

Good Afternoon Parents,


- OCPS has canceled school due to hurricane Irma on Monday, September 11, 2017. The make-up day will be Friday, October 27th.
- We finished our testing this week with the **I-Ready Reading and Math Diagnostic** which will help me determine the areas of strength and weaknesses in each of the children when it comes to reading and math.
- T-shirt order forms went home last week for our **“3rd Grade Class T-shirts.”** Thank you to all the parents who have already returned them along with a copy of the receipt from SchoolPay. If you have not yet purchased a class t-shirt, please do so as soon as possible. Remember all payments must be made online through the Schoolpay website. Once you’ve paid, you can either print out the receipt or send it to me via email along with the bright, pink order sheet which will tell me the sizes you would like to have for your child/family.
- With the upcoming Hurricane set to hit Florida this weekend, we are reminding parents to make sure you have some kind of “action plan” in case of a real emergency. Because we want families to prepare for **Hurricane Irma**, the school will be cancelling all after school meetings such as GAC, SAC, and PTA this week.
- Grandparents Day Celebration on Friday, September 8 has been cancelled. Please take this time to prepare for the storm.
- I wanted to take a minute to discuss the **curriculum and standards for third grade**, as they are more rigorous. Florida created new standards for our state called the Florida Standards which are a variation of the Common Core Standards. In third grade, the core curriculum we use is I-Ready in both reading and math. We still use Go Math and Journey’s. With that being said those materials (the textbooks) are going to have to be supplemental materials because they aren’t an exact match to the standards. You are going to see as the year progresses that we are going to have to omit lessons and add materials that are missing from the textbooks. We will not always be able to give the tests from the textbook exactly as they are written because they might include material the students don’t need to know, but in more cases we will be having the add material that is lacking. For this reason, we use I-Ready as our core curriculum. It matches every Florida standard. The book is a wonderful resource that we will be using during class to get the student prepared for the state assessment in April. In addition to being a teaching resource, there are quizzes/tests in these workbooks which we will be taking as grades this year.

The standards require a whole new way of thinking for the students. They are being asked to explain their reasoning, find errors in a person’s way of thinking and explain why they are incorrect, as well as find text based evidence to support their answers. This is something that is very new to all of the students. As you’ve seen, we are taking it very slow to get the students trained to think this way to be success with the standards. I have and will continue to 100% model to the students how to complete these complex tasks. You are going to see them struggle as we make the transition. At home, you can help by modeling and guiding them through those the questions that they are struggling with. Just as I will be doing during class. I promise within time they will get the hang of explain their thinking and we will find great success with these new standards. It is going to require that each student pays full attention in class, so they are preparing themselves for these changes. I appreciate your patience and help as we prepare our students to be successful with these new standards.

- Last Friday’s reading test will come home today. Please review and go over it with your child. The format and rigor will continue and look like this for the rest of the year. Although it is very different than what they have taken, it is **open book** which means they can refer back to the story at any point during testing. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns regarding the testing you’ve seen so far this school year.
- We write in the planners each day so please remember to look at it every night and sign it. All homework as well as other communication should be put in the binder that your child brings home daily. It is very important that your child return that binder to school each day. Please remember to send all monies (lunch, t-shirt, etc.) to the

school in an envelope. On the envelope please write my name, your child's name, and what the money is to be used for.

- Please make sure your child has a **healthy snack** to eat at school every day. We eat snack directly following Specials at 10:15am. Items such as yogurt, cheese, crackers, pretzels, fruit, etc... are a fantastic way for them to keep their energy up until our lunch time which is at 11:35am every day.
- Last week the 3rd grade teachers received training from the nurse in charge of the Avalon Park Area, Ms. Adams R.N., about administering **epi-pens for allergic reactions**. If your child has a serious allergy condition where an epi-pen may be needed please contact me or the school nurse Ms. Moreno at Lenora.Moreno@ocps.net. We need to set up an emergency plan in case your child goes into anaphylactic shock from an allergy. An epi-pen must be provided by your child's doctor to be kept in the school with us at all times. In addition, because of your child's condition, you may be asked to attend all school trips in order for us to be able to be extra cautious with his/her medical condition.
- I have noticed several children arriving to school after the 8:45am bell. If they arrive to school after the 8:45am bell it is considered a **"tardy"** and they will **not** be eligible for "Perfect Attendance" when it comes time for our Honor Roll Assembly. The children come up from the cafeteria and go into our classrooms by 8:35am. We begin our Morning Work immediately. Please try to get your child to school by that time so they are not feeling rushed or overwhelmed first thing in the morning.
- Your child's **homework** packet is due every Friday morning! He/she will be receiving their new Homework Packet on Friday too. To complete the Homework Packet your child must be reading at home for at least 20 minutes per night and filling in their reading response log. There is a monthly menu to choose from when it comes to their responses. You will find the menu in their binder, in the Homework section. They need to complete 4 days of reading responses per week from this menu (one appetizer, two main courses, and one dessert). If you know your child has a busy weekday schedule and you'd like them to start the homework packet on the weekend, please do so. That is why I always send it home on Friday so the children can get a head start on it. The homework packet will be collected every Friday morning, graded, and will count towards their reading grade. In the HW packet, one of the menu choices under the title "Dessert" is called "Connection Cake" and it asks the reader to make 3 connections. I've had several parents/students ask me about this choice because they were unclear what the T-S, T-T, and T-W mean. Here is a great description of all 3:



