



Mrs. Miller's Classroom

3rd grade
2016-2017





Table of contents

- All about me
 - Classwork
 - Homework
 - Communication
 - Class procedures
 - Grades/Report Cards
 - BYOD
 - Classroom information
 - Apps/websites to bookmark & download
 - Resources
 - Contacting Mrs. Miller
 - Signature page
- 
- 
- 
- 

All about Mrs. Miller

Hello to my new parents and students! I am very excited to begin my journey with you. My name is Mrs. Miller and this is my 11th year at Ford. I started my career here at Ford in Third grade but I have also taught in grades 4th and 5th. This is my 2nd year back in Third and I'm very excited to be back! I know I will get to know all of you throughout the year, but for now here is a little bit about myself.

I am a Kennesaw/Acworth local and have lived here my whole life. I graduated from North Cobb High School in 2001 and Kennesaw State University in 2006, with my teaching degree in Early Childhood Education. I have continued my education by obtaining my gifted endorsement as well as my master's degree in Educational Technology. I also have my mentor teacher endorsement and work with KSU TOSS and student teachers. My family says I would be a student forever if I could 😊

I can't wait to share all the great strategies I have learned with your students.

In my free time I love spending time with my family, being a mom and being an inspiring photographer! You will also hear about my husband James and our amazing daughters Kyleigh (6) and Kenlie(3). They give us a lot of laughs so I am sure you will hear lots of funny stories about them. Kyleigh is in 1st Grade here at Ford so you will see her often!

I hope this will help you know myself a little better and I look forward to getting to know you. Please feel free to ask me any questions you may have. I can't wait for a great year!!





Classwork



MORNING WORK

Each morning students will come into class leaving their book bags in the hall and have DEAR time until the bell rings. Once the bell rings, the students will collect their bags and unpack. The students will have Math, Language Arts, and Science questions to work on every morning.

On Mondays they students will also have a weekly writing prompt that will be written here at school and then edited at home for spelling, grammar and punctuation. This is a great chance for you to see what your students are like as writers and how they grow. Our mornings are quiet, giving time for everyone to get ready for a great day ☺ It is the student's responsibility to get the correct answers from a peer if they are absent, late or out of the room when Morning work is checked. Morning work is not just "busy" work; the time is counted into our Reading and Math segments.



CLASSWORK



Students are responsible for turning in completed classwork into the 'Turn in Assignments' basket. Assignments turned in without a name are placed on the 'No Name' board. Once the assignment is claimed, it can be turned in for grading. Assignments will only be asked for after the due date once. Any assignment turned in after that will result in a 2 unless discussed with the teachers privately.

MAKE-UP WORK

Students have 1 day for each absent day to complete and turn in assignments. There will be a file folder labeled make-up work for the students to turn in their work.



Homework

It has always been my philosophy that homework is not as beneficial as thought to be. I have done a great deal of research on this topic and have found that reading nightly is the most critical “homework” students and parents can partake in. With this philosophy, I do not give a lot of homework besides reading. I do expect the students to read 30 minutes every night and for parents to sign the Reading Log. 10 minutes of the 30 can be a parent or other relative reading to your student. The students will also be expected to write a book review once they finish a book on our Edmodo reading group page. At the end of each semester the students will need to have four (4) completed “Book Reviews” for the grade book.

At the beginning of the year the students have Book Bag activities. These books do count towards their 30 minutes but should not be taking the whole 30 minute time frame. The book bag activity information will be coming home the second week of school with their first book. These books will relate to our Science or Social Studies standards.

There will also be ways for students to go above and beyond at home. We use many different Web 2.0 tools in our classroom including Reading A-Z, MobyMax and First in Math. These can be added to any nightly homework assignment as your family see fits. The students will not be penalized for not going above and beyond but will be rewarded.

In the case that there is classwork needing to be finished this will be sent home as additional homework. The only other homework that will be semi-consistent will be “Correct and Return work” as well as working on Facts Practice for the timed tests. The Correct and Return work are class assignments that have earned a 2 or less and need to be corrected at home with a parent and returned to Mrs. Miller. These corrections will not increase a grade per say BUT it is very important to see where our mistakes are that we are making.

Teacher/Parent communication

AGENDA

The students will fill out their agenda completely for the week on Mondays. The agenda will have all the basic items already listed on there for the week and any new information will be added as needed. Students will double check agendas every afternoon for any updates. The agendas will come home nightly and must be signed by a guardian. The signatures will be checked daily and count toward “participation and work study habits” for report cards. Please **do not** write notes to myself in the agenda but on a separate sheet of paper or via email, as the agenda is easily seen by many adults and students. Agendas are also **not** dismissal change notification areas.

PARENT NOTES/TRANSPORTATION

Please make sure that your student knows that you have sent in a note in for me so that he or she can bring it to the “Teacher Notes” bucket in the morning. This is a big year of responsibility for our babies and this is one area that we start putting the responsibility on them. I will ask for notes at the beginning of the year but as the year goes on they will need to be aware of what needs to be turned in before our day starts. It is very important that the notes not be in the agenda as we might not check agendas before transportation and other issues need to be addressed.

Transportation notes must be seen by the office some of the time so again these need to be on separate sheets brought into school and not in the agenda or via email.

