













Welcome Third Grade Families!

We would like to take this time to welcome you and your child to third grade. We are excited to begin the school year together and look forward to celebrating your child's success!

We hope you are looking forward to the 2023-2024 school year as much as we are. It is going to be an exciting, active, and engaging year with many opportunities for your child to grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

 Teachers	We are excited to introduce our third-grade team, Mrs. Leanne Williams, Mrs. Jodi Walker, and Mr. Mark McCusker! This year the third grade will be departmentalized with Mrs. Williams teaching writing and content, Mrs. Walker teaching phonics and reading, and Mr. McCusker teaching mathematics. Students will rotate to each teacher throughout the day for instruction in each subject area.
 Goals	We strive to create a learner centered environment in third grade. Students will have opportunities to make choices of tasks to demonstrate learning, assess their own understanding of concepts, and work collaboratively with others. Our children will set goals for their learning and make choices that fit their learning styles. Throughout our third-grade year, we will scaffold support for all of our students as they develop into more independent learners.
 Phonics and Reading Mrs. Walker	Students will work in fluid groups within our classrooms. They will participate in meaningful independent activities, such as developing research skills, to extend learning throughout each unit. English Language Arts (ELA) consists of fluency, vocabulary, phonics, comprehension, writing in response to reading, and active speaking and listening skills. This year BCPS has purchased a new curriculum - HMH Into Reading which combines digital and print resources. Phonics instruction will continue to utilize the Open Court curriculum and will focus on phonics instruction and vocabulary/word meaning.
 Writing Mrs. Williams	We will follow the HMH Writing Workshop model to compose a variety of writing pieces using the writing process. Grammar mini-lessons and practice will be embedded in the lessons. Students will be taught to use the RACE! Structure for essay organization. Writing skills will be applied in content subject areas as well.

 <p>Math Mr. McCusker</p>	<p>We utilize the Bridges math program and digital tools. Each unit will begin with a pre-assessment and family overview. Students will complete 7 units of math and cover the 8 mathematical practices. Our focus is on understanding concepts, applying strategies, and explaining our thinking. Students will learn to solve two-step word problems, understand multiplication and division, work with fractions, and much more! Students will participate daily in the Bridges Number Corner program to introduce and reinforce needed math skills.</p>
 <p>Science Mrs. Williams</p>	<p>Our science concepts focus on learning about interactions in the world around us. Students will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forming written explanations using claims, evidence, and reasoning • Ecosystems and our impacts on their survival • Force and motion • Weather and climate • Traits that allow organisms to survive
 <p>Social Studies Mrs. Williams</p>	<p>Students learn about the world before colonization and the establishment of Maryland as well as Maryland's geography and economics. We will also apply concepts of civics in action as students learn about civic responsibilities and local government. Additionally, we will study personal financial literacy skills by understanding savings plans, goods and services, and types of markets.</p>
 <p>Health Mrs. Williams</p>	<p>Our lessons focus on giving students the knowledge necessary for a healthy lifestyle. Our units will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal setting, communication, and managing stress • Healthy relationships and conflict resolution • Nutrients, healthy food choices, and fitness • Safety and injury prevention
 <p>Grading</p>	<p>We follow the BCPS primary grading scale in third grade. This includes grades of CD, P, and N.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CD- Consistently Demonstrating 100%- 80% • P- Progressing 79%- 40% • N- Needs Development 39% and Below <p>BCPS utilizes the digital gradebook available on Schoology, students and parents have access to grades entered in the gradebook through personal Schoology accounts. Students and</p>

	<p>parents are encouraged to check grades weekly. Any missing or incomplete work will be noted in the digital gradebook.</p> <p>Report cards will no longer be printed. Please be sure to create your parent account on the FOCUS portal. Instructions were sent in Mrs. McNelly's back-to-school e-mail.</p>
 <p>Student Planners</p>	<p>After your child receives their school planner, please be sure to check it often. Homework in each class will be assigned on Monday, or the first day of the week, and due the following Monday. Students will have homework for each of the three rotations/class weekly.</p>
 <p>Technology</p>	<p>Throughout the year, students should bring their charged BCPS issued device and charger to school with them to and from school daily. Devices will be used in the classroom to support and extend learning. Please be sure to charge the device each night as there is minimal classroom space to charge. Students will travel to each classroom/rotation with their devices. New devices will be provided to students early in the school year.</p>
 <p>Contact</p>	<p>As always, we appreciate all that you do to make Carroll Manor a wonderful place for our students and teachers. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the school at 410-887-5947 or email us at the following addresses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Leanne Williams: lwilliams31@bcps.org • Mrs. Jodi Walker: jwalker8@bcps.org • Mr. Mark McCusker: mmccusker@bcps.org