

# Back to School Night Third Grade- Room 16

Welcome to Back to School Night for Room 16!

Lesson objectives

Teachers' notes



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## My Philosophy to Teach Third Grade Students

- Each student learns at his or her own pace
  - ~ Brains mature at different rates
  - ~ Each grade level has wide variation in beginning
  - ~ All students take same test at year-end; build skills
- Higher Level Thinking Skills- Bloom's Taxonomy - Traffic Light Analogy
- Differentiated Instruction- Learning goals for a lesson are adjusted for students based on needs.



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## Third Grade versus Second Grade

- Third grade is a much more challenging curriculum than second grade
  - ~ Reading independently
  - ~ Reading a higher volume of pages **My Goal: 90 minutes day**, in school (60 min.) + reading homework (30-40 min.)
  - ~ Reading for content (social studies, science)
  - ~ Mathematics word problems, not just rote calculations
  - ~ Vocabulary emphasis in reading, math, social studies, science, and academic language
  - ~ Independent work- parents need to give students space to do own work



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## Homework Philosophy

- For elementary school, research shows **reading** is the only homework that can improve grades and test scores.

## Reading for Meaning

- Many students can do the external side of reading- decoding or saying the words

- Many students miss out on the internal side- the rich, engaging, **thinking** part of reading

- I will be teaching Reading Comprehension strategies in class, and your child will use with post-its in his/her book



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## Homework Policy

- Reading Log five nights a week
  - ~ Build up to 30-40 minutes a night, 5 nights a week, by Oct.
- Creative Book Report Projects- monthly beginning in October
  - ~ Teach your child beginning project management and oral presentation skills.
  - ~ Book Choice due to me in one week, project last week of month.
  - ~ Don't wait until night before- too stressful for your child and you!
- Spelling tests on Friday- test and pretest
- Mathematics Facts- Review addition/subtraction over next few weeks, we'll test in class. Multiplication facts begin in October.



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## Reading/Language Arts Instruction

- Minilesson each morning at 8:30 a.m., then read
- Books go back and forth each day and night
- Complete a longer book in 1-2 weeks
- Reading Notebook in-class responses
- Higher Level questioning and answers- I teach in class.
- Non-fiction reading
- Spelling- Friday tests, pretest on regular words, students placed in Easier, Regular, or Challenge weekly
- Vocabulary/Grammar/Punctuation taught 2-3 days/week



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## Mathematics Instruction

- Emphasis on mathematical reasoning
  - ~ Read and figure out work problems- start easy
  - ~ Number sense
  - ~ Math journals to explain reasoning
  - ~ Balance rote memorization (math facts) with problem solving
  - ~ Parents **MUST** drill/work on math facts with child- I don't have the time in class to do the repetition
  - ~ Math rotations- 3 per day- need volunteers (1-2 per day)



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## Writer's Workshop Instruction

- Emphasis on writing a paragraph
  - ~ Minilesson each day
  - ~ Students write in Writer's Notebooks
  - ~ Writing Process- generate, choose, draft, edit, publish
  - ~ Rubric
  - ~ Non-fiction writing on Friday; in conjunction with PDMSS Library



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## Nonfiction Reading:

Preview text as a whole and look for signposts:

Titles,  
headings,  
captions,  
bullets

Signal words:  
but, for  
example, on the  
other hand,  
most important

How do the  
pictures and  
illustrations  
go with the  
text?

Diagrams,  
cross  
sections,  
maps, charts  
graphs

Index, table  
of contents,  
glossary,  
appendix



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## Report Cards

- Conferences held Nov. 18-25 in lieu of first report card- sign up now (you'll be reminded of your time in Nov.)
  - ~ Your child's baseline assessments
  - ~ Areas on which we will focus with your child
- Report cards in Feb. and June

Subject: Back to School  
2009-10

Topic: Room 16 Overview-  
Heintz

Grade(s): 3

Prior knowledge: Type text here

Cross-curricular link(s): Type text here

Lesson notes:

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Type text here

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