- Text-to-self
- Text-to-text
- Text-to-world

Text-to-self connections are highly personal connections that a reader makes between a piece of reading material and the reader's own experiences or life. An example of a text-to-self connection might be, "This story reminds me of a vacation we took to my grandfather's farm."

Sometimes when reading, readers are reminded of other things that they have read, other books by the same author, stories from a similar genre, or perhaps on the same topic. These types of connections are text-to-text connections. Readers gain insight during reading by thinking about how the information they are reading connects to other familiar text. "This character has the same problem that I read about in a story last year," would be an example of a text-to-text connection.

Text-to-world connections are the larger connections that a reader brings to a reading situation. We all have ideas about how the world works that goes far beyond our own personal experiences. We learn about things through television, movies, magazines, and newspapers. Often it is the text-to-world connections that teachers are trying to enhance when they teach lessons in science, social studies, and literature. An example of a text-to-world connection would be when a reader says, "I saw a program on television that talked about things described in this article."

"Text to text, text to self, text to world... Leave it to school to take the fun out of texting."

- As for the spelling and vocabulary practice, they have a sheet in their binder (in the homework section) for each of the topics (spelling and vocabulary). It gives them a choice of different activities they can do to study their spelling and vocabulary words. There is also loose leaf paper in the back of the binder for them to use to do these activities. I will not be grading the spelling/vocabulary practice they do at home, but remember that they will be held accountable (with quizzes/tests) for knowing these words. Please make sure they are studying all 10 spelling words and the vocabulary a few minutes every night.
- The children have daily math homework from Monday – Thursday night. Please make sure your child is completing the math homework correctly. The math homework is checked for completion and counts towards your child's math grade. Please make sure that your child does not ahead as some topics might not have been taught yet and it is designed as a quick daily review. In addition to the math homework given, your child needs to study their time tables **every night**. As of the first day of school, they have been assigned the 0 – 12 time tables.

- If you have not done so, please become an “Additions” volunteer (www.volunteer.ocps.net). Remember that you must be an “Additions” Volunteer to be able to come and help out in the classroom, go on trips with us, attend any school functions, and even come to eat lunch with your child (children). Also, please keep in mind that parents are only allowed to eat on campus with their children on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.
- Birthday parties are not allowed in our school. You may, however, drop off cupcakes that we can give out during recess while we sing “Happy Birthday” to your son/daughter. Please do not send cupcakes in with your child. There is a new procedure with paperwork to fill out for any outside foods brought in that are eaten during the school day. Because of this the cupcakes must be delivered by you, so that you can fill out the appropriate paperwork before we can share them.
- Place a smiley face on your child’s planner after you sign the planner on Tomorrow’s signature line for your child to move up a level on the responsibility chart. 😊

Here are some important dates/reminders:

- ~~Friday, September 8th – Grandparent’s Day Breakfast (9am in the Wolf Pup Den)~~
- ~~Monday, September 11th – Patriot’s Day Assembly (more information to come) – NO SCHOOL~~
- Thursday, September 14th – Open House (begins at 6pm in the Wolf Pup Den)
- Friday, September 15th – First Quarter Progress Reports Go Home
- Thursday, September 21st – 3rd Grade Planning Day (all classes will have subs)
- Friday, September 22nd – Fall Picture Day (individual pictures only; envelopes were sent home)
- Wednesday, October 11th – 3rd Grade Orchestra Trip (more info to come)
- Friday, October 13th – End of 1st Quarter Marking Period
- Monday, October 16th – No School (Teacher Workday/Student Holiday)
- Tuesday, October 17th – Beginning of the 2nd Quarter Marking Period
- Monday, October 23rd – Mrs. Reed’s Birthday
- Monday, October 23rd – Friday, October 27th – Report Card Conferences
- Monday, October 23rd – Friday, October 27th – Red Ribbon Week (more info to come)