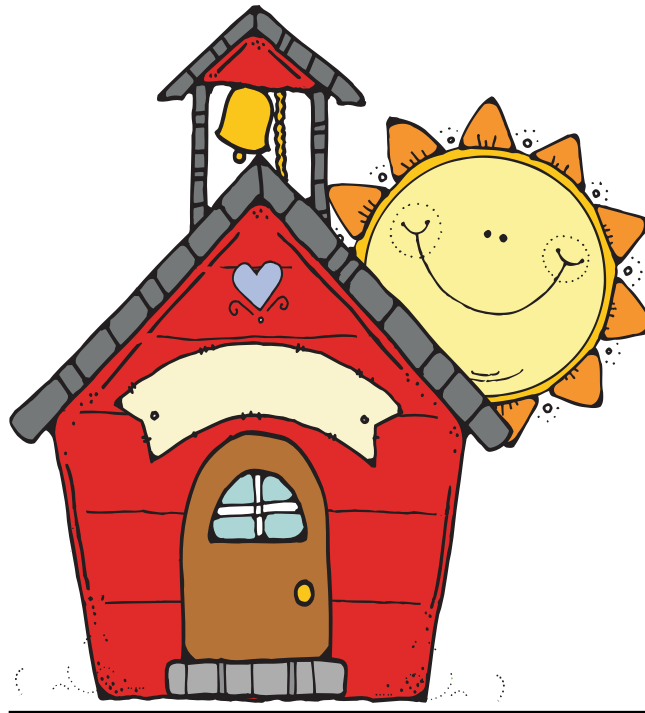


# Third Grade Handbook 2018-2019



Ms Van Arkel

## All About Ms Van Arkel

Dear Families,

This will be my 13th year in education and my 12th year teaching third grade at Georgetown. I am a graduate of Hope College and I feel very blessed to be your child's teacher! I can't wait to get to know each student and I enjoy spending each day working together and learning together. I look forward to a wonderful school year!

In my free time, I enjoy reading, riding my bike, running, shopping, baking, being outdoors, and being with friends and family.

Your third grader is very important to me and to our classroom. I am thankful for each new day to be with a wonderful group of students!

## School Policies

### Attendance

Please inform the school office when your child is going to be absent. You can call the school any time before 9:15 to report the absence. Our answering machine will record your message if you call before the office opens.

More and more of our learning is being accomplished through in-class reading, writing, and discussion. This makes it more difficult to send home the work your child misses.

If your child arrives late, please stop in at the office to sign him/her in. If you are picking your child up early, please stop in the office to sign them out. At that time Mrs. Ripley or Mrs. Hoekstra will call your child down to the office to meet you.

### Prearranged Absences

Please send a note in advance indicating when your child will be gone from school. Families planning vacations must fill out a vacation request form at least five days in advance of the scheduled vacation.

### **\*\*Bus Policy and Dismissal**

**We have a new bus policy. Please check our classroom blog and be aware of this. You will not be able to send a note into school letting me know your child will ride a different bus home. All arrangements are made through the Transportation Office. Check the class blog or school blog for this process.**

**If your child will be getting picked up, or will be walking, or riding a bike home instead of the bus please send me a note so I'm aware of this.**

**It leaves me less worries when I know all my third graders are getting home safely. :)**

### Personal Items

Please label your child's hat, coat, mittens, boots, gym shoes, lunch box, backpacks, etc. so that they are easy to identify when they are lost. Toys of any kind, including electronic games, are not allowed at Georgetown Elementary.

## **Recess**

Students are expected to go outside for recess when it is not raining and the wind chill factor is appropriate as determined by the office. Students will go out before their lunch and at afternoon recess. **Please make sure your child is dressed for the weather.**

## **Lunch Money**

You will need to send separate slips for each of your children with their first and last name, indicating how much money you would like to put into that child's account. Please send all slips in one **envelope with the children's names, grades and teachers** on the outside. It is recommended that money be sent in early in the week, but it will be accepted on any day. It is suggested that you deposit enough money in your child's account to cover at least one week's worth of lunches or milk.

## **Snack**

We have a snack break in the morning. Please send one small, healthy snack that will allow your child to do his or her best learning. Please avoid candy. I am not aware of any food allergies in our classroom.

## **Messages**

Georgetown Elementary has a voice mail system, if you need to contact me, call the school at 797-9797. My extension is 22203. You can also email me at [avanarke@hpseagles.net](mailto:avanarke@hpseagles.net) I will try to check my messages when I can, but if you have an urgent message, please leave it with the secretary. I will return your call as soon as possible.