RED FOLDERS

Each week, usually on Monday, your child will bring home their “Home-School” connection folder. This folder will serve as another communication tool between the parent/guardian and teacher. Your child’s graded papers and school notes will be sent home in this folder. Signing the agenda will show you have seen all the graded work that has been brought home. Any notes you send in can go in here for your student to turn in.

Blog

We have a class blog that will house all vital paper work, this eBook, as well as times and dates for important events. I will update the blog weekly to show what we are working on in class as well as any announcements that need to be made. This will only be information for the parents, all student information and resources will be on Edmodo.

Remind

Information to follow

Email

Best avenue for questions.



Procedures

Restroom Use

If you need to go just go. Unless we are right in the middle of a lesson you do not need to ask to go to the restroom. If we see that a student is taking advantage of this policy he/she is giving up this right and will be assigned bathroom times.

Hallway Behavior



Brown Tile single file. THERE IS NO TALKING IN THE HALL and can result in consequences.

Birthday Celebrations



Special treats like cupcakes or cookies may be sent in to recognize your child's birthday. Please send in napkins and utensils if needed. Our cafeteria staff cannot help the children serve their treat so please make sure the treats are ready for the students to pass around to their friends in our class only.

Packing Up



Students are divided up into groups to make dismissal run smoothly. Each group is called up one at a time to pack up and then sit and read quietly until silent dismissal. Just like our mornings, I like the afternoons to be calming and quiet as not to miss announcements.



Grades/Report Card

Grades in most subjects are taken weekly on the morning work assessments. We will have $\$$ WYKs/test at the end of units and semesters and these will be announced. Classwork quizzes will happen throughout the year and are treated as Classwork. All assignments are counted equally in the grade book. Student's journals will also be checked periodically as well as any Edmodo assignments and do count towards their final grades.

Your student still receives 1,2,3's this year and will be rated on assignments and reports the same. To help those of you who are use to A,B,C's or number grading, I have correlated 1,2,3's. However, please note this is not a county or school correlation just a subjective approach to standards based grading.

1 correlates to an F/D

2 correlates to an C/B

3 correlates to an B/A

** Again this is just my helpful tool to help you see how standards based report cards compare to letter grades and is not a county, state, or school policy.

In regards to behavior grades on the report cards, students receive an $\$$ P or N in the areas of learning skills, learning behaviors, and rules/procedures.

The majority of the standards are assessed on our morning work assessments but there are some other assignments that will be graded and documented. Spelling, grammar and punctuation are included in the Language section on the report cards. All of these subjects are practiced throughout the year but assessment mainly in student writings.

BYOD and Technology in the Classroom

With the opportunity for students to bring in their own device comes some amazing benefits and challenges. If this is your first time with BYOD here at Ford, let me give you a little background.

BYOD stands for Bring Your Own Device. We keep these devices very safe and secure in our classrooms during the day and they do not leave our room! As a school, we send home paperwork for you to read and fill out to also protect devices here at school. Ford has been a BYOD school for 5 years now and it continues to grow at each grade level. I have had a BYOD classroom since day 1 and have seen many benefits from it.

In our class, we use technology and devices daily. For those students who do not have a device to bring we have 4 ipads and 4 laptops in our room. There are many apps and websites that we rely on for assignments as grades BUT we will make sure all students have the ability with our in class technology to work on these.

Again we understand that sending in an expensive device is scary but we take very good care of the devices ☺ More information will be shared at Open House and all paper work will be on our class blog.

How do we...

Math

- Guided math with a 15-20 minute mini lesson and then math groups.
 - The students will meet with a teacher daily in groups
- Students will work on activities to review concepts and extend on daily/weekly standards independently and with partners during group time.

Reading

- 1 novel study
- 1 author study
- Guided reading groups are based on Lexile level as well as Class observations
 - Students will meet with the teacher at least twice a week
 - No at home book reports will be completed

Language Arts

- We alternate vocabulary and spelling so that we focus on one a week
- We do not have spelling or vocabulary test weekly but it is graded in writing on all assignments
 - Grammar will include mini lessons integrated into writing

Writing

- We work with 6 traits of writing
- Start with sentences then move to paragraphs and finish the year with a 5 paragraph paper

Class Apps

**Please do not pay for any apps. Some of these might have been purchased on a discount previously and might require payment.

All BYOD devices must be registered through the school policy. These devices will not be permitted at school until further notice.

Edmodo
Sushi Monster
Screen Chomp
Educreations
Math Slide (all math)
Stack the states
Seesaw
Plickers

Some of these might also be listed on the following page as webpages to bookmark, please download app and bookmark the website. There are sometimes one will work and the other will not. Also some of these may be Apple only apps.





Helpful links for Third Grade!

Parent links: The links below are for your information only and they do not need to be downloaded or bookmarked on your students devices.

- [Standards](#)
- [Lexile](#)
- [Ford Home page](#)
- [Remind](#)

Student links: These need to be added to your students device

- [Brainpop](#)
 - [Learnzillion](#)
 - [Cobb Digital Library](#)
 - [Kahoot](#)
 - [Raz-Kids](#)
 - [MobyMax](#)
 - [First in math](#)
 - [Edmodo](#)
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Contacting Me

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SIGNATURE PAGE

Please print this page and send it in
with your child on the first week of
school 😊

