Welcome Aboard the 3rd Grade Excursion

I am Sarah Conrade, and I have been teaching for 8 years. I taught 5th grade for 5 years, was a teacher assistant in STEM and RTI for 2 years, and an interim teacher for 1 year in 2nd grade. I have done most of my teaching in Tennessee, where I was born and raised. This is my first year in Wake County and my first year in 3rd grade. I am very excited about both of these firsts.

When I am not teaching, I enjoy spending time with my family. My husband and I have a four year old daughter that will be five very soon. I also have a cat name Simba, which is our second child. We love going to sporting events, parks, swimming, and now that we live so close the beach. My hobbies include reading, working in my garden planting flowers and herbs, shopping at Target and Kohl’s, playing with my daughter, and watching the NY Mets.

This will be a big year for your student. I am looking forward to watching them grow as learners. We will be doing lots of fun activities this year, and incorporating our new technology as much as possible. Attached is some important classroom information that you need to review.

**Contact information**

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The best way to reach me is by sending a note or email. I check my email in the morning before school starts and in the afternoon when school has ended. You can call the school office and leave a message for me. The best way to keep up with dates for school events and information is to read the class newsletter and any important papers that are sent home. If your student will be absent please contact the front office, and send in or email or note the day they return. Lunch money concerns should be called into the front office. You may also call the front office with any weather cancellations or delay questions.

**Classroom Routines and Expectations**

*Curriculum*: I will follow the Common Core +4 Curriculum for 3rd grade. The +4 stands for: Building Relationships, Team Collaboration, Data Analysis, and Student Engagement. I believe in integrating the curriculum whenever possible. For example: If we are studying moon phases in science, I will apply reading strategies we are learning in literacy to the science lesson and vice versa. Integration helps students make more real world applications, connections, and interests. Please see the Parent Third Grade Scope and Sequence at a Glance located on the SRE home page under information to see what objects will be taught each quarter.

*Homework:* Homework will be located in your student’s S.H.I.P’s Log. This is a binder that contains Student-Home Important Papers such as homework, daily agenda, and Friday Folders. As a class we will write our homework assignments in our agenda each morning. Homework will be placed in the S.H.I.P’s Log to go home with the student’s each day. **PLEASE** be sure your student has an **agenda** (it can be purchased thru PTA) Students will have homework Monday-Thursday. They will be required to read for at least 20 minutes each day as part of their homework. Building this reading stamina is a crucial part of success in standardized tests for reading. Think of it like a marathon, you are not going to run the Boston marathon without training and building your stamina first and be able to do well. It is the same with reading.

The Common Core Math gives students a homework sheet each day. This sheet will be placed in the student’s homework folder each day and is expected to be completed and returned the following school day. We use these sheets each lesson as a review and they will be checked. Continuous failure to complete these can result in a 2 or 1 on the report card under the homework section. Homework should not take more than 40 minutes, not including reading for 20 minutes. If your student is struggling with homework on a frequent basis, please contact me and we will work together to find a solution.

**Class Schedule**

8:45 Arrival Bell (Please be here as close to that time as possible), bathroom break,

 Write homework in agenda, Morning journal (which includes a journal prompt,

 Analogies, and math problem of the day)

9:10 Ready to Learn bell and Morning News on the TV

9:15 Late bell, attendance

9:20 English language Arts Block:

10:15 Snack/Read Aloud

11:05-11:35 Recess, bathroom break

11:40-12:10 Writer’s Work Shop

12:15-12:45 Lunch

1:00-2:00 Math Block

2:00-3:35 Specials\* Monday and Wednesday, bathroom break

2:00-2:45 Social Studies/ Science Tuesday and Thursday

2:50-3:35 Specials\* on Friday Only

3:40 Pack up

3:45 Dismissal Bell

Specials Schedule

Monday: Music and Art

Wednesday: Explorers and Media and Technology

Friday: Gym

*Volunteer Opportunities:*

In addition to working with my wonderful students, I enjoy the benefit of a large number of parent volunteers. I know how busy families are, and understand not all schedules permit volunteering in the classroom. Thank you for letting signing up during Meet the Teacher. If you did not have the opportunity to do so and would like to volunteer please email me.

