

September 5, 2019

Dear Parents,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to the third grade at the Talented and Gifted School for Young Scholars. Hopefully, your family has had an enjoyable and relaxing summer vacation, and you are ready to begin an invigorating and enthusiastic new year. We look forward to exploring an exciting journey of learning with each student. By working together as a team, we can help your child reach his/her maximum potential. In order to provide an environment that is conducive to a successful learner, we would like to make some suggestions as to how you can offer your support. Below is vital information that you should review with your child:

As you know, reading is a crucial part of learning. Sometimes through books, our children can travel around the world and back again without ever leaving their seats. Needless to say, your child should read every day! Nonfiction books are strongly recommended. Please guide your child as he/she reads by asking a few main idea, inferential, and sequential order questions. Be sure your child can provide text-based evidence to support his/her answers.

Mathematics is also an important part of learning. In order to prepare for the curriculum, please review basic addition, subtraction, and multiplication facts with your child. FLUENCY is crucial in third grade! Additionally, the ability to tell time and solve multi-step word problems is just as important.

Below is an outline of additional information for you to review with your child:

Attendance – Each morning school will begin at 8:05 AM for all students. It is extremely important that students come to school on time in order to minimize disruptions and maximize learning time. Dismissal is at 2:25 PM. Please make arrangements to have your child picked up. For security reasons, please make sure he/she says, “Good Bye” to his or her teacher before leaving the school premises. If you plan to have someone other than yourself, or anyone listed on the blue card to chaperone your child, please notify the teacher in writing in advance. If your child’s teacher does not receive this note, your child will not be permitted to leave with the chaperone.

Supplies- There are several supplies that are required for each student. While you should have received a supply list by now, an additional copy is attached to this letter. Please remind your child to pack at night and be sure to bring these materials in each day, especially all notebooks, 4-5 sharpened pencils, textbooks, and folders. Each and every item should be labeled with your child’s name. (This includes pencils and every article of clothing).

Bus Service - All bus children will be escorted to the bus. If you decide that your child will not take the bus on a particular day, **please notify the teacher and Ms. Maritza, our bus coordinator, IN WRITING.** Ms. Maritza, can be reached at mapella@schools.nyc.gov. This will eliminate any confusion for your child and the school staff. Please be advised that if written notification is not submitted, your child **WILL** be placed on the bus.

Homework – Homework is a very important part of your child’s education. It reinforces skills learned in school, helps develop good work habits, and fosters independence. Homework will be assigned daily. It is imperative that students complete all assignments every day, especially since this is a testing year. It is suggested that you set up a quiet place where your child can do his/her homework. This location should be organized and well supplied. Please check EVERY night to make sure that your child has placed all assignments, textbooks, notebooks, and 4-5 sharpened pencils in his/her book bag. **Also, please check your child's homework folder and notebook on a daily basis, for important letters and updates.** Students will be expected to make up missed assignments, even when they are absent. If there are special circumstances that prevent your child from completing homework, please send a note explaining the reasons. Without this note, grades will be affected. Additionally, please make certain your child reads every night. Children are expected to have a book to read at all times.

Reports/Special Projects – Several reports/projects will be assigned during the course of the year. Projects are another form of assessment. Students are expected to follow the guidelines provided when submitting these assignments. Late and sloppy projects will be penalized.

Tests & Quizzes- Students will be assessed and quizzed on all subjects. They will also be graded on projects using rubrics. Test folders will be sent home so that you can monitor your child's performance. Please sign all tests and return them in the folders provided as soon as possible.

Statewide Tests - Students will receive two statewide assessments, the New York State English Language Arts (ELA) and the New York State Mathematics. Similar to last year, The New York State Education Department will administer assessments for Grades 3-8 in English Language Arts and Mathematics. These exams are aligned to New York State Learning Standards. The ELA Exam will be administered over 2 days, from Wednesday, March 25th- Friday, March 27th. The Mathematics Exam will be administered over 2 days, from Tuesday, April 21st –Thursday, April 23rd. Once we know the exact testing dates, we will let you know. Preparation for these exams is ongoing and will become intensive as we approach testing dates. Please log on to Common Core State Standards at www.corestandards.org, to become familiar with the Learning Standards that your child is required to master in order to be successful on the third grade assessments.

Trips – Throughout the year, students will have an opportunity to participate in various trips. These experiences are provided in order to reinforce the curriculum. Parents must sign permission slips and hand in all money in a SEALED ENVELOPE. It should be labeled with your child's name and class. Parent chaperones are encouraged to attend one or more of these trips.

Class Rules/Behavior – The class has established rules and everyone is expected to follow them. Our Behavior Modification System requires you to sign a Daily Behavior Sheet each night. Please review these procedures with your child and encourage positive behavior. Treasure chest prizes will be given as rewards to those students who follow the rules. Those students, who disregard the rules, will receive consequences such as a loss of privileges, reflection time with teachers, calls home, etc.

Book Orders –Sometimes the right book is all it takes to foster a child's love of reading. For this reason, your child will be given the option of purchasing books from Scholastic Book Clubs. This will allow parents to provide quality books for their child. Students will receive Scholastic Book order forms throughout the year. Individuals who wish to purchase books may do so. **Please double-check your child's order and place money in a SEALED ENVELOPE with his/her name.**

Curriculum Conference - TAG will be holding a Curriculum Conference on Tuesday, September 10th, from 8:15 AM-9:15 AM. At the conference, we will discuss our third grade curriculum and the upcoming State Exams. Although parents are urged to attend, if you cannot make it, important information discussed at the meeting will be sent home with your child. Additionally, TAG will be holding Listening Conferences on Thursday, September 12th, from 4:30 PM-7:30 PM. More information regarding this conference will be forthcoming.

We are looking forward to working with you this 2019-2020 school year as we help your child experience the joys of learning. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher at 212-860-6003. Email addresses are provided below. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support.

Sincerely,
Ms. Donnelly – ddonnelly3@schools.nyc.gov
Ms. Kim – jkim@tagscholars.com

Please cut off and return the bottom portion of this letter.

_____, I, _____ (Print), parent of _____
have read the Welcome Back Letter.

Parent's Signature

Comments/Questions:

