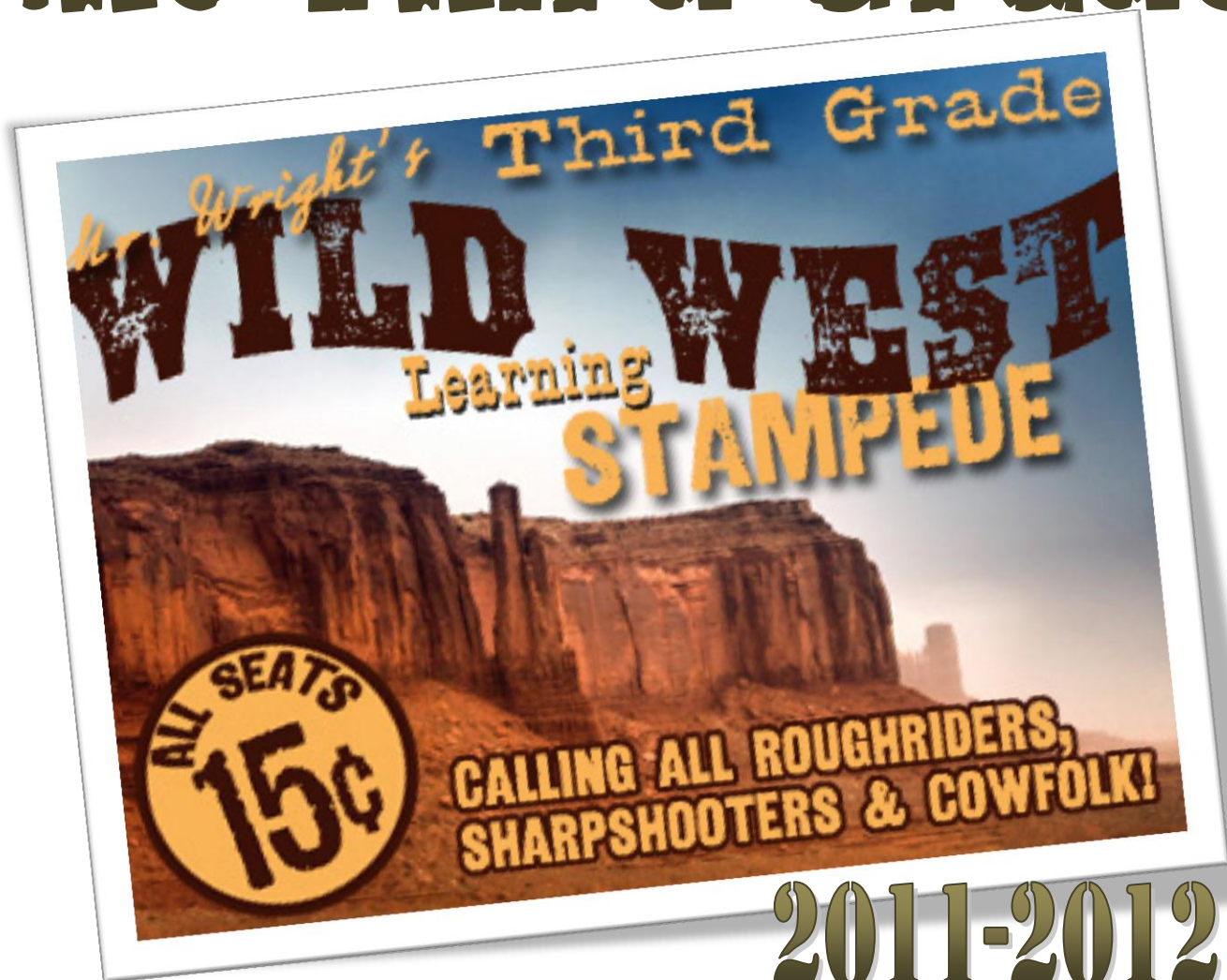


# How to Survive the Third Grade



**A Practical Guide for Students and Parents**

**Compiled by Mr. Wright**

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# Mr. Wright's Room

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Beginning of the Year Newsletter Volume 11, Number 1

Dear Parents,

This packet will give you a basic overview of our classroom. You may find it helpful to keep this packet handy during the year. In this newsletter, I have outlined many of my expectations that I have for students in my class, but I also have many expectations for myself.

