

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to 3rd grade! I am so excited to have your child in our class! This is a year of making important transitions and gaining new skills. Third grade is an exciting time as children experience a shift in learning - they transition from “learning to read” to “reading to learn.” They move from predominantly concrete thinking to more abstract thinking. They become more independent and gain more responsibility. Through all these important changes, my main goals are to build your child’s self-esteem and make sure he/she maintains a love for learning and a life-long love of reading!

It’s important to keep in mind that a child’s growth and development are a very individualized journey; we all develop at our own rate. Because of this, the following elements are fundamental to our classroom, and I hope you will promote them at home as well:

- **Celebrate all successes, no matter how big or small.**
- **Understand that failure is an important step in the journey to success. If we fear failure we don’t try, and we won’t take on challenges.**
- **Empathy and support for others are necessary for building trust and self-esteem. Our classroom is intended to be a safe and supportive community.**
- **Second chances and problem-solving are critical.**
- **Creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication are key components to our growth.**

I hope to make your child’s learning experience a fun and exciting one, and I hope your child is enthusiastic about coming to school each and every day, ready to take on the day’s objectives. My job is to help your child reach his/her full potential, and I look forward to working closely with you to make that happen!

ELA HOMEWORK

The main ELA homework requirement is that your child read his/her chapter book each night for at least 15 minutes and NOT complete a reading log. I do not require students to complete a reading log for two reasons:

- 1) Logs turn reading into a required school activity, not something to be enjoyed.**
- 2) They don’t give positive vibes, for students or parents. Reading deserves positive vibes!**

However, I do encourage students to jot down significant thoughts and feelings they have about their reading to share with me during our weekly 1:1 meeting. Sticky notes or index cards work well (and also make good bookmarks), and this doesn’t have to happen every night. Students will also be creating a “Favorite Reading Spot” at home. More information will be sent home in the next few weeks.

I am SO EXCITED for this school year, and I can’t wait to work with you and your child!

Mrs. Johnson



EDUCATION

BA in elementary education – Calvin College

MA in curriculum and instruction – Cornerstone University

Endorsements: ESOL, reading

The BEST education is learning from other teachers every single day, in person and online.

ABOUT ME

My husband, Dirk, and I moved to Punta Gorda from Grand Rapids, Michigan, 7 years ago with our dog, Jersey. I'm originally from Racine, Wisconsin, which makes me an unapologetic Green Bay Packers fan! I miss my friends and family like mad, but I absolutely love the weather here! I had enough of cold and snow.

CONTACT INFO

Email:

michele.johnson@yourcharlotteschools.net

Phone:

(941) 575-4500 ext. 3323

Class Dojo

for notifications, class updates, photos, events, personal messages

FAVORITE THINGS

Food: popcorn, steak, lobster, cheese, coffee, Reese's Peanut Butter cups & Cheetos, raspberries & strawberries

Activities: reading (of course); hanging out at the pool; going out for dinner; exercising (but not excessively!)

Music: ALL kinds of music, except opera.



MEET THE TEACHER