

Dear CRES Rising 3rd Graders and Parents,

We are so excited to have your child in our 3rd grade classrooms for the 2024-2025 school year and can't wait to meet all of our new students and families. Third grade is going to be a big adjustment for your child. We hope to make your child's learning experience a fun and exciting one, and we hope to instill a love of learning. Below are some of the shifts you should expect for your 3rd grader:

The Jump from Second to Third Grade is the Biggest Leap Your Child Will Make

For children, advancing to the next grade in school always brings a little nervousness and excitement – and maybe a little confusion. The jump from second to third grade, however, is about a lot more than social jitters and getting used to a new classroom. Although it has been said that odd years and transitional years (elementary to middle school, middle school to high school) are difficult, most educators believe 3rd grade is the biggest leap a child will make during his or her school years.

Academics

The jump from second to third grade will bring changes that you should be aware of so you can support and encourage your child. Where academic performance and school expectations are concerned, big changes are on the way.

1. In K-2, students are still pretty much “hand-held.” In third grade, they'll be expected to function more independently.
2. Through second grade, kids *learn to read*. Now they'll *read to learn*, so it's critical that they possess grade-level skills in this area.
3. In second grade, concepts taught were generally concrete; in third grade, students will begin to explore abstract ideas.
4. Third grade will see students engaged in more Q&As on the material they read to ensure comprehension.
5. Students will be expected to do a lot more writing in all subject areas.
6. Math in third grade will introduce word problems that challenge students to start thinking “off the paper” and use more critical thinking skills instead of just relying on memory and facts.
7. Math also shifts in focus from addition, subtraction, and place value in K-2, to multiplication, division, and fractions in grades 3-5.
8. Students will take the SC Ready state tests in Reading, Writing, and Math.

We realize teaching your child is a privilege, as well as a tremendous responsibility. We will do our best this year to ensure each student has a motivating and safe learning experience in the classroom. However, we cannot do this alone: we need your help. We need to be partners in the learning process.

You can help your child have a successful year by:

- Letting us know if there are any special concerns or needs regarding your child.
- Making sure your child is well rested and nourished when he or she arrives at school.
- Talking about school in a positive manner. Be interested in what your child is doing.
- Helping your child set up a successful reading routine, aiming for 20 minutes a night. Reading may be independent or with your support.

We are looking forward to meeting all of you in August. Have a great summer!

Thank you,

The 3rd Grade Teachers at CRES