

PPPCS Third Grade Handbook

2018-2019

3rd Grade Team:

Mrs. Gordon
Ms. Looker
Mr. O'Connell

Quarterly Theme Overviews

Quarter 1- Off to Adventure!

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?

Quarter 2- Meet Maryland's First People!

Plant Life & 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?

Native Americans' Way of Life

Essential Questions:

Why do people move?

Why did the people of the Ice Age live as hunter-gathers and why did the nomads of the ice Age migrate to America?

How are we connected to the Native American civilizations of the past?

Quarter 3- Pioneers in Science and Exploration

Benjamin 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?

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?

Quarter 4- A Long Time Ago...Where Do We Come From?

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?

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?

Grading Policies

Language Arts

Comprehension Checks: 30%

Vocabulary Quizzes: 30%

Writing: 30%

Homework: 10%

Math

Classwork: 30%

Tests and Quizzes: 30%

Fact Fluency: 30%

Homework: 10%

Science/Social Studies

Mr. O'Connell will be using a point system as their grading policy this school year. There will be a total number of points possible in each quarter and the student will earn a percentage of those points. For example, if there are 100 points in quarter 1, and your child earned 86 of them, he/she would receive a 86/100 or a 95% or a G on his/her report card.

Tribes Community Agreements

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.

Specials Schedule

Ms. Looker – 3A

Monday: Music

Tuesday: Library/Media

Wednesday: Music

Thursday: Gym

Friday: Art

Mr. O'Connell – 3B

Monday: Gym

Tuesday: Art

Wednesday: Music

Thursday: Library/Media

Friday: Music

Mrs. Gordon – 3C

Monday: Library/Media

Tuesday: Music

Wednesday: Art

Thursday: Music

Friday: Gym

Behavior Policy

This year we will be using a colored “clip chart” to monitor our behavior and classroom choices. Your child will have a clip in the classroom that they will physically move up or down the chart, depending on their choices. Please keep in mind that your child may not move every single day! In order to move up, students must go above and beyond in their behavior choices. The chart below explains how the clip chart works.

Blue <i>Above and Beyond!</i>	Students who make positive choices will receive recognition as they move up the chart.
Green Ready to Learn!	Everyone starts the day “Ready to Learn”! Students can “clip up” or “clip down” throughout the day depending on their behavior choices.
Yellow Slow Down!	Students who receive a warning will move to yellow. This serves as a reminder to students to think about the choices they make.
Orange Think About It!	Students who continue to make poor choices will move to orange and will be asked to reflect on his/her behavior.
Red Parent Contact...	Students who move to red will be asked to reflect in another teacher’s classroom. Parents will be contacted that day if their child is on red.

Agenda Books

Students received an agenda book on the first day of school. They are expected to bring this to and from 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. We ask for a signature daily. Please be sure to check your child's agenda book each evening.

Homework Policy

All 3rd grade students are expected to turn in homework weekly. Homework helps reinforce what the students have learned that week in school and to review necessary skills. Homework will be graded based on effort and completion. Homework can be turned in up to 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 consistent basis. The website is updated regularly with announcements such as field trips, schedules, special events, and more. 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 website at: <http://3rdgradepppcs.weebly.com/>

Celebrating Birthdays

We understand 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.



Field Trip Policy

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



- ✓ Permission slips must be submitted no less than 24 hours prior to departure time. Phone permission and handwritten notes cannot be accepted.
- ✓ Good behavior the entire week leading up to a field trip (no more than 1 yellow, no oranges or reds).

OTHER POLICIES

Purse/Pencil Case Policy

We find purses and pencil cases to be a distraction in the classroom. Please prevent your child from using a purse or pencil case during school hours. If there is a necessary reason for your child to carry a purse with them, please speak with your child's homeroom teacher.

Cell Phone Policy

We understand you would like your child to be able to contact you in the event of an emergency however; cell phones can be a distraction and easily lost during the school day. If your child must bring a phone to school, we ask that it remain **OFF** and away during the school day. If the phone is heard or seen by a teacher, he/she will give the phone to administration until the end of the day.

Toy Policy

Any toys that are brought to school and used during academic time will be confiscated and returned at the teacher's discretion. (This includes but is not limited to: Pokémon cards, Legos, Shopkins, etc.)

TECHNOLOGY USE POLICY FOR STUDENTS

Technology takes learning beyond the classroom by providing students access to a wealth of information and resources. PPPCS students shall have access to school technology for educational purposes only, such as accessing curriculum-related information, sharing resources, and promoting whole child learning. Students shall be held responsible for appropriate behavior as specified in the terms and conditions below.

1. I will be polite and appropriate in my email messages, online postings, and other forms of digital communication. I will not create or communicate offensive or threatening messages online.
2. I will obey copyright laws and I will not plagiarize or use another's work without proper citation and permission. I will respect others intellectual property.
3. I am responsible for my computer account. I understand that it is important to log off so no one else may access my passwords. I understand that my login and password should not be shared with anyone.
4. I will use the PPPCS network responsibly. I will not search, view, or save any hate-based, offensive, or sexually explicit images, language or the files that generate such images or language.
5. I understand that I am responsible for protecting school property and that vandalism is prohibited. I will not modify or destroy PPPCS equipment, files, or computer settings.
6. I will not access social networking websites within the school learning environment. I will not use the Internet to communicate or message others for a personal rather than educational purpose.
7. I am responsible for following school procedures when using PPPCS technology and networks and when publishing school work online. I understand that it is unsafe to post any personal information about myself and others on the internet.

We are so excited to work together to provide your child with a successful 3rd grade year! Please contact your child's homeroom teacher with any questions or concerns!

-The 3rd Grade Team