



Welcome to Team Hendricks!

As you may have read in my beginning of school year message, we are going to have a busy year! There are many great things that will occur and this semi-regular newsletter will keep you apprised of all the happenings. If you have questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to send me an email or call me at school. Email is the best way to get in touch with me. My email address is james.hendricks@mansfieldct.org and my telephone number is (860) 423-1611, extension 117. The voicemail system is available after the school office closes.



Beginning-of-School Year Assessments

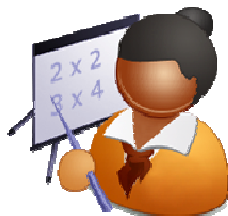
As students come into third grade, there are several assessments that teachers give to help see how much knowledge students retained over the summer. Over the course of the next few weeks, I will be giving some reading, spelling, writing, and mathematics tests that will help me to understand your child. Some of the tests are district-wide assessments that all third graders take. Some are just given at Southeast School. If your child comes home and reports having "another test," please understand that it is giving me a picture of how your child learns and what he or she may need for learning in the coming school months.

Reading and Writing

Last week we began the "Back to School" section of our third grade anthology. This section provides students with a review of the six different strategies that we use throughout our reading program. Some of these include predict and infer, summarize, monitor and clarify, evaluate, and question. We will start a story this week called *The Lost and Found* by Mark Teague. I encourage you to visit the teamhendricks.com web site and click on "Reading" for a reading newsletter that supplements the selection as well as extra activities to complete at home. They are not required but are a great extension of our reading selection.

Computational Fluency

Written in my back-to-school letter you received over the summer, your child is required to have a set of flashcards for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Computational fluency (also known as becoming accurate and speedy with math facts) is extremely important in third grade. Your child will progress



through the different operations this school year. If you couldn't find flashcards, you may print them at the teamhendricks.com website. Click on "Math Facts." In our class, math fact practice is part of nightly homework. Your child may also use one of the web sites provided on that page to practice his or her computational fluency. In order to monitor your child's progress, he or she will take a math fact test once or twice a week. Your child should work on the facts he or she is testing on and may review the facts that he or she has already made achieved goal on. For example, if your child will be testing on subtraction, he or she should work on the subtraction facts and may review addition facts. Your child should not work on multiplication and division facts. Students should practice math facts for 5 minutes per homework night. Visit www.teamhendricks.com for different ideas to practice math facts.



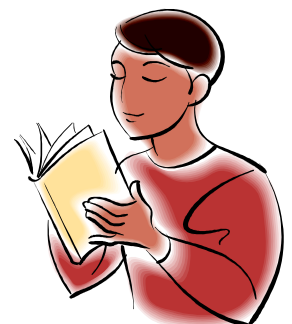
Spelling

During September and October, grades three through eight will be participating in a Mansfield Public Schools spelling pilot program. We are reviewing new spelling programs and we will be providing feedback to the reading consultant. Each night, your child should be practicing third grade high frequency words (also known as muscle words). There are several ways to do this. The traditional way to do it is to have a parent say the word and the child writes it down on a sheet of paper. You might want to get a small whiteboard like we use for Cast-A-Spell (available from Walmart or Staples). Another way (that students loved last year) is to use *Spelling City*, an online spelling practice website. Visit teamhendricks.com and click on "Spelling." Students can take a traditional spelling test or play games to practice the words. Muscle words should be practiced for 5 minutes for each homework night.



At-Home Reading

As part of the nightly homework, students are expected to read at least 15 minutes. Reading stamina, or the amount of time your child can read actively and independently, is extremely important in third grade. Students can read fiction or informational text (non-fiction). Your child should always pick at least one pleasure reading book from the library and use it during at-home reading time.



(continued)



Weekly Planner

Third grade students have a new responsibility. A weekly homework planner is provided at the beginning of each school week (unless there is a long-term assignment such as a project that includes a schedule for the time period). There will be times that the planner is already filled-out. Most times, students will need to fill-out the planner during our daily homework time. Each night, a family member is required to initial that the written homework is completed and that reading, computational fluency, and spelling has been done. Students are expected to fill-out the "Studying and Reading" part of the planner on their own. Weekly planners are always turned in on Fridays.