I will:

- Create an environment in which my students can learn
- Be available to communicate with either parent or student
- Use a variety of methods in teaching
- Encourage all students to reach their full potential
- Motivate my student to continue learning outside of the classroom

If a problem arises or if you have any questions, you may write me a note, e-mail or call me at school.

I believe that if you and I work as a team, your child will benefit.

Please note that the last page needs to be signed and returned to me as quickly as possible. (Parents get homework on the first night!)

Sincerely,

Christopher Wright

## For Your Information . . .

- **Responsibility plays an important role in your child's success at school.** I expect them to be responsible for their own supplies, assignments, belongings, lunch money, and behavior.
- **Knowledge of basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts are absolutely essential for the success in math.** *Memorization and repeated practice* are still the best way to insure familiarity. The children will get practice at school but lots of practice at home will be helpful.
- **Homework.** Your child will need to read for 15 minutes each weekday and fill out their reading log when needed and then have you initial their reading log to show that they have completed their reading. There will be a few projects assigned to complete at home during the year. Otherwise, work not finished at school goes home to be completed. Enough time is provided at school for most students to complete their assignments. If your child comes home with a lot of work, chances are time is not being used wisely at school.
- **When your child is absent from school, he or she will be expected to make up the work missed.** Since this can create quite a workload, *absences should be rare*. The amount of time given to complete work for full credit will be determined on individual basis. There will be some assignments for which no make-up work can be given.
- **Papers will be sent home regularly.** Please take a few minutes to look at them. It is one way for you to keep abreast of your child's progress. Most often, graded work will be sent home on Mondays. The class newsletter, "The Dugout," will also be sent home most Mondays. This will list important events, spelling words and any other information as needed.

## What's Up This Year?

Here is a look at some things that we will be doing this year:

### Communication Arts

- Read 15 minutes each day
- Students will demonstrate proficiency in phonics.
- Students will demonstrate proficiency in decoding skills.
- Students will demonstrate proficiency in word skills.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of grammatical principles by using parts of speech correctly.
- Students will demonstrate a proficiency in reading comprehension.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of sentence structures.
- Students will demonstrate proficient and correct use of punctuation and capitalization.
- Students will identify and apply basic literary elements to respond to fiction.
- Students will demonstrate knowledge of basic paragraph elements (topic sentence, supporting details, and conclusion) within an expository writing text.
- Students will demonstrate and apply knowledge of the steps in the formal writing process.
- Students will demonstrate and apply knowledge of formal writing.

### Math

- Students will collect and organize data, complete, interpret, and solve problems related to pictographs, bar graphs, line graphs, or venn diagrams.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of numbers through hundred thousands.
- Students will round to the nearest hundred and use/explain estimation strategies.
- Students will interpret ending time and time between events to the half hour. Students will tell time in 5-minute intervals, including half-past, quarter 'til, and quarter after.
- Students will apply and explain strategies used to add and subtract whole numbers up to four digits with and without regrouping.
- Students will demonstrate knowledge of money by counting up to \$10.00 and making change from \$5.00.
- Students will write the number sentence used to solve a mathematical problem.
- Students will create, recognize, describe, and extend a geometric or numerical pattern, including those in input/output tables.
- Students will use multiple strategies to solve basic multiplication problems with an emphasis on facts 0-12.
- Students will use multiplication to construct and solve single- and multiple-step story problems from the real world.
- Students will multiply 2- and 3-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers with and without regrouping.
- Students will compare and describe the following 2- and 3-dimensional shapes based on their characteristics: circle, rectangle, triangle, rectangular prism, cylinder, pyramid, and sphere.
- Students will identify and construct lines, rays, and line segments.
- Students will identify figures that are congruent regardless of their motion (slide, flip, or turn). Student will also identify lines of symmetry in polygons.
- Students will determine relative position of an object using ordered pairs, ordinal numbers, and coordinate grids.
- Students will use appropriate standard (English and Metric) and non-standard units of measure and explain their choice.
- Students will use standard (English and metric) and non-standard units of measurement to investigate area and perimeter.
- Students will represent commonly used fractions: halves, thirds, fourths, through tenths.
- Students will interpret events as to whether they are likely or unlikely to occur.
- Recognize and generate equivalent representations for the same number.
- Develop fluency with basic division facts to 12.