If you would like to volunteer in the classroom or chaperone any fieldtrips this year, you MUST register in the Wake County System. It only takes a few minutes to fill out the computer based form. You must register every year, so if you registered last year, you must register again.

PTA is other way to volunteer. They have many areas where they are always needing extra hands. You can register your entire family for a small fee. Please be sure to join!

**Behavior Expectations:**

Our school follows the PBIS model. This means POSTIVE BEHAVIOR AND INSTRUCTION SYSTEM. Our school and class rules are:

**SAIL**

*S=Safety First*

*A=Act Respectfully*

*I=Include Others*

*L=Listen Carefully*

On the first day of school, your students and I will go over what this will look like at Scotts Ridge and in our classroom. Once we have decided, as a classroom, what SAIL will look like, I will send home a detailed list of our classroom expectations. Please keep this sheet in case you ever need to refer to it.

Students are expected to follow the school-wide rules and regulations in the classroom. If a student is having trouble meeting these expectations they will be given a verbal warning. If the undesirable behavior continues, they will fill out a “Reflections Sheet” in which they will describe their behavior and how they can best change this behavior. The “Reflection Sheet” will go home in their S.H.I.P’s Log to be signed by parents and returned the next day. Failure to return a “Reflection Sheet” the very next day will result in notification to the principal or assistant principal. If the student continues to make bad choices with this behavior even after a “Reflection Sheet” has gone home they will receive and Office Referral Sheet.

The students and I brainstormed a list of what SAIL will look like in our classroom. Listed below are the expectation for our classroom.

**S**-walking feet, Keep objects (pencils, erasers, etc.)to yourself, stay in place in line, if there is not room move to another spots, feet all 4 on the floor, wait your turn, keep chairs under your desk (push in chair), look before you move, keep hands to your side,

**A**-Follow directions the first time, use resources correctly, quiet voices in the classroom, quiet feet in hallway, listen when others are talking, be polite to your neighbors when they are working- don’t bother, use kind words, raise your hand to be called on, use the trash cans for garbage

**I**-Playing with others, sharing with others, cooperate with groupmates or teammates, collaborate, won’t tell secrets, whisper about others

**L**- Make eye contact with the speaker, be paying attention, don’t talk when the teacher is talking, don’t play in your desk

**Academic Expectations:**

 I will follow the guide lines set by Wake County for grading. We will use 4,3,2,1.

4= exceeds benchmark standards

3=meets benchmark standards

2=inconsistently meets benchmark standards (with help)

1=does not meet benchmark standards (even with help)

Enrichment and remediation opportunities will be available in all areas of the curriculum. Learning will be leveled to meet the needs of all students.

 **Helpful Hints:**

Third grade is a big year of change for your student. When students come to third grade they are expected to become more independent. Not to worry, I will spend the first quarter guiding, training, and modeling this expected independence. The key to success is organization and working with others. Students we be expected to utilize their S.H.I.P’s Log, do homework, turn homework daily as well as any papers that need to be signed by you. Students will be expected to keep their desk clean and orderly, work independently without reminders, and to keep organized, legible notebooks for different curriculum areas.

**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS AT SRE**

To celebrate birthdays at SRE students will appear on the Morning News, and receive a special birthday pencil from the Principal. In class, I will give them a birthday certificate, and the class will give them a card signed by everyone in the classroom.

Due to allergies and concerns there will be **no “FOOD” treats** given out on birthdays. You are welcome to bring in other types of treats for the class (examples: erasers, bookmarkers, small treat bag toys, etc). Please bring these in with you when you come, or send them in with your student that morning. If you have any questions about this please contact administration.