HOMECOMING ASSIGNMENT

MONDAY
Parent Initials
I completed my homework, studying, and reading tonight. Parent Initials: _____
TUESDAY
I completed my homework, studying, and reading tonight. Parent Initials: _____
WEDNESDAY
I completed my homework, studying, and reading tonight. Parent Initials: _____
THURSDAY
I completed my homework, studying, and reading tonight. Parent Initials: _____
FRIDAY
I completed my homework, studying, and reading tonight. Parent Initials: _____

STUDYING AND READING

Student Fills-Out

Day	Muscle Words (5 minutes)	Computational Fluency (5 minutes)	At-Home Reading (at least 15 minutes)
MONDAY	Third Grade Muscle Word List #1	Addition Facts	I completed _____ minutes of reading tonight.
TUESDAY	Third Grade Muscle Word List #1	Addition Facts	I completed _____ minutes of reading tonight.
WEDNESDAY	Third Grade Muscle Word List #1	Addition Facts	I completed _____ minutes of reading tonight.
THURSDAY	Third Grade Muscle Word List #1	Addition Facts	I completed _____ minutes of reading tonight.
FRIDAY	Third Grade Muscle Word List #1	Addition Facts	I completed _____ minutes of reading tonight.

Bring this planner in on Friday.

Upcoming Dates

- **Bus Evacuation Practice:** Thursday, September 3 (8:35-9:15 AM)
- **Labor Day – No School:** Monday, September 7
- **SE Sports Girls:** Tuesday, September 8 (3:30-5:00 PM)
- **Open House:** Wednesday, September 9 (6:30-7:30 PM)
- **Board of Education Meeting:** Thursday, September 10 (7:30 PM)
- **Running Club:** Friday, September 11 (3:30-4:30 PM)
- **SE Sports Boys:** Monday, September 14 (3:30- 5:00 PM)
- **Parents' Hour:** Monday, September 14 (6:00-7:00 PM)
- **PTO Meeting:** Monday, September 14 (7:00-8:00 PM)
- **SE Sports Girls:** Tuesday, September 15 (3:30- 5:00 PM)
- **Constitution Day:** Friday, September 17 (All Day)
- **Running Club:** Friday, September 18 (3:30-4:30 PM)

Events Can Be Found on the School Web Site at <http://mansfieldct.org/schools/southeast>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Pre-pay for lunch and milk is available every day! You may pay a set amount (\$10 for example) and your child can use it as a declining balance in the lunch room. This saves time so students don't have to visit the kitchen each day.

Is your child sick? Please call the health office before 8:45 AM at (860) 423-2793 and leave a message with the nurse!

Afternoon Destination Forms are available on our school web site. Please use them instead of handwriting a note on a regular piece of paper!

School starts at 8:55 AM. If arriving by parent transportation, students must be in their classrooms at this time or they will be marked tardy. Our class starts promptly at 8:55 every day.

School Web Site

<http://mansfieldct.org/schools/southeast>

Homework Assignments

Normally, written homework is assigned each night Monday through Thursday and is written in a weekly planner that is sent home each night in your child's STAR folder.

Normally, this is the homework for each night:

- Written worksheet (approximately 20 minutes)
- Practice addition facts nightly (5 minutes).
- Practice muscle words (5 minutes).
- Pleasure reading (at least 15 minutes).
- Homework is due the next day unless it is written differently.

Your child's STAR folder should come back to school each day with the written homework completed and planner filled-out. I do not need to see evidence of the spelling practice or math facts as these skills are monitored through other means.

According to Mansfield Board of Education policy, third grade students have between 30 and 45 minutes of homework four days a week. This time includes the 15 minutes of nightly pleasure reading. Periodically, there may be projects that are sent home over an extended period and students may need to work on it on the weekends.