### **Social Studies**

- Students will specify the attributes and region of a community.
- Students will summarize the impact of technology and various inventors and inventions (i.e. changes in transportation) and their impact on society.
- Students will demonstrate responsible behavior of citizens/students in relation to their communities, state, and school through decision-making, conflict resolution, democratic process, and an understanding of laws and ordinances.
- Students will identify customs, traditions, and holidays.
- Students will differentiate between basic regions (desert, plains, tundra, etc.) and physical features (bodies of water and landforms).
- Students will explain the significance of US symbols.
- Students will analyze and compare major contributions of famous Presidents, statesmen, and African Americans (specifically Martin Luther King Jr.).

- Students will identify and use the follow social science tools, primary and secondary sources, library, and other media resources.
- Students will use and draw conclusions from maps, graphs and timelines.
- Students will identify the three levels of state and national governments and specify their responsibilities of the executive, legislative and judicial branches.
- Students will differentiate and classify the following economic concepts: human and natural resources, consumers, producers, goods, services, wants, needs, taxes (kinds, purpose and services) and demonstrate the process if a cost benefit analysis (opportunity cost).
- Students will explain why communities are founded in certain places and describe how they change over time.

**Science**

- Students will be going to Miss Walker’s class for Social Studies and Science one hour a day.

For a more complete list of objectives, please visit

<http://eatonline.missouri.edu/publicview/default.aspx?districtid=22>

## Graded Papers

Points will be earned on each graded assignment. Each assignment will have an assigned number of points and percentage will be figured from the number of points earned. Graded papers will usually be sent home on Mondays. Any other notes, homework, or other information will be sent home in your child’s Agenda. check and sign your child’s Agenda everyday. Students bring back the Agenda to school **everyday**.

**Grading Scale**

100%-90%	A	Excellent
89%-80%	B	Good
79%-70%	C	Average
69%-60%	D	Needs Improvement
59% and below	F	Failure

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Please should

## Classroom Discipline

As I firmly believe that life-long success depends on self-discipline, I have developed a Classroom Discipline Plan (CDP) that affords every student the opportunity to manage his or her own behavior. Your child deserves the most positive educational climate possible for academic growth. Therefore, this plan will be in effect at all times. Our class will be guided by the following responsibilities:

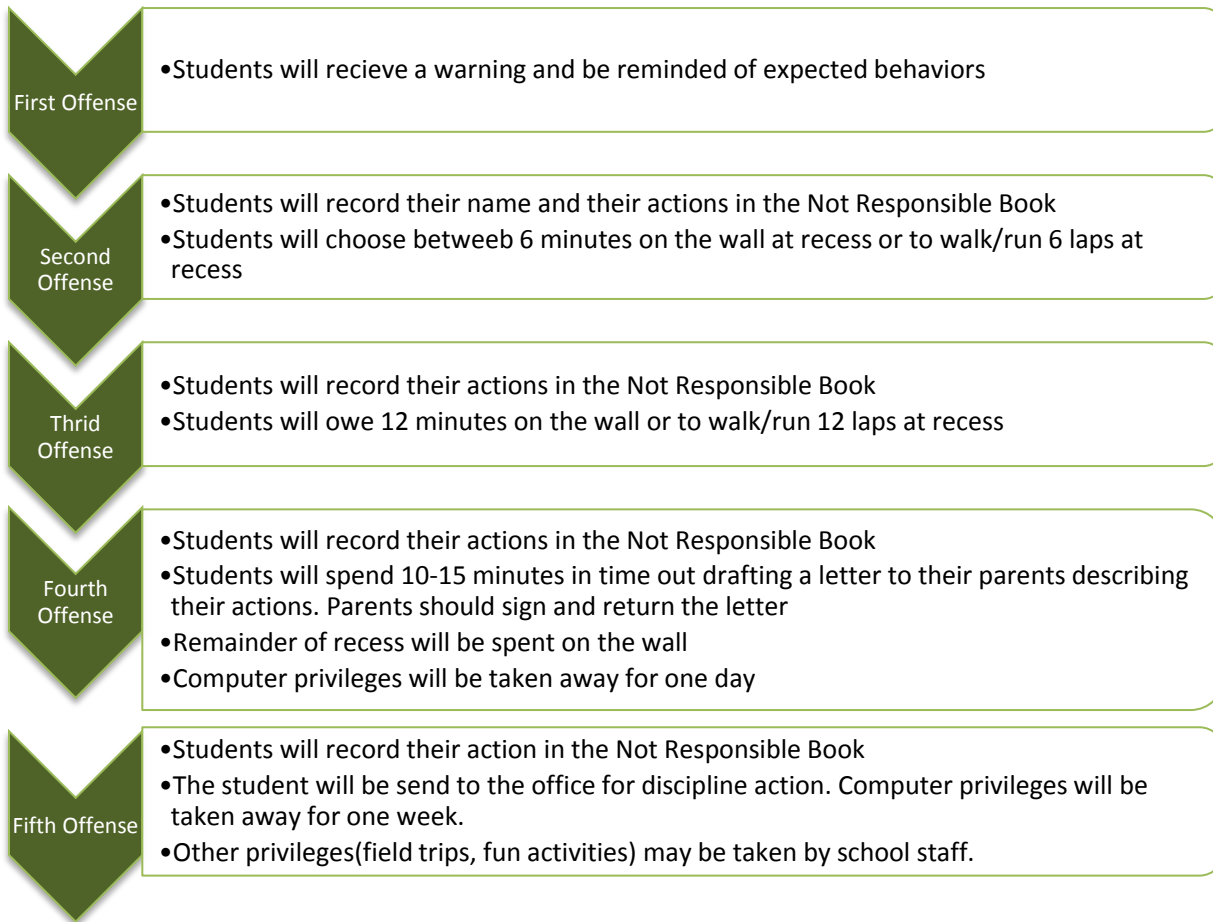
## Classroom Responsibilities

1. KHFAOOTY
2. Always be an active listener and raise your hand for your turn to speak
3. Treat others the way you want to be treated
4. Be honest
5. Follow directions the first time
6. Be prepared for school each day
7. Be trustworthy

**When We Are Responsible we get:**

1. Plenty of verbal praise.
2. Positive notes.
3. Free time in classroom.
4. Special class activities.
5. Buzz Bucks/Bus Bucks/V.I.P.S. Bucks
6. Buzz Bashes!

## If We Are Not Responsible:



Depending on the severity of a disruption, levels may be skipped. After Christmas, consequences increase by 3 minutes or 3 laps. If a student is not being responsible when a substitute is in class, time on wall or laps double.

Students should also be aware of the Positive Behavior Support (PBS) universals: Be respectful, be responsible, and be your best.

These responsibility expectations will be in effect at **all** times.

Students have been informed about the CDP, but I would appreciate it if you would review the plan with your child. I will be communicating with you frequently throughout the year to keep you aware of your child's progress. Please feel free to contact me.

