How to be Successful in 3rd Grade!

Top Ten Ways to Have a Successful Year in Mrs. Silva’s Class:

**1. Communicate with Mrs. Silva!**

Please feel free to contact me by phone or email. Your child’s safety and academic success are of the utmost importance to me. I truly believe it takes both of us working together in order for your child to be completely successful! Don’t jump to conclusions. Always check with me before assuming the worst! Remember, we are on the same team and share the same goal of making sure your child is safe, secure, and successful.

E-mail: rsilva@tcsdk8.org

School Phone Number: 559-687-3135

**2. Check Homework Binder Daily!**

Each student will be provided with a D.O.T. (daily organizational tools) Binder. This Binder should be taken home each afternoon and returned to school each morning. This Binder helps your child strengthen organizational skills and promotes responsibility.

Binder Folders

* The first pocket is labeled “Hot Spot.” This is where you can find important information, forms, and newsletters that should be looked over immediately.
* The second pocket is labeled “Sign and Return.” This is where I will share tests and graded work that you should check, review with your child, sign, and returned the next day in this pocket.
* The third pocket is labeled “Completed Work.” Graded papers and other notes that should be left at home will be placed in this pocket. Please check this work and clear it out daily.
* The fourth pocket is labeled “Homework.” This is where the daily homework will be kept and returned, completed the next day.

 The daily homework sheet and reading log are located behind the folders. Please check off each assignment as it is completed and sign.

**3. Do your homework!**

 Your child will be responsible for a nightly reading log. They will need to read 20 minutes in a variety of ways: They may read to you or a sibling aloud, they may read by themselves, or YOU may read to THEM. They then will need to write a response in the reading log for each 20 minutes read. P. S. You can always read longer if you want to!!!

**Expectation** **Example of a good Reading log by Mid-October: (Summary)**

 I read pages 26-40 in A Series of Unfortunate Events: The Bad Beginning by Lemony Snicket. While reading the 3rd chapter, several events occurred. First, the Baudelaire orphans were placed in a new home where their living arrangements were turned upside down. Next, they have a new foster father named Count Olaf. Lastly, they were asked to make a meal for a large group of people. I predict that the orphans will continue to struggle living in their new living arrangements.

Sometimes The reading log requirement will be to describe the main character, setting, or correctly write the dialogue between characters in the book.

Students are expected to complete homework daily. The work could include one or more Spelling, Grammar, Writing, Math, and/or History/Science assignments. All homework WILL BE a REVIEW, so they SHOULD be able to work on it independently. Also, this homework is not busy work. It is specially selected to help your child practice the skills taught throughout the prior week/s and will maximize your child’s success on weekly/unit assessments in math, language arts, social studies, and science. This is also another way for them to show you what they are learning each week. Homework should not take more than 30-40 minutes each night. If it is taking longer, please make arrangements to meet with me so that we can discuss some solutions.

**4. Earn great grades!**

Your child’s grade is based on the Tulare City School District Grading Scale:

A= 90-100 B=80-89 C=70-79 D=60-69 F=0-59

Most assignments are graded on a 4 point rubric

4=A, 3=B, 2=C, 1=D, and 0=F

* Report cards will be given at the end of each trimester (every 12 weeks).
* Progress reports will be sent home monthly.

For Accelerated Reading, we are no longer comparing points. Each student will help set their own goal for each trimester and will help me track their progress toward their individual goal. Students often get caught up in the competitiveness of points and miss the value of enjoying the books they are reading.

**5. Follow the rules!**

Every student has the right to learn in a safe, respectful, and organized classroom. To manage behavior, I enforce 5 basic rules that are followed anytime and anywhere throughout the school day.

1. Be **respectful** to your teacher and classmates (follow instructions, respect others’ property)
2. Be **responsible** at all times (have materials, be ready to learn each morning)
3. Be **caring** to others (use kind words to each other and speak in a normal tone)
4. Be **trustworthy** at all times (be honest, always tell the truth)
5. Be **fair** (share, play by the rules, take turns)
6. Be a **good citizen** (work quietly and efficiently, raise your hand in class, be helpful)

Follow these rules and our days will be great!

The consequences for choosing NOT to follow these rules are as follows:

* 1st Offense: Warning
* 2nd Offense: Teacher’s Choice
* 3rd Offense: Send to Principal and a phone call home

We will use Class Dojo as a means of communicating your child’s daily progress. Please don’t worry if they don’t earn points. Some days, they may work on an average level. This means they are doing fine and are not off task. They will receive extra points when they are going above and beyond and will lose points if they are having difficulty with following rules.

To maximize class time, we ask that your child use the restroom at recess times to avoid missing out on lessons. Students will receive 2 free restroom dojos at the start of each week and can spend them as needed. Once they are spent, they will need to use their existing dojo points for class time restroom visits. Hopefully, this will help them make wise choices at recess and give them some flexibility for emergencies. We use this system is to help document when your child leaves class and where they are, to keep track of them in case of any type of emergency occurs. Students will also be able to spend dojo points for prizes and special privileges.

**6. Send excuse notes!**

If your child must miss school, PLEASE send an excuse note with your child in his/her Homework Binder the day they return.

**7. Read the District Calendar and Policy Handbook!**

**R**ead the district policies on attendance, dress code, discipline, and transportation. School addresses and phone numbers are also included. This information is also available at [www.tcsdk8.org](http://www.tcsdk8.org) Keep this calendar handy throughout the year so you know when we have minimum days and parent conferences.

**8. Help prepare your child for IMPORTANT assessments!**

As testing days approach, please encourage your child to do their best on all tests! Make sure your child gets adequate rest and eats a good breakfast. You may also

want to discuss your child’s scores with them and help him/her set a personal goal to achieve on these assessments for this year.

**9. Work with your child at home!**

It takes parents and teacher working together for your child to reach their highest level of success. The following are suggestions for home practice:

* Help your child memorize multiplication facts
* Practice addition and subtractions facts
* Have your child read aloud to you to practice fluency
* Ask your child about specific parts or events in the book (‘Who, What, Why, When, Where?)
* Make sure your child completes his/her homework

**10. Get ready for a great year!**

Third grade is an extremely important year. I am excited to have the opportunity to help your child become more independent and learn important concepts that they will use throughout their school career!

P.S. Our classroom can always use dry erase pens, zip lock bags (large and small), pencils, paper, baby wipes, books, scotch tape, plastic sleeves.

If you would like to help out, you must be cleared to do so. We need help in our classroom with, student reading, writing, math, cutting, laminating, die cutting, stapling, and prepping lessons. We will also need chaperones to help on field trips but you must have all of your volunteer requirements cleared in advance. Please check in the office for further information.

Thank you in advance for your support,

Mrs. Silva @ 3rd Grade @ Room 210 @ Alpine Vista School

 (Home of the Eagles)