Dear Third Grade Dragon Families,

We are delighted to welcome your child to third grade at Elmcrest Elementary School! Third grade marks an exciting milestone in your child's academic journey, and we are thrilled to embark on this journey together.

At Elmcrest, we are dedicated to providing a comprehensive curriculum aligned with the Nevada Content Standards for third grade, ensuring that your child receives a high-quality education that prepares them for success. As we prepare for the upcoming school year, we want to share some important information and suggestions to help your child thrive in third grade.

1. **State Testing**: In third grade, students will take the SBAC (Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium) for the first time. This statewide criterion-referenced test is an important benchmark in your child's academic progress. While we will provide support and preparation in class, you can help your child prepare by encouraging independent reading and writing over the summer.
2. **Independent Reading and Writing**: Third grade is a pivotal year where students transition from learning to read to reading to learn. Encourage your child to engage in independent reading of longer books, particularly chapter books. Discussing events in the books with them will help enhance comprehension skills. Additionally, support your child's writing skills by encouraging creative writing with visual descriptors, correct spelling, and the organization of their thoughts into essays. Encourage your child to find a pen pal or engage in journaling as a way to decompress after the day and foster creativity. We believe that journaling is not only a valuable academic exercise but also a therapeutic outlet for self-expression.
3. **Mathematics**: Math moves a quicker pace in third grade and students should have mastered addition and subtraction facts. Students should easily add and subtract larger numbers as well. They will begin to explore multiplication, and work with fractions. During third grade, student will work with geometry, focusing on area, perimeter and , Engage your child in discussions about word problems to strengthen their problem-solving skills.
4. **Science**: Physical Science: Students explore properties of matter, including solids, liquids, and gases. They also learn about forces and motion, such as pushes and pulls, and basic concepts of energy.In Life Science: Students study life cycles of plants and animals, including reproduction and growth. They learn about habitats and ecosystems, as well as adaptations of plants and animals to their environments. In Earth and Space Science: Students investigate Earth's materials and processes, including rocks, soil, and erosion. They explore the water cycle, weather patterns, and the effects of the Sun on Earth's surface. In Engineering and Technology: Students engage in hands-on activities to solve problems and design solutions using simple tools and materials. They learn about the engineering design process and how technology affects daily life.
5. **Social Studies:** Students learn about early Native American cultures and the impact of European exploration and colonization on North America. They study key events and figures in American history, such as the American Revolution and the founding of the United States. Students explore world geography, including continents, oceans, and major landforms. They study the structure and functions of local, state, and federal governments, as well as the importance of civic participation. They also learn basic economic concepts, such as goods, services, and producers/consumers.

To support your child's summer learning, we have included practice pages in this packet, as well as a writing journal for them to use. Additionally, there are digital resources available for practice, but we also recommend printing them to enhance handwriting skills.

We are committed to ensuring that your child's third-grade experience is a success, and we look forward to partnering with you in their educational journey. Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

In third grade your student may experience social and emotional changes. Social and emotional learning (SEL) for third-grade students is essential for their overall development and well-being. **Here are some areas you may see development and growth this year;**

1. **Self-Awareness**: Help students develop self-awareness by encouraging them to identify and understand their emotions. Teach them to recognize their strengths and areas for growth, and how to express their feelings in constructive ways.
2. **Self-Management**: Teach students strategies for managing their emotions and behavior effectively. This may include techniques for calming down when upset, strategies for staying focused and organized, and ways to cope with stress.
3. **Social Awareness**: Foster empathy and understanding of others' perspectives and experiences. Help students recognize and appreciate diversity, practice active listening, and demonstrate kindness and compassion towards others.
4. **Relationship Skills**: Teach students how to build and maintain healthy relationships with their peers and adults. This may involve teaching communication skills, conflict resolution strategies, and cooperation and teamwork skills.
5. **Responsible Decision-Making**: Equip students with the skills to make responsible and ethical decisions in various situations. Help them understand the consequences of their actions and encourage them to consider how their choices impact themselves and others.
6. **Emotional Regulation**: Provide students with strategies for regulating their emotions and coping with challenges. Teach them relaxation techniques, deep breathing exercises, and positive self-talk to manage stress and anxiety.
7. **Resilience**: Help students develop resilience and perseverance in the face of adversity. Encourage a growth mindset, where students understand that mistakes are opportunities for learning and growth, and help them develop strategies for bouncing back from setbacks.
8. **Problem-Solving**: Teach students how to identify problems, brainstorm solutions, and implement action plans. Encourage them to think critically, evaluate options, and seek help when needed.
9. **Assertiveness**: Teach students how to assert their needs and boundaries in a respectful manner. Help them develop assertive communication skills to advocate for themselves and others.
10. **Empathy and Perspective-Taking**: Engage students in activities that promote empathy and perspective-taking, such as role-playing exercises, literature discussions, and community service projects.

Thank you for your continued support, and we are excited to see the incredible growth and achievements your child will make in third grade!

You will receive a phone call from your child’s third grade teacher the week prior to school starting. Remember, the first day of school is Monday, August 12, 2024!

Warm regards,