# AR

AR (Accelerated Reader) is an important part of our reading student self-selected books within their reading level can be from classroom, school, public, or home libraries for independent child and I will have frequent opportunities to discuss what has independently. The AR book will be used for reading at home or during SSR (Sustained Silent Reading). Parents will need to review and sign the student's reading log that will be sent home once a month (generally, the first full week of the month).



program. The our reading. Your been read at school

Your child's responsibility is to read for 15 minutes **each evening**, fill out a Reading Log once a month and have it signed by a parent each night and to carry to book back and forth to school each day. Your child is also expected to take good care of this book. There will be a fine for damaged books of a replacement fee for lost or severely damaged books. Students will then take an AR test on the computer in our classroom. These tests will assess their comprehension of the book. By passing these tests, the student will earn points. At the beginning of each grading period, the student and I will set a point goal. To help your child excel on these tests, I suggest that you review basic information from their AR book like plot, characters, setting, etc. Students in my class are expected to maintain an 82% average correct at all times. Not doing so may result in extra reading time during recess.

Over the school year, consistent daily reading will expose you child to various writing styles and will improve your child's fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and writing. *Reading research indicates that reading 15 minutes a day can provide a year's growth in reading.* As the saying goes, practice make perfect and the more the child reads the better he or she becomes.

For this reason, the time spent reading at home will be a part of the student's reading grade. Thank you for your help, support, and cooperation with our AR program. For more information on the AR program, you can visit <http://www.mrwrightsclass.com/ar>.

## Holidays And Celebrations

In third grade we celebrate several holidays. We typically do them in conjunction with Miss Walker's class. This is how we have celebrated some holidays in years past:

- Johnny Appleseed Day – We ask that students bring apples to cook in class.
- Halloween – Students dress up for part of the day. We walk down to B.W. Robinson to show those students our costumes. We eat snacks at the end of the day.
- Christmas – We celebrate Christmas as a whole third grade with a ginormous gift exchange and holiday buffet in the gym.
- Valentine – For two years we have celebrated Valentine's Day in the morning with a Valentine's breakfast.
- Dr. Seuss's Birthday – Read-in in the gym with the third grade.

I will send notes home before these events with more details on what we need.

## Helpful Hints for Hassle Free Homework

1. **Routine is important.** Set aside a regular time for there is not any, have the child read or practice



homework. If flashcards.

Mr. Wright's Room

Welcome To Mr. Wright's Class

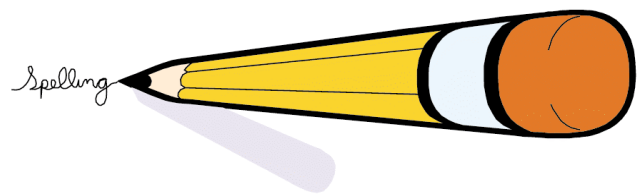
<http://www.mrwrightsclass.com>

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2. **Help your child get organized.** Discuss what needs to be done. Set study goals.
3. **Divide big projects into smaller segments.**
4. **Keep extra school supplies at home.**
5. **Not all children work well alone.** Try letting them work in the same room as you.
6. **Suggest that the child start with the most difficult subjects while he/she is more energetic.**
7. **Take short (5-10 minute) breaks between tasks.**
8. **Have students read the directions aloud and tell you what they should do.** This is more effective than you doing the explaining.
9. **PLEASE do not do the work for the child!** Explain how he can do it. If that becomes too frustrating, please send the work back to school with a note explaining the problem. Doing the problem for them teaches the child nothing and will result in a failing grade.
10. **Show appreciation of even small signs of progress.**
11. **Look over complete work.** Encourage neatness.
12. **Have a regular spot (near the door) for books and papers to be placed.** They will be more likely to get to school.
13. **Review graded papers with your child.** We learn from our mistakes as well as from our correct responses.
14. **Most assignments are due the next day.** Late work may be penalized. If a student completes something at school they may still take it home for you to look at.

## Spelling

The student will be given a list of five word wall words and five “transfer” words on Monday. Transfer words use the same spelling patterns found in our word wall words. The student will be tested over these words on Friday. Word wall words will be given in a sentence to correctly format (dictation). After the first week, there will be an additional 5 transfer words that students have not studied. Students will have to correctly apply the spelling patterns that we have studied from previous weeks.

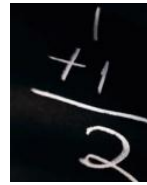


## Math

Students will keep all work in their workbooks, We will not tear pages out until the completeion of a unit. The student may take the workbook or textbook home **any day**, but students will need to make sure they are back at school the next day.

Most days in math will be similar:

- Daily review of previous math objectives. \*
- Grade the previous day's work. \*
- Take notes; go over vocabulary and the objective of the day. \*
- Practice objective. \*
- Assign work over new objective. (If students use their time wisely in class, they should be able to complete the work in class.)
- Drill and test math facts



## Book Orders

From time to time, your child will bring home a book order form. This is an easy way to get reading material and a discounted rate. However, *your participation is optional*. Parents will also be able to make and pay for orders online. No more lost checks and no more lost orders! Look for more details in our first book order.

## Starting Times on Wednesday

In order to reduce the number of early out days for teacher meetings, school will be beginning at a later time on Wednesday. Wednesday mornings, teachers will be participating in professional development meetings. As a result, school will begin at 8:20. Buses will also be running about 15 minutes later on Wednesday. School bus drivers will be able to tell you the approximate pickup times for the week.

## Morning Routine

When a student gets to school in the morning they need to go to the cafeteria if they are getting breakfast or to the gym if they are not eating breakfast. Students **should not** stop by the room in the morning unless other arrangements have been made in advance.

## Birthdays

Birthdays are very special events in third grade. Students may bring snack for the class if the parent chooses to do so. The school asks that treats be store bought. Please also be aware the following school policy:

*“Invitations for birthday parties, etc., may not be distributed at school unless all children in the class are invited. This practice is not only disruptive to instruction, but often causes hurt feelings. The school will not accept deliveries of gifts, flowers, or balloons at school for students.”*

## Cell Phone/Electronics Policy

The Wyman Cell Phone policy states that students may bring cell phones to school, however, they must remain in the student's back pack and turned off. If a student has a cell phone out during the school day, the cell phone will be taken and a parent must pick up the cell phone from the office.

## **Bathroom**

Since our class is so far away from restroom, we will take frequent and regular bathroom breaks throughout the day. Students should use that time to use the restroom. Leaving the class to use the restroom should be kept to a minimum since it will result in missed instruction time for that student.

## **Classroom Temperature**

Mr. Wright doesn't really have control over the temperature of the classroom. There are times during the day when the room can get cool. Some students may want to consider bringing a jacket to wear in the room if it gets too cold.

## **Milk Cards**

We will not be having snack milk in our class to avoid spilling on the computer; however, your child may bring a small water bottle that can be sealed to keep in the back of the room. The only students who will need a milk card are those who drink milk with a lunch they brought from home.

# Schedule

## Monday

Library\*\* 9:35-10:00

## Tuesday

Music/PE\* 9:35-10:30

## Wednesday

Art: 9:35-10:30

## Thursday

PE\*/Music: 9:35-10:30

## Friday

Rotation: 9:35-10:30 or 9:25-10:00



\*Please bring tennis shoes to wear on PE days.

\*\*Please make sure you have your library books on Library days.

# T.E.C.

Our class is a T.E.C. room (Technology Enhanced Classroom). In our classroom there is one internet connected for every two students. Mr. Wright will be using an interactive to share information and lessons with the class. This will be learning environment to learn in!



computer  
whiteboard  
an exciting

The use of technology is a privilege that may be revoked by the teacher or administration at any time for the failure to abide by the following rules:

- Students will handle all technology with proper care, as taught in the classroom.
- Students will not use pencils, pens, fingers or other objects to touch the computer screens.
- Students will only use technology as instructed by the teacher.
- If a student has a problem with the computer let the teacher know immediately by raising your hand.
- Food and drink should not be around the computers.
- Printing is to be limited to educational purposes and must be approved by the teacher before printing. Please preview/proof material before printing.

# Class Website

I have developed a class website at <http://www.mrwrightsc.com>. If you have access to the Internet, you will be able to see what we are doing in class. I will be posting pictures of the students and some of their work (I will use only first names on the website not last). In order to do this I will

need parental permission. Please see the last page in this packet. There are pictures from my past classes that are currently posted. I try to update our website (generally the The Class Info page) once a week.

Information that will be available on the website:

- Classroom information and events
- All class newsletters, if you student loses a newsletter just download it from the website
- Pictures of events
- Some work samples and projects we have done in class
- Interactive games that correspond to what we are learning
- Test reviews that includes objectives of what students will need to do, interactive games and quizzes and additional practice
- Free software that you can download and use on your own computers at home.
- Homework help, examples: videos of me doing problems.

## **Contacting Mr. Wright**

Phone: 458-0190 ext. 19133

E-mail: [cwright@rolla.k12.mo.us](mailto:cwright@rolla.k12.mo.us) (checked multiple times daily during the week)

Address: Wyman Elementary  
402 Lanning  
Rolla, MO 65401

Website: <http://www.mrwrightsclass.com>

# PG Movies

Throughout the year we will have opportunities to watch different movies for various reasons. We watch movies that align with our curriculum or that go with holidays. Our class may also vote to watch a movie after earning 100 Buzz Bucks. Unfortunately, most movies today are rated PG. In order for us to watch a movie rated something other than G, we need parental permission. By signing on the last page, it will cover the whole year rather than sending a note home each time. You will be notified in the weekly newsletter or in your child's agenda before we watch any movie.

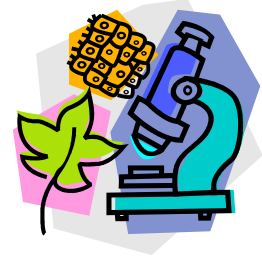
The only PG movies that will be show will be appropriate for the classroom, most of them will be Disney (A Christmas Carol and The Chronicles of Narnia are examples of PG movies) or other kid related movies.

If you ever have any questions, feel free to contact me.



# Miss Walker's Science Corner

My class will have one hour a day in Miss Walker's class for science and sometimes additional writing time. Here are some of Miss Walker's expectations:



## Discipline

Miss Walker's expectations are that students are able to follow directions. Chit-chat and interaction are encouraged as long as it does not interfere with the learning process of any student. She will not tolerate any attempt to cause pain or discomfort to any individual at any time for any reason. To do so may result in writing assignments, a phone call to a parent figure, a visit to the principal, and/or the missing of recess, assemblies, and/or field trips.

Miss Walker's e-mail is [nwalker@rolla.k12.mo.us](mailto:nwalker@rolla.k12.mo.us)  
E-mail Miss Walker when you have a question about science.

## Daily Work Policy

Students are expected to complete assignments as given. Generally, class time will be adequate to complete the work assigned. If an assignment is not turned in completed at the expected time without specific reason, the grade will be reduced by 10% each day late in addition to the missing of recess and a written explanation of why it was not completed in the time allotted. When an absence occurs, the number of days missed will equal the days available to make up the work without consequence.

## Participation

Participation is a daily expectation in both activities and discussions. It is important for students to take part in their learning process to ensure that the long-term memory process is activated. Students taking part daily will be given access to a greater understanding of state requirements for third grade students. Lack of participation will result in students who must work harder in another method.

# To Return

We have read and understood the CDP, the AR, Classroom Website, and Miss Walker's Corner pages.

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I **GRANT** permission for \_\_\_\_\_'s picture, work, and *first name* to be used on the classroom website.

I **DENY** permission for \_\_\_\_\_'s picture, work, and *first name* to be used on the classroom website.

Yes, my child has permission to watch PG movies during this school year.

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Check if you have access to the Internet.

**Please return just this page to me as soon as possible.**

Thank you,

Christopher Wright

List any comments or questions and medical conditions you think I should know about below or on the back of this paper. Thanks!

**\*\* Please return the back page only. Keep the rest for a reference. Thanks! \*\***