

**All of the ingredients your child needs to be a “Smart Cookie”!**

**Contacting 3rd Grade:**

**410.558.1230**

eernst@pppcs.org

jslack@pppcs.org

soconnell@pppcs.org

**1st Quarter: Adventures in Our Own Backyard**

* Maryland Ecology

*Essential Questions*:

* + What makes a good scientist?
	+ How does weather affect our own lives and what can we do to help prevent weather related problems?
	+ How can we help protect the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and why is this important?
* Maryland Geography

*Essential Questions*:

* + What is a map and what are maps used for?
	+ What is the history and significance of Maryland’s state flag and other state symbols and landmarks?
	+ What does conservation mean and how can I conserve more?

**2nd Quarter: Meet Maryland’s First People**

* Native American Way of Life

*Essential Questions*:

* + Why do people move? Why did people of the Ice Age live as hunter-gatherers and why did the nomads of the Ice Age migrate to America?
	+ How are we connected to Native American civilizations of the past?
* Plant Life and Simple Machines used by Native Americans

*Essential Questions*:

* + Why are plants a vital component of the natural world?
	+ How did Native Americans use simple machines in their daily life?

**3rd Quarter: Pioneers in Science & Exploration**

* Colonial Maryland

*Essential Questions*:

* + Why did early settlers come to America?
	+ What were the 13 colonies and what are some similarities and differences they shared?
* Ben Franklin and Forces & Motion

*Essential Questions*:

* + What were Benjamin Franklin’s political and scientific contributions?
	+ How does force affect the motion of objects?
	+ How do scientists use the information we’ve discovered about magnetic forces to solve real life problems?

**4th Quarter: Long, Long Ago…Where Do We Come From?**

* Ancient Civilizations

*Essential Questions*:

* + What is ancient history?
	+ What can we learn by studying ancient civilizations?
	+ What important contributions did ancient Egyptians, Romans, and Grecians make?
* Life Science

*Essential Questions*:

* + How and why do scientists analyze and interpret data from fossils?
	+ What characteristics help animals and plants survive?
	+ How do changes in the environment affect the organisms living in it?

**Core Math Skills:**

**Core Reading Skills:**

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**Reading/Language Arts:**

Tests/Essays: 35%

Projects: 25%

Spelling/Quizzes: 15%

Homework: 15%

Participation/Effort: 10%

**Math**:

Tests: 35%

Projects: 25%

Quizzes/Fact Assessments: 15%

Homework: 15%

Participation/Effort: 10%

**Science/Social Studies:**

Tests: 30%

Projects/Labs/Notebooks: 20%

Quizzes: 15%

 Homework: 10%

Participation/Effort: 15%

* We will be using an online gradebook this year called Power Teacher Gradebook. This will allow you to view your child’s grades at anytime. Your chilid will bring home an information sheet on how to set this up and access the grades. Please contact your child’s homeroom teacher if you have any difficulty with this.

**Specials Schedule**

**Mr. Slack – 3A**

*Monday*: Media

*Tuesday*: Spanish

*Wednesday*: Art

*Thursday*: Music

*Friday*: Gym

**Mr. O’Connell – 3B**

*Monday*: Gym

*Tuesday*: Media

*Wednesday*: Music

*Thursday*: Art

*Friday*: Spanish

**Mrs. Ernst – 3C**

*Monday*: Art

*Tuesday*: Gym

*Wednesday*: Media

*Thursday*: Spanish

*Friday*: Music

**Community Agreements**

This year, in place of the traditional classroom rules, we will be following “Community Agreements” that align with our TRIBES Learning Communities. These Agreements are schoolwide and students pledge to follow the Agreements every morning during the announcements. The 4 Community Agreements are:

1. **Listen attentively.**
2. **Choose to participate.**
3. **Accept and show appreciation.**
4. **Engage in mutual respect.**



**Discipline Policy**

The 3rd grade Smart Cookies are using a grade-wide behavior incentive policy to encourage our students to stay “Baked to Perfection”. The behavior board in our rooms display this three-level incentive program. Students begin the day with their name on “Baked to Perfection” (green). If a student displays inapporpriate behavior or breaks a community agreement, their name will be moved to “Getting a Little Crumbly” (yellow). This will be considered a warning to the student. If the student continues to display innapropriate behavior, the child will be moved to “Burnt to a Crisp” (red). This could result in a phone call home or trip to the office, depending on the severity. Your child’s agenda book will be marked daily based on their status. Students who are consisently “Shooting for the Stars” will be recognized at monthly theme-based celebrations.

**Agenda Books**

Students received an agenda book on the first day of school. They are expected to bring this to school every day. The agenda book is used to record daily and long-term assignments, as well as serve as a communication tool between teacher and parent. The agenda book is marked daily with your child’s behavior status. A star indicates your child was “baked to perfection”/on green and turned in all homework. A checkmark indicates your child was “a little crumbly”/yellow and will include a brief explanatory note. An X means your child did not turn in all homework assignments and/or became “burnt to a crisp”/red. This marking will also include a note and require a signature. Please be sure to check your child’s agenda book daily.

**Homework Policy**

All 3rd grade students are expected to turn in homework daily. Homework helps reinforce what the students have learned that day in school and to review necessary skills. Homework will be graded based on effort and completion. Homework can be turned in one day late for ½ credit. Any homework later than one day will not be accepted for credit. If a student is absent, homework is expected to be completed upon the child’s return to school.

**3rd Grade Website**

Third grade students and families are encouraged to visit the 3rd grade website on a daily basis. The website is updated regularly with announcements and homework assignments. It also has links to files and games to help your children be successful in 3rd grade. We also post pictures of school lessons and special activities. You can find the wesbite at:

<http://pppcs3rdgrade.weebly.com>

**Field Trip Policy**

**Unless otherwise stated, the following criteria are mandatory for participation in all field trips:**

* No missing homework assignments the week of the field trip.
* No missing projects.
* Student must be present the day prior to a field trip.
* **Permission slips must be submitted no less than 24 hours prior to departure time. Phone permission and handwritten notes cannot be accepted.**
* “Baked to Perfection” (on green) the entire week of a field trip.



**Birthday Policy**

* We know birthdays are a very special and memorable time to celebrate with friends. If you choose to bring in items to celebrate your child’s birthday, you are welcome to share with the class in the cafeteria during lunch time which is at 11:25 each day. Celebrating in the classroom is difficult due to the nature of our schedule, so if it is not possible to come in during lunch time we ask that you give your homeroom teacher at least 24 hours’ notice in order to plan accordingly.

We are so excited to work together to provide your child with a successful 3rd grade year! Use the space below to ask questions or take notes.

-The 3rd Grade Team

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