## **Special Circumstances**

We would appreciate knowing about any special circumstances (sickness or death of a family member, death of a pet, etc.) that you feel may affect your child at school. Sometimes things that happen outside of school cause them to need extra patience and TLC, and we want to take care of your child the best we can.

## **Classroom Procedures**

The mission statement at Georgetown Elementary is made up of three simple quotes. Be Nice, Work Hard, Learn Well. Our basic rule is that we are respectful of ourselves, each other, other teachers, the school building/grounds, and the materials we use.

### **School and Classroom Behavior**

We have a classroom promise that is an important part of our classroom. We will be doing our best to follow this promise. It is important that we do our best to make our classroom a comfortable, safe, and caring community.

**Our third grade classroom promise includes:**

Listen when the speaker is talking.

Follow directions quickly.

Respect others/yourself/our school.

Raise your hand to speak or stand.

Be safe/be kind/be honest.

In our classroom, I value building relationships and building positive behaviors that allow for learning to take place. We will be learning about Growth Mindset and how our brain is a muscle that grows and our attitude and mindset impacts our learning. Students will learn about goal setting and about who they are as a learner.

To reinforce positive behaviors, I will be using the ticket system in our classroom. Students will have many opportunities to earn tickets. Tickets may be earned by appropriate hallway behavior, quiet working, being ready for learning, following our classroom promise, helping a classmate, etc. There will be opportunities throughout the year to spend tickets on special prizes!

### **Homework**

In our classroom, homework will not be sent home on a regular basis. Our students spend the day working very hard in the classroom, and often times going home and doing homework can create stress and frustration for students and parents. This does not create a positive learning experience. However, our third graders are gaining independence and responsibility and will be expected to begin habits of daily reading and math fact practice. It is recommended that students read for at least 20 minutes, five nights a week. It is recommended that students practice math facts for at least 5 minutes, 5 nights a week. A monthly reading calendar may be coming home this fall and this is something you will be able to keep track of with your child. Reading and math facts practice will serve as homework.

### **Daily Folder**

Your child has a home/school folder that should go home and come back to school each day. Classroom mail will come home in the folders so please make this a routine to check the folder with your your grader. Any papers or homework for your child will travel to and from school in their nightly folder. **Please check it each evening and make sure it is returned each day to school.**

### **Notes from the Office**

This year, notes from the office will travel with the youngest or only child in your family and will be sent home on the day they are issued. Please check your child's mail each evening.

### **Blog**

Our class blog is <http://vanarkel.edublogs.org> . We are working on becoming a 'green' school so I encourage you to check the blog often for news, upcoming events, homework and test information, and things we are studying. There is also some education links on the blog for your third grader to practice at home.

### **Report Cards**

Report cards will be issued three times a year. Parent/Teacher conferences will be held in November and March.

### **Math**

We will be using Math Expressions as our math curriculum. Your child will learn many new and helpful ways to think about math by using drawings and writing. I encourage you to support your son or daughter as they learn some wonderful math strategies. Your third grader would probably love the opportunity to teach you some great, new strategies as well! As we get started learning multiplication and division, it will be very important for your child to be consistent with practicing multiplication facts throughout the year.

## **Reading**

I encourage you to read daily with your children at home. Ask them about what books they are reading at school and talk about what strategies they are learning. Reading every day will build confidence and improvement.

## **Reading Workshop**

Our reading workshop will begin with a mini lesson or shared reading. Then students will move into independent reading time. They will be learning to choose good-fit books to read. Students will work at their level, and take responsibility for their literacy learning and behavior. This will help students develop the daily habits of reading and literacy. During this time I will be working with readers in small groups.

## **Reading Counts**

In grade three we have a program (Reading Counts) that allows children to read at their own level and take comprehension quizzes to see how well they read the text. Each book is worth a certain amount of points. Depending on how well your child has read, they will receive points after passing the quiz. It is a great motivational tool for the children. They can read at their own pace and at their own level. In third grade, It is important that students take responsibility for reading the reading counts books and taking quizzes. Please encourage your third grader to get reading counts books at the library and sign up to take a quiz when they are ready.

## **Science**

In third grade we will study animal classification, adaptations, and the parts of a plant and each parts job. We will do many activities with each unit and end each unit with a final assessment.

## **Social Studies**

This year we will be studying Michigan throughout the year. This includes Michigan geography, economics, history, growth of Michigan, the government of Michigan, and public issues facing Michigan.

## **Specials Schedule**

Our special schedule will be each day from 10:35-11:25. Day 1 is P.E., Day 2 is ART., Day 3 is STEAM, Day 4 is MUSIC. It is very helpful for your child to keep a clean pair of gym shoes in their locker. We go to library on Friday. Please help your child remember to return their books when finished.

*I'm excited for a great year!!*