 Physical Education (Gym)

3:00-3:30 World Language-Chinese (Mandarin)

Fridays:

9:00-9:30 Physical Education (Gym)

9:30-10:00 Vocal Music

We will also have PLTW (Project Lead the Way) during the school year (usually for about six weeks). Date & time will be announced